

Shaped to Serve in God's Mission



Study Guide

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-9

Discussion Questions:

Opener: Share a time when God worked in a surprising way in your life.

1. Jesus' Teachings and Actions:

- What convincing proofs did Jesus offer to prove He was alive? Why is the physical presence of Jesus after His resurrection so significant to the disciples and to us today?
- Discuss the significance of Jesus spending 40 days with the disciples and speaking about the Kingdom of God. What does this teach us about the priorities for the mission of God?

2. The Ascension:

- Discuss the significance of Jesus' ascension into heaven as mentioned in Acts 1:9. How does this event shape the disciples' understanding of their mission?

- How does the ascension assure us of Jesus' lordship and the promise of the Holy Spirit?
3. Mission Defined in Acts 1:8:
- Jesus outlines a geographic and relational scope for the disciples' mission in Acts 1:8. How does this apply to our own context in reaching our "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth"?
 - What challenges and opportunities do we face in expanding our mission field both locally and globally?
4. Personal Application:
- Reflect on your own experiences of being a witness for Christ. (Perhaps reference your BLESS list). What has been challenging and what has been rewarding?
 - Consider the "circles of influence" mentioned in the sermon (family, friends, colleagues, strangers). Where do you see yourself being most effective, and where might you need to grow?
 - How can we remain open and responsive to the unexpected ways God might call us to participate in His mission?

End with a time of prayer, focusing on the needs within the group and the broader mission of the church. Encourage members to pray specifically for the people and places they feel called to reach, reflecting on the power of the Holy Spirit to empower and guide them in their mission.

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Sermon Notes

Big Idea: **We are shaped to serve in the mission of God**

Acts 1:3

After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

The Mission of God is relational and personal

- Jesus' appearances were physical.
- Jesus' appearances were intimate.
- Jesus' encounters were restorative.

Acts 1:4-5

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me

speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with [b] the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1:6

Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

The Mission of God is Unexpected and Surprising

He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”


After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. **Acts 1:7-9**

The Mission of God is a Partnership

Jesus adjusts mindsets: from warriors to witnesses

Hearts of people > Halls of power.

Jesus provides a reconciliation roadmap

 concentric circles.png

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Big Idea: **We are shaped to serve in the mission of God**

A building doesn't make believers— Jesus does— and he is inviting us to participate in spreading the message of hope and reconciliation.