

Belmont Exeter House Group Notes

w/c 19th May 2024

Acts 1:1-9 & 2:1-21

Through the year we're looking at what it means to be wholehearted followers of Jesus, living 'In view of God's mercy'. This involves sharing and living the good news of Jesus work with the world around us, friends, neighbours, colleagues, and to those further afield. Jesus tells his followers that they are to be witnesses both near and far. This daunting mission starts with a bunch of ordinary people who have spent time with Jesus, and they are energized and enabled by the person of the Holy Spirit – Jesus with them, and Jesus with us now.

In this series we're looking to understand more of what it means to be people on mission together. We'll look at how the Spirit comes to equip the church, and then how that works out as followers become witnesses and the church grows. Luke wrote this sequel to gospel to help us understanding God's continuing work to bring people, from across the world, into His kingdom.

Resources

Guide and overview to the book of Acts (Bible Project)

<https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-acts/>

The Message of Acts John Stott (Bible Speaks Today, IVP)

Acts for Everyone Tom Wright

BIG IDEA: Jesus gives us His spirit to equip us in the work of spreading good news to the whole world. How will we respond to the gift and command?

WAY IN: When you face new and daunting challenges (e.g. new job, new project) what gives you confidence to have a go?

DIG IN:

Questions to discuss

1. Which part of the text (or sermon if you were able to listen to it) had the greatest impact on you? What puzzled you? Did you learn anything new about God? Jesus? You?

READ: Acts 1:1 - 9

2. How do the themes of Acts link to the gospel of Luke? (see Luke 24:46 - 48, Acts 1:1-2)
3. What are the disciples to be witnesses of? And to whom? (Acts 1:3 & 9)
4. What resources does Jesus promise the disciples? (Acts 1:4 & 5). What do we know about the Spirit that Jesus promises? What is His work? (for example see John 16 : 5 – 15; Ephesians 1:13 & 14, Romans 8...).

READ: Acts 2: 1 – 21

5. The three things that accompany the coming of the Spirit are like wind, like fire, and many languages. Take a look at Exodus 3:2; John 3:8 and Genesis 11:8 & 9 to see what these images indicate in God's work.

6. How many language / ethnic groups are identified? The map at the end of these notes locates them. Why does Luke give us this list?
The list of nations in 2:9 - 11 covers most of the first-century Roman world. Many Jews who lived outside Palestine travelled to Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost, an annual feast. The Holy Spirit enabled them to hear the disciples speak in their own languages (2:6)

7. Peter raises his voice to address the crowd. He says that what they are observing is a fulfilment of Old Testament writing by Joel. What does the prophecy promise? How has it been fulfilled?

LIVE IT OUT:

As followers of Jesus we are as much disciples as that first 120:

8. How can we experience the confidence of the Holy Spirit seen in the disciples?

9. Unseen does not mean unreal. How can the reality of the unseen Spirit be demonstrated in our lives?

10. Who could you be a witness to this week / month? What particular help do you need from the Spirit?

11. How could we be involved in being witnesses to the resurrection 'to the ends of the earth'?

PRAY IT THROUGH

You are supernaturally equipped - pray for opportunity to be a witness to the resurrection of Jesus.

Follow up with a mission partner, agency, or country of interest and pray for the witness of the gospel to those people.

THE NATIONS OF PENTECOST ACTS 2:9-11

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