

2021

Life Group Lessons



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Sunday January 10th – Acts 1:1-5

Opening Prayer: Father, as we begin this study in Acts give us insight and wisdom to understand the meaning of each passage. As our understanding increases give us the courage and boldness to live out the gospel message to the world around us.

Read Acts 1:1-5

1) The number forty occurs many times in scripture – forty days of the flood, the Israelites wandered for forty years in the desert, Jesus was forty days in the wilderness and here in Acts 1 we see that Jesus was forty days with the disciples following His resurrection.

A period of forty years or days in the bible represents a time of transition. The period preceding the 'forty' has ended and the period that is to come is pending.

What are the preceding and pending periods in:

- 1) The exodus (slavery – freedom)
- 2) The flood (sinfulness and corruption – a new start)
- 3) The post resurrection period (The announcement of the good news – the coming of the Holy Spirit and the spread of the gospel)

2) Reflect upon the teaching of this past Sunday. Recall what points were made. What is their significance? How are we to apply these truths in our everyday lives?

3) Read: Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33

What is the 'baptism of the Holy Spirit? Why is it mentioned in all four gospels and in Acts 1:5?

4) What then is the pending period in Acts?

Check in with each other. Pray for each other.



Sunday January 17th – Acts 1:6-11

Opening Prayer: Lord, while we await your glorious return we need your Holy Spirit to empower and guide us to the Kingdom work to which you have called each of us. For when we have been slack in our work we ask for forgiveness. For the work ahead we ask for courage, patience and wisdom.

Read Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1: 6-11

- 1) Read Exodus 24. Moses ascends the mountain, the elders were told to wait until Moses returned (Exod. 24:14). How is this a foreshadowing of Acts 6:1-11?
- 2) Compare Acts 1 vs.3 and vs.6. The disciples had witnessed the life, ministry, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus and had spent the past forty days with Him and listening to Him. What is uppermost in Jesus mind? (vs.3) What is uppermost in the disciples' minds right now? (vs.6) Why are they different?
- 3) The disciples were challenged to refocus their thinking. How might we, with all of life's challenges, revise our thinking about God's divine program and perfect timing?
- 4) What, then, is the significance for us of the ascension of Christ as High Priest and sacrifice into the presence of God?
- 5) When the power of the Holy Spirit was promised it was for a purpose. What is that purpose in your life? (vss.7,8) Be specific, what ministry have *you* been called to?
- 6) There has been a gap of two thousand years between the beginning of vs.11 and the closing phrase...Jesus is coming back...are we '*standing around staring at the sky*'? Or are we each fully engaged in our Holy Spirit empowered calling?
- 7) There is much Kingdom work yet to do...let us pray for a fresh understanding of our calling as witnesses and kingdom workers and pray that we will be diligent in it.

Read the following passages from Hebrews. Discuss their interpretation of the Ascension of Christ:

Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:23-26; 8:1-2; 9:11; 9:24; 12:18-21.

Check in with each other. Pray for each other.