

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 7, 2007

Passage: Acts 1:1-12

Memory Passage: Acts 1:8

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 1:1-2.** *Who* was Luke writing for? Compare this with Luke 1:1-4. What position might this person have held (compare Acts 23:26; 24:3; 26:5)?
- (b) In Luke 1:1-4, what do you learn about Luke's methods and research? How does this lend credibility to his writings? Why did Luke say he wrote his gospel? What was his goal?
- (c) Why was it important that the early disciples be eyewitnesses? Compare this with Acts 1:21-22 and 1 John 1:1-3.
- (d) Read Acts 16:10-16. What is the significance of Luke writing in the first person ("we")?
- (e) What do we know about Luke's personal background (Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11)? How might this affect his accuracy?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 1:1-2 and 1 John 1:1-3. Discuss the importance of having eyewitnesses to the things that Jesus did and said. If we did not have eyewitnesses would the gospel be believable? What was Luke's role in writing the Book of Acts? How does this help us to trust the accuracy of his writings? Thank God that He has given us faithful eyewitnesses to what Jesus did and said.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 1:3-5.** When they were gathered together, what did Jesus tell them to wait for?
- (b) Read Luke 24:45-49. What did Jesus tell his disciples about their mission (vv. 47-48)? What did he promise them? Why was this important?
- (c) What did Jesus tell his disciples about this "promise" in John 14:16-17? How would the work of the Holy Spirit be different? How is the Baptism of the Spirit different from the baptism of John (we will discuss this in more detail in future lessons)?
- (d) According to John 15:26-27, what is the purpose of His coming? What will Jesus' disciples do in the power of the Holy Spirit? In John 16:12-14, what is another role of the Holy Spirit?
- (e) What kind of evidence did Jesus give them about his resurrection (Acts 1:3)? Review some examples of these proofs including 1 Corinthians 15:6. Why was this important (Acts 1:8; Luke 24:28)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 1:3-5 and Luke 24:45-49. Talk about the Holy Spirit. Who is He? Is He present in the Old Testament? How is His presence different in the New Testament (John 14:16-17)? Why would this be important for the disciples? Spend some time thanking God for sending His Spirit to live in believers.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 1:6-8.** What question was foremost on the disciple's mind? How did Jesus answer them?
- (b) Read Luke 19:11-27. Why did Jesus tell this parable? What were the people expecting? What does the parable emphasize about the return of Jesus? What should believers be doing?
- (c) Why did the man with one pound not do anything with it? What was his attitude about the master? What should be our attitude about the Lord's return and His reward for us (Revelation 22:12)?
- (d) How can a preoccupation with the Second Coming hinder us in our priority? How did it hinder some early believers (2 Thessalonians 2:1-2)? What will happen at his return (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10)?
- (e) How should a right view of the Second Coming affect us (1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Romans 13:11-13; 1 Thessalonians 1:7-10)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 1:6-8 and 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10. Discuss the Second Coming. Why should we be interested in it? Why should we make sure that we do not become preoccupied with it? How should we live our lives while we are waiting on the return of Jesus? Pray for someone that does not know the Lord that they might come to Him before He returns.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 1:8.** What did Jesus say that his disciples would become? Compare this with Matthew 28:18-20.
- (b) How must this "great commission" have sounded to these disciples? How did the power of the Holy Spirit change them (Acts 4:15-20; 5:28-29)?
- (c) Why did the disciples receive power (Acts 4:31-32)? What is the purpose of the coming of the Holy Spirit (Zechariah 4:6)?
- (d) *Where* was this "commission" to be carried out? Why did it begin in Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:3; Micah 4:2; Matthew 10:5)? Where did it extend to (also Luke 24:47; Revelation 7:9)?
- (e) How does the book of Acts end (Acts 28:30-31)? What does Paul continue to do (also Ephesians 6:19-20; Colossians 4:3-4; Philippians 1:4; 2 Timothy 4:17)? How is this a fitting "ending" to Acts?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 1:8 and Acts 28:30-31. Talk about the spread of the gospel in the first century. Why were they so successful? What is our responsibility today? What should be our priority? Pray Colossians 4:3-4 for some of our missionaries.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 1:9-12.** What event is described here? Why is this event so important (John 16:7-15)?
- (b) Read John 15:16-27. Why did Jesus say he chose his disciples? How did he say the world would receive them and this message?
- (c) The Jehovah's Witnesses and some other groups teach that Jesus came back to earth secretly in spiritual form. What does the Bible teach about the final return of Christ (Acts 1:11; Zechariah 14:1-4; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-19)?
- (d) What do the following passages tell us about the return of Christ (Matthew 24:30; Revelation 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; Luke 17:23-24)? What do the two men ask the disciples? What promises do these men give to the disciples?
- (e) Read 2 Peter 3:3-12. What did Peter remind us about the coming of the Lord? Why does it seem that his coming is delayed?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 1:9-12 and John 15:16-27. Discuss what it means to be a witness for Jesus. Will it be easy to tell others about Jesus? How does the Holy Spirit help us in our witness? How should our understanding of the Second Coming of Jesus affect our sharing of the gospel? Pray that you might have a heart to see people come to know the Lord, no matter what the personal cost.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 1:1-12. What can we know about the accuracy of this book? What one question was the most important for the disciples? What did Jesus desire most for his disciples? What would have happened to us if these disciples had not been witnesses as Jesus commanded? Pray for our worship services tomorrow that all believers might understand the importance of sharing the good news about Jesus.

DATE: January 7, 2007

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Witnesses unto Him

“And you shall be my witnesses...”