
[SERMON NOTES]

Acts – Week 1 (*Acts 1:1-9, 21-22; Luke 1:1-4*)

The Book of Acts is more _____ than _____.

The Holy Spirit is the _____ of the Father.

The Holy Spirit is the _____ of Jesus.

The purpose of the Holy Spirit is for disciples to live as _____.

Jesus builds His _____, His _____, by His _____.

_____ Jesus will _____ something of _____.

The _____ step of obedience is the _____ one.

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

We all have moments and experiences in life that are so incredible, so touching, so memorable or life-changing, that we will always look back on them and remember what happened that "one time"—whether that be the birth of a new baby, a wedding, being present for a game-winning play at a big game, or some other unforgettable encounter. ***Share one of these remarkable circumstances that you witnessed personally with the group.***

[DIGGING DEEPER]

In the message this week, we were reminded that both Luke and Acts were both written by Luke to the same person for a similar purpose. It is foundational when diving into a new book to try and understand *who* it was written by and *why* it was written. *Read Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-3.* **List out all of the things that we know about who the author was, who he was writing to, why he was writing the letter, and any other additional details you find important.**

The message this week started out with the idea that none of us want to fake our faiths. **What have been some areas of your faith in the past or present that you have struggled the most to be real about? What have been some areas where your faith has felt fake?**

Read Matthew 28:16-20, John 20:24-29, and Jude 1:20-23. What are some of the common themes in these passages?

Acts 1:3 says that “After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive.” However, we also read in Matthew 28:17 that “some doubted.” It’s amazing that God and the authors of Scripture would make space for stories of those who doubt. We should not be afraid of doubting, but rather be honest with God and trust him with our doubts. **As we begin our series on Acts—a book that includes some of the most unbelievably amazing things in all of Scripture—what are some of the things that you personally struggle to believe about the stories you’ve heard or read in the Bible, or more specifically in Acts?**

Despite making gracious space for those who have doubts, Scripture, as well as all of Creation, is also full of “convincing proofs” of God’s presence, goodness, and plan. **What are some of the most convincing proofs of the existence of God, the story of Jesus, and the Good News of the Gospel that you might share with someone who asked you who was not yet convinced?**

As we will see throughout the book of Acts and was mentioned in the message, the journey through Acts is the journey of one step of obedience after another leading to amazing things—the highest of highs and the lowest of lows. **Take a moment and reflect on what your one next step of obedience might be in this season. What is the next simple step of the journey with Jesus that may unknowingly lead you on an adventure like the one we read about in Acts?**

[WEEKLY READINGS]

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (*1 Tim. 4:8-10, 16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17*). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend’s message. We encourage you to take notes in your Bible, and ask yourself: *What does this teach me about God? Myself and others? And how do I follow Jesus better?*

Acts 1

1 Corinthians 15

Proverbs 16

Luke 24