

Acts
Gail Arterburn –2024

Monday, 9:30 – 11:00 am
To be discussed –01/08/24

Lesson 1
Acts 1:1-26

Note: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (the gospels) are the accounts of who Jesus was and what he did. They are followed by the book of Acts which continues the story of what happened after Jesus ascended to heaven. It is the story of the apostles, the spread of the gospel and the birth and ministry of the church. Although it is called the “Acts of the Apostles,” we could also call it the “Acts of the Holy Spirit” – for it is the account of all that the Holy Spirit did to enable the apostles and the church. Chapter 1 serves as a transitional bridge to set the stage by connecting what had already happened to what will happen.

1. Read Acts 1:1-11. Who is the author of Acts and to whom is he writing? (Also see Luke 1:1-4, 24:50-53.
2. What previous actions and facts are given about Jesus in these first eleven verses?
3. Why might Jesus have remained on earth for 40 days after his resurrection before ascending to heaven?
4. Who is the Holy Spirit? Why were the disciples commanded to wait in Jerusalem for the “gift” of the Holy Spirit? (See also John 14:16-18, 15:26, Luke 24:49, 1 Cor. 2:9-16)
5. What is the difference between being baptized by water and being baptized with the Holy Spirit? (v. 5)
6. Jesus’ last words are recorded in vv. 7-8. What were the three significant statements in his final message to his disciples?
7. Read Acts 1:12-26. What did the disciples do in preparation for ministry as they “actively” waited in Jerusalem as Jesus had commanded them?
8. In light of their actions, what are you doing to prepare yourself for the life and ministry that God has for you?