

FBC Small-Group Materials

Week of May 7th, 2006

Acts 1; Life with Purpose

For Small-Group Leaders

"Christ's vision and commission would give clear direction to the disciple's prayers during their ten days of waiting for Pentecost. But before the Spirit could come, the Son must go. The themes of Acts 1 will encourage and instruct all who wait for Jesus." John Stott, Seeing the Spirit Work

Dear Leaders,

I love the book of Acts. You would be hard pressed to find a New Testament book that is more exciting and encouraging than the Acts of the Apostles. Our new sermon series is entitled, "Life with Purpose." This is going to be a great series for FBC and for those home groups that work their way through the book of Acts. Acts records the beginning of the church and it is this early church that has much to teach us about the way we are to be the church - and it has much to say about the way our home groups are to worship God and care for one another.

Blessings to you and your group as you interact together on the Acts of the Apostles.

Scott

These small group materials are available at the info table each Sunday and at www.fbcdavis.org.

Discussion Starters:

- **Goodbye:** Share about a time you said goodbye to someone that was difficult.
- **Lost and Found:** Often when God takes something or someone from us he gives something in return. Can you share a time when you lost something only to receive something in its place?

Discussion Questions:

Introduction: Read Acts 1 together.

1. The disciples knew that in order for the Spirit to come, Jesus had to leave. Still it must have been difficult saying goodbye. What do you think it was like for the disciples to say goodbye to Jesus?
2. In what ways did Jesus prepare his disciples for what was yet to come?
3. In Acts 1:6-11, we see competing priorities. What is at the top of the apostles' agenda? What is Jesus' priority? How do you think the disciples might have felt about this new priority?
4. What evidence is there that the disciples misunderstood the nature of Jesus' kingdom? In what ways is there misunderstanding in our day about Jesus' kingdom?
5. Jesus' primary provision for his followers was/is the Holy Spirit? According to Acts 1, what would the result be of the Holy Spirit's coming?
6. There is something else that Jesus did that was a help to the disciples in his absence. First, he allowed them to see with their own eyes his departure. Second, he promised he would return. What impact did these two things have on the early followers?
7. In the latter half of Acts 1 we see an emphasis on prayer. Why do you think prayer was such a major activity for the followers as they waited?
8. In what ways did God set the stage for Pentecost? What role did the disciples have in preparing for Pentecost?

Getting Personal:

We often have competing priorities as compared to the priority Christ has for us. What are some of those competing priorities that Christians face today?

Putting it into Practice:

Is there a way that Christ is calling your home group to be a witness for him locally (Jerusalem) or globally (ends of the earth)? Talk about what you might do as a group to spread his love and message.