

WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of Sunday April 12, 2026

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INTRODUCTION

In **Acts 1:1–11**, Jesus is not giving His followers a detailed timeline or asking them to stay comfortable and wait for the perfect moment. Instead, He is inviting them into an active, Spirit-empowered life of witness. Many of us feel the tension between knowing what is true about Jesus and actually stepping out to live on mission in everyday life. We can easily drift into waiting until we feel ready, less busy, or more confident. This passage calls us to move from standing still to stepping forward in obedience, trusting that God provides the power we need.

Main Passage:

Acts 1:1–11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Get Moving!

READ ALOUD

Acts 1:1–11

Opening Question: When have you known you needed to take a step, but kept putting it off?

- What stands out to you about what Jesus does and says in this passage?
- What do you notice about what the disciples are focused on compared to what Jesus is focused on?
- What does this passage reveal about the purpose of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer?
- How might this passage challenge the way people typically think about waiting, readiness, or obedience?

APPLY

- What is one area of your life where you know God is calling you to take a step, but you have been standing still?
- Where are you tempted to rely on your own strength instead of the power God provides?
- What would it look like for you to live as a witness for Jesus in a practical way this week?

RESPOND

- What is one step you can take this week to obey what God is showing you?
- Who is one person you could encourage, invite, or pray for because of this conversation?

DIGGING DEEPER *(optional)*

Read Aloud: Acts 1:12–26

- What new insight about the early church do you see in this section?
- How does this part of the chapter show the disciples preparing for what Jesus told them to do?
- What themes connect this section to what we saw in verses 1–11?

PRAY

Take a moment to quietly reflect on where you may be standing still instead of moving in obedience. Ask God to show you one clear step to take this week. Pray for courage to trust the Holy Spirit's power in your life. Confess any fear, hesitation, or distraction that has held you back. Thank Jesus for saving you, empowering you, and inviting you into His mission.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Acts 1:1–11

- What did Jesus tell His followers to do after He left?
- Why do you think the disciples needed help from the Holy Spirit?
- What is one way we can follow Jesus in our everyday lives this week?
- Who is someone we can show or tell about Jesus this week?

For younger children: Encourage them: “Following Jesus means we can trust Him and do what He says, even when it feels hard.”

For older kids or students: What is one situation this week where you can choose to represent Jesus with your words or actions?

BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

Scripture to read as you pray this week:

- **Day 1:** Acts 2:1–13
- **Day 2:** Acts 2:14–21
- **Day 3:** Acts 2:22–36
- **Day 4:** Acts 2:37–41
- **Day 5:** Acts 2:42–47

What's Going On?

Acts 1:1–11 sits at a major turning point in the story of Scripture. Jesus has risen from the dead, proving He is both the suffering Savior and the reigning King. Over 40 days, He teaches His disciples and prepares them for what comes next. Instead of giving them a timeline for the future, He gives them a mission in the present.

This moment shifts the focus from Jesus physically walking with His followers to Jesus continuing His work through them by the Holy Spirit. The ascension is not Jesus leaving the story, it is Him taking His rightful place as King while sending His people to carry His message forward. This is the beginning of the church's mission, and it continues through every believer today.

A Bit of Background

In the first-century world, the idea of a “witness” was a legal concept. A witness was someone who gave testimony based on what they had personally seen and experienced. This helps us understand that Jesus' followers were not spreading opinions or secondhand ideas, they were testifying to real events, especially the resurrection.

The 40-day period was also significant in Jewish history, often marking a season of preparation before God moved in a new way. When Jesus tells them to wait for the Holy Spirit, it connects to the Old Testament pattern where God's Spirit would come upon people temporarily, but now it would dwell within believers permanently. This would completely change how God's people live and carry out His mission.