**Lesson 2**

**Acts 1−2:13 – Ascension**

1. **When did you feel closest to God this week? *Or* was there a particular verse or message in Acts 1 that inspired you?**
2. **Read the introduction if there is one in your bible. Share any interesting information that you find there with members of your group.**
3. **Why were the disciples instructed to remain in Jerusalem? See Luke 24:44-49 and**

**Acts 1:1-5 below.**

**Luke 24:44-49**

**44**He said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.” **45**Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. **46**And he said to them, “Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day **47**and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48**You are witnesses of these things. **49**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.”

**Acts 1:1-5**

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught **2**until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. **3**He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+1-2%3A13&version=NABRE#fen-NABRE-31246b)] and speaking about the kingdom of God. **4**While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+1-2%3A13&version=NABRE#fen-NABRE-31247c)] about which you have heard me speak; **5**for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the holy Spirit.”

**4.Read Acts 1:6-7. What does this question reveal about the disciples understanding about the Messiah and his mission? Check to see if there are footnotes about these verses.**

**Acts 1:6-7** **6**When they had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” **7**He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority.

1. **What do you believe is meant by being “baptized with the Holy Spirit”? Why was this so important *before* the disciples went out to witness about Jesus?**

**See Acts 1:5 above and Acts 1:8 below.**

**Acts 1:8 8**But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

1. **Stories of Judas’ demise differ. Compare Luke’s account to Matthew’s. How can we explain the differences between the two accounts?**

**See Acts 1:15-20, and Matthew 25:5.**

**Acts 1:15-20 15**During those days Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers (there was a group of about one hundred and twenty persons in the one place). He said, **16**“My brothers, the scripture had to be fulfilled which the holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David, concerning Judas, who was the guide for those who arrested Jesus. **17**He was numbered among us and was allotted a share in this ministry. **18**He bought a parcel of land with the wages of his iniquity, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle, and all his insides spilled out.[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+1-2%3A13&version=NABRE#fen-NABRE-31261g)] **19**This became known to everyone who lived in Jerusalem, so that the parcel of land was called in their language ‘Akeldama,’ that is, Field of Blood. **20**For it is written in the Book of Psalms:

‘Let his encampment become desolate, and may no one dwell in it.’

And: ‘May another take his office.’

 **Matt 25:55**Flinging the money into the temple, he departed and went off and hanged himself.

1. **What were the necessary qualifications for the successor of Judas? How was the new Apostle chosen? See Acts 1:21-26.**

**Acts 1:21-26**

**21**Therefore, it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us, **22**beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us, become with us a witness to his resurrection.” **23**So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. **24*Then they prayed***, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen **25**to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away to go to his own place.” **26**[[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+1-2%3A13&version=NABRE#fen-NABRE-31269h)]Then they gave lots to them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the eleven apostles.

1. **Pentecost or Shavuot, was a Jewish holy day that celebrated the giving of the Torah to Moses.**

**What is the *Christian* meaning of Pentecost? Is there any similarity between the spiritual meaning of these holy days? (Reflection)**

1. **What gifts were bestowed on those gathered in the upper room? See Acts 2:1-13.**

**Acts 2:1-111**[When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. **2**And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. **3**Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. **4**And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

**5**Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. **6**At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. **7**They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, “Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? **8**Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language? **9**We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10**Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, **11**both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God.” **12**They were all astounded and bewildered, and said to one another, “What does this mean?” **13**But others said, scoffing, “They have had too much new wine.”

1. **What was the *initial* reaction of the pilgrims in the street to the above blessings?**

**See Acts 2:11-13 above.**

1. **How does the Holy Spirit of God transform us as individuals? How does the Holy Spirit transform the Church? (Reflection)**