

## **Acts 1:1-9 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with<sup>1</sup> water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

## **Acts 16:6-10 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. <sup>7</sup> When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. <sup>8</sup> So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup> After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.



## **Fall Start-Up Bible Study: Acts 1:1-9** For LIFE Community usage the week of 9/8/13

**Transitional context:** Whether your LC has been meeting regularly or sporadically during summer, this study is designed to help people transition from the summer to the more rhythmic and intense fall season. So it is by design that this study is shorter in length. It accompanies and begins the GC sermon series, and is closely related but not dependent upon the sermon (we realize that not everyone will have heard the preceding sermon).

**Community Builder Questions (20-30 minutes):** Use several questions to help people catch up, reconnect, and participate. Select several or invent your own. Wise questions are “self-descriptive questions,” which are geared to describing experiences, insights, and interests. (Best to avoid “self-disclosure questions,” which require more internal processing and revealing, and are best saved for later when relationships and community are renewed.)

- What is one of your favorite memories of the summer?
- What was a special experience you had with someone this summer? (i.e., hike, canoe ride, vacation, outing)
- Any experience of God’s presence or leading that you are willing to share?
- What are you looking forward to this fall?
- What are you looking forward to about our LC experience?

**Purpose for Short (20-40 minutes) Bible study:** To provide vision for your LC this year—and to connect with the fall’s sermon-series: **On Mission: Where Your Life Meets God’s Heart.**

**Read aloud:** Acts 1:1-9

- a. In 1:1-3, Luke reviews some highlights from his former book (which we know as **The Gospel of Luke**). What makes each of the different highlights important, so important that Luke included them in this summary?
- b. In vs. 4 & 5, Jesus gives a command. What are some of the various ways that the disciples could have reacted? What might have encouraged them or frightened them?
- c. In v. 6, what do we learn about how the disciples responded?
- d. In vs. 7-9, Jesus prepares them for His departure—and then departs before their very eyes. What important insights does Jesus provide?

In what ways do the comments of Jesus prepare us for being his disciples?

(Interestingly, part of their preparation is to return to Jerusalem as a “small group” that prays, devotes themselves to the Lord’s teaching, and builds community and witnesses!)

- e. Sunday’s sermon (9/8/13) picks up later in Acts (16:6-10), as Paul, apostle to the Gentiles, is called to ministry in Europe, which was definitely *beyond* his geographic and spiritual *comfort zone*.

What are some of the *beyond our comfort zone* experience or ministries that God might want to call our LC to this year?

- f. Since the same Holy Spirit is given to us, pray that we’d allow the Spirit to direct and lead us.