

Acts 1:1-5 - "The Promise of the Holy Spirit"

Outline and Notes

1. Greet one another, begin with prayer, and read Acts 1:1-5.

2. Remind the class about the connection between Luke and Acts and the relationship between Luke and Theophilus.

3. Discuss Acts 1:2-3a as Jesus prepares His followers for service with appearances and proofs of His resurrection.

- Jesus has been with His followers for 3 years, yet more instruction needed.
- The Resurrection is essential for Christianity; see 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 for an explanation by the Apostle Paul
- Why is the Resurrection central to a growing, dynamic Christian faith? What happens if we're not firm on this tenet?
- What is the role of ongoing instruction in our Christian growth? Do we ever learn enough? What happens if we stop?

4. Discuss Acts 1:3b as Jesus instructs His followers about the Kingdom of God.

- In Luke, the reality of the Kingdom of God is a primary message of Jesus
- Examples in Luke: 4:43; 7:28; 9:60; 10:11; 11:20; 12:31; 13:18; 17:21; 22:16
- How would you put into words the gospel message about the Kingdom of God?
- How has the Kingdom already come? How has it not yet come?

5. Discuss the promise of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:4-5.

- Notice Jesus eats with His followers as He teaches, reinforcing His resurrected presence
- Jesus instructs them to remain in Jerusalem until the Spirit comes
- Jesus connects His command with John's prophecy in Luke 3:16
- Why would Jesus tell His followers to remain in Jerusalem, thus not starting their worldwide mission, until the Holy Spirit comes upon them? What does this say about the Spirit? What does this say about the early Christians? What does this say about us? Why are we often reluctant to talk about the Holy Spirit?

6. Close in prayer.