



NL STUDY GUIDE

CHURCH *under* CONSTRUCTION: PART 1: BEGINNING THE MISSION

Pastor Troy Jones
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- 1** In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach
- 2** until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit.
- 3** During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.
- 4** Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before.
- 5** John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."
- 6** So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"
- 7** He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know.
- 8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Use this guide for personal and family devotions and weekly groups.

SCRIPTURE

ACTS 1:1-8

Watch this week's Life Group Session: nlchurch.com/actsvideos.

Watch this week's message online: nlchurch.com/watch.

OBSERVATION

The book of Acts begins with Jesus empowering His followers. The power behind the early church was anything but human, and as it grew, it became a threat to both the established Jewish culture and the Roman Empire. Use the questions below to spark discussion and observations on the passage.

Historical Note

Acts is considered a historical document. It was written by Luke, a medical doctor, as a companion piece to his Gospel, which was an account of the life of Christ. Acts is full of actual places and people in Roman history that have been corroborated by archeological evidence. In fact, the British archeologist Sr. William Ramsay set out to disprove the book, but eventually became convinced of the book's reliability and converted to Christianity.

- 1 The early church begins around a meal with Jesus, who promises His followers that they will have supernatural help to make it happen. Considering the historical context of the book, why is this so important?
- 2 Jesus says they will be His witnesses in "Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." What does that mean?
- 3 If Acts can be trusted as history, what does that say about the reality of the power Jesus gave to His disciples and to us?

APPLICATION

When you apply something, you put it into practice. It's one thing to read the Bible, it's another thing to live it out. A practical application of what you just observed from today's study can help you discover just how much impact Scripture can have on every situation of your life!

In this section, discuss together ways you can apply what you've learned from the video teaching and Bible study. Then, think about some practical ways you can live out what you've learned.

- 1 The disciples were focusing on something small when Jesus wanted them to see His bigger picture. What are some times you've focused on the wrong thing?
- 2 Jesus promised that His followers would take His message to "the ends of the earth." What does that imply for those of us who follow Him today?
- 3 In promising the Holy Spirit, Jesus showed His followers that while He would expect great things out of them, He knew they could not do it on their own, apart from Him. How can that encourage us today?

PRAYER

Use the space below to write out your prayer in response to today's message.

My take away today: _____

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