

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE –

Studies in the Book of Acts

“The Spirit, The Church & The World” – Acts 1:1-8

FELLOWSHIP

We are living in times of uncertainty, times of moral, spiritual and social confusion. Times that seem to be growing darker and darker at an accelerated rate. But like other periods in history, God intervenes in the chaos and confusion with the gospel. Since the days of the Apostles the church has been the instrument through which God confronts, challenges and changes people, cultures and nations. Therefore, it is so important that the church be what God intends it to be: something distinct, something other than everything else around it. When the church becomes identified with only one class or race of people, or when it is thought to be associated with a political party, or when its views are predictable and mechanical, the church's message becomes indistinguishable from the world's message. I believe the church starts to fail at fulfilling God's intended purpose for its presence in the world. At this moment, in history, I believe it is vital that as God's people, as God's servants, we correctly understand what the church is supposed to be in the world.

I can't think of a better way to assure we are doing that than to look at the beginning, development and progress of the church in the Book of Acts. It is not only the historical account of the birth and growth of the church, but it is also a blueprint for what the church is to look like from generation to generation. I believe that through a serious study of this book and an application of the things we find in it, our lives as believers and our church collectively, we will see a fresh outpouring of the Spirit that is so desperately needed in our day. That is my desire and prayer as we embark upon our journey through the Book of Acts.

Pastor Brian Brodersen

READ & DISCUSS

As our church embarks on this new venture through Acts, below are a few resources you may find helpful to supplement your own personal study each week:

Beginner • Warren W. Wiersbe. *Be Dynamic (Acts 1-12): Experience the Power of God's People*. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2009. **Intermediate** • I. Howard Marshall. *Acts: An Introduction and Commentary*, TNTC. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1980. **Advanced** • Eckhard J. Schnabel. *Acts: Zondervan Exegetical Commentary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Read out loud together as a group Acts 1:1-8 and discuss any observations that would be applicable for life.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

• **Holy Spirit.** Four times in this opening passage God's Spirit is mentioned. *Why is it important that Jesus gave commandments through the Holy Spirit? Why is the Holy Spirit referred to as a Promise? What is the difference between the baptism of water and the Holy Spirit? Why are they both important? Why is it important to wait on the Spirit when God calls us to Gospel work?*

• **The Church.** Acts is the story about the birth of Christ's church. The word “church” came from the German derivative of the Greek word *kurios*, meaning “belonging to the Lord.” In the NT, the Greek word *ekklesia* is translated as “church,” meaning “called out ones.” *What exactly is the church? What are the different images the Bible uses to describe the church? What is the mission for the church today? What does the word “witness” mean?*

• **The World.** The writers of the NT sometimes place different emphases on words. For John “the world” represents the fallen dominion Christ was sent to redeem. For Luke, the focus is on geography. *Why the four territories in verse eight? How might this be a strategy for today's church? What is our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and end of the earth? How is Calvary Chapel following this strategy? How are you?*

PRAY



Community Group Discussion Guide

Based on Pastor Brian Brodersen's message on September 10, 2017.

Watch: <https://cccm.com/teaching/the-spirit-the-church-and-the-world/>