



The Good Book Club Bible Study

Week 6: A Brief Refresher and Acts 1:1-11 **Participant Guide**

Bread and Butter

- What are some of the most interesting and important things you learned from reading through Luke?
- What do you anticipate learning in Acts based on what you've learned from Luke?
- Recall that in the first study we looked at how Luke uses the ancient historiographical term, translated “orderly account” in Luke 1:3, to describe his work. That is to say, Luke conceives of what he is writing as history. But it is not just any history; it is a history written to encourage faith.
- Review discussion handouts.

Meat and Potatoes

- Read Acts 1:1-11 together (see handout).
- Looking at Luke 24:44-53, what differences and similarities do you notice between the ending of Luke and the beginning of Acts?
- The idea of "already-and-not-yet" will continue to be developed in the ongoing story of the Church and in our lives.

Something Sweet:

- Do you see the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of Pentecost in the world?
- What's taking Jesus so long to come back?
- Jesus promises that the apostles will be filled with power. As you read this week's texts (Acts 1-4) what sort of power did the apostles receive? What do we make of these manifestations of God's power? Was it just a temporary thing to jump start the church? Is it just an ancient way of telling stories and conceiving of the world? Do you expect God to act in similar ways today? Why or why not?



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Week 6: Readings for Group Discussion

ACTS 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. ‘This’, he said, ‘is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’

So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

LUKE 24:44-53

Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.