

From the message on March 12

The Church The World Needs: Jesus' Presence Sustains

Text Acts 1

From the Sermon

Before Jesus fulfilled his promise to send the Holy Spirit to his followers, he first prepared the men and women who had followed him for a completely different life after his return. Imagine the excitement about Jesus' presence after his resurrection. The conversations and time must have simply sped by, seemingly in an instant. Acts 1 presents a unique short season for these men and women. Yet it is a season with tremendous lessons for us today.

Opening Interaction.

Share with your group ... Growing up, what did you generally do over spring break?

Read the passage and Discuss

- In Acts 1, what details seem important? Does anything jump out at you?
 - What is the author communicating to his audience (the readers)?
 - What does this passage teach us about Jesus mattering most?
1. In what ways do the first several verses of Acts 1 set Christianity apart from other religions that regard their founder as having completed his ministry during his lifetime?
 2. What is the implication of Luke's statement that Acts is the continuation of Jesus' work on earth? How does that introductory statement change the way you read and understand the whole book of Acts? Acts is the one book which has no formal closing because Jesus did not finish his work with the imprisonment of Paul. In what ways can we still today see ourselves as the continuation of Jesus' work?
 3. What was the significance of the fact that Jesus continually showed himself to the apostles and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive? In what ways is the resurrection at the center of our lives? If you were really impacted by the resurrection, in what ways would your life look different? Describe one way that you could align your life to the resurrection of Christ even more today. Pray together in your group that the Lord would strengthen these ways in your lives.
 4. How would the apostles' ministry be affected by Jesus choosing, commissioning, and instructing them? In what ways are our lives similar to that commission?
 5. How would the promise of the Holy Spirit influence the lives of the apostles? Give examples from the whole book of Acts about the impact of the Spirit on the apostles. List ways that the Spirit influences your life.
 6. Why was prayer the major activity in which the early Christians engaged after the ascension of Christ? In what ways can we model this emphasis?

Encourage Each Other

To remain connected and love each other.

To grow through prayer.

To let Jesus matter most this week.