

[Acts 1](#)



Leaders Note

Acts 1: 1 – 11 – Advancing the Kingdom

Christianity over the past two thousand years has, in many instances, moved from a tribe of renegades to a religion of conformists. Those who choose to follow Jesus become participants in an insurrection. To claim we believe is simply not enough. The call of Jesus is one that demands action. Jesus began His public ministry with a simple invitation: “Come, follow Me.” His closing instructions to his disciples can be summarized in one word, “Go!” A quick survey of the modern church would lead you to believe His invitation was, “Come, and listen.” The tribe of Jesus, above all people, should rightly carry the banner, “Forward.” (Erwin McManus, *The Barbarian Way*, p. 5)

Jesus had spent forty days appearing to his disciples, assuring them that he was alive, preparing them for what lay ahead, opening their eyes to a wider view of Scripture and kingdom living. The odds of such a ragtag bunch going out and changing the world would naturally seem a long shot at best — but surely with Jesus right there in the lead, they could do anything. The trouble was, this was a revolution that would begin with Jesus leaving and with them waiting.

Acts is volume 2 of a two volume set. In the former “treatise” (literally the “first word”) Luke had set forth all that Jesus had begun to do and to teach. Now we see how the disciples who were being “left behind” carried on that same work in word and deed. That work began after receiving instruction amidst many “infallible” or pointed proofs that he was in fact alive. The resurrection of Jesus was the catalyst of the change personally experienced by the disciples, and ultimately experienced by all the world. If the resurrection was the catalyst, the baptism of the Spirit was the fuel of the Christ revolution that stands ready to break out in Acts 1.



Learning Session

Like the first disciples in this passage, we all come to times of numbness in life. A place where we feel like we are in no man's land and we are unsure as to what is going to happen next. Sometimes we are also confused and find that we are asking all the wrong questions (which tend to be me centred) rather than trying to figure out what God is wanting us to do for Him (God centred).

Jesus is just about to ascend and he is telling the disciples to be ready and wait. An uncomfortable time! Go through the following questions with your group.

- What question did the disciples have for Jesus? How does Jesus answer them and why does he say this?
- Where are you when it comes to your own personal direction and mission from the Lord: Still waiting for instructions? Ready to go? On my way? In between calls? Not even in the game yet? Or what?
- What odds would you give these eleven disciples of changing the world? To what extent do you see yourself as a world-changer?

Gather together for feedback. Some point that you will want to clarify are:

- We aren't supposed to know when He comes back, mainly so that we do not get lazy and indulge in escapist living. The idea is that, like in our last session, Work as if you were to live a hundred years, pray as if you were to die tomorrow.
- You may get people bring up the issue of how fixed God's will is for their own lives. Many Christians live in fear of missing out on God's will, this fear sometimes causes them avoid decision making or any form of risk. Remind everyone that God is not petty, He is faithful. This means that if you are trying your best to follow Him, He will make sure that you are where He wants you to be. God is far more concerned with who you are rather than what you do. If you are for Him, He will make sure that His hand guides your journey. (See Ps 23:3; 25:9; Prov 11:3; 16:9)

Discussion Questions

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