

Themes and Study Questions for Acts 1

1. The Spirit and Power (1:5, 8)
 - What is the promised gift?
 - What is the baptism with the Holy Spirit?
 - What is the connection between power (1:8) and baptism with the Holy Spirit? What is the power for?
 - Is baptism with the Holy Spirit different than receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit in water baptism?
 - Jesus shifts the emphasis from *knowledge* to *mission*.
2. Waiting and Prayer (1:4, 6-8, 11, 14, 24)
 - Why were the apostles instructed to "wait" in Jerusalem? What theological significance does this have (1:8)? What did the apostles think it might mean (1:6)?
 - What response should the apostles have when their waiting comes to an end (1:8)?
 - How is v. 11 characteristic of the wrong type of waiting?
 - What is the function of prayer in ch. 1?
3. Togetherness and Fellowship (1:4, 13-15)
 - What does eating have to do with fellowship (1:4)?
 - What are the signs of the togetherness and fellowship among these early disciples in ch. 1 (1:13, 14, 16ff)?
4. Discernment and Decision-making (1:15-26)
 - What major decision needed to be made in ch.1?
 - How did they make this decision? Who made this decision? What is the purpose of making this decision (1:16, 22)?
 - What components were part of their decision-making process (1:20, 23, 24, 26)?
 - What was "casting lots" (1:26)? At what point did their own personal preferences play a part in making this decision?
5. Possessions (1:15-26)
 - Look how possessions are used to teach a spiritual truth.
 - Judas had a "share" in ministry but instead bought a field as a result of his deception (contrast those selling fields in 2:45 and 4:34-35). He possessed a field in death but his true possession—the share in ministry—became desolate and needed to be filled (1:20).