

# king's chapel

*Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week September 15, 2013

**This Week's Focus:** Introduction to Acts: Dr. Luke writes an historical record of the amazing events that occurred as the news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection spread throughout the ancient world. God's Church is empowered by the Holy Spirit for Mission.

**This Week's Text:** Acts 1:1-11

*Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." **Luke 24:45-49***

*"There are two ways to approach history: as a scholar or as a soldier. Scholars read war history because it's an interesting subject for study; soldiers read war history to learn how to fight. When it comes to the church and our role in the battle unfolding between the kingdom of Jesus and the powers of Satan, we need fewer war historians and more warriors. We find this in the book of Acts." **Mark Driscoll***

**Related Texts:** Luke 1:1-4, 24:44-53; Colossians 4:14; 2 Tim 4:10-11; Acts 2:32; John 20:17-18

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What was one thing God showed you about Himself as we studied Acts 1:1-11?
- How did Luke come to learn of the events of Jesus' life? Reference Luke 1:1-4.
- Luke's first volume (Gospel) describes "All that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up into heaven". What, therefore, is the theme of Luke's second volume (Acts)?
- How does that differ from what you previously thought?
  - How does this theme contrast Christianity from other faiths?

- In what ways did Jesus show many proofs of his Resurrection?
  - How is this different from all other religions?
  - What did the resurrection prove?
- Jesus orders his disciples to wait in Jerusalem.
  - How hard is it to wait on God?
  - Have you ever experienced God’s power and strength because you did wait?
- What does the apostles’ question reveal about their understanding of the kingdom? How does Jesus correct and inform their understanding?
- How is the Kingdom of God “already and not yet”? Reference Luke 17: 20-21, Mark 1:15, Matthew 12:24-28, 2 Peter 1:11, 1 Corinthians 15:50.
- In verse 8 the power Jesus promised was for what purpose?
  - How did that help them then and how does it help us now refocus our purpose?
  - In what ways did the Holy Spirit minister and empowering Jesus during his earthly ministry.
- What did it mean for the disciples to be “witnesses”?
  - To who and about what were they supposed to witness?
  - What prevents us from being effective witnesses?
  - Discuss the following statement: “Mission and witness is not an aspect of our existence as the church. We exist to be witnesses.”
- What does Jesus’ ascension tell us that we need to know?
  - Where is he going? To do what? What does his ascension prove? How does it affect our relationship with God? Reference Ephesians 1:20-21, Hebrews 7:25, 1 John 2:1-2.
- Two men tell the disciples that Jesus is coming back? Why would that be important to the disciples?

### **Gospel Celebration:**

- The work of Jesus is finished! His historical death and resurrection happened!
- Therefore love Him, serve Him, worship Him and join Him as He seeks and saves the lost!

### **Next Week’s Text:** Acts 1:12-26