

Series: Centrifugal Faith

Scripture and Background Information for September 13-19.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we are starting a new series through the book of Acts. After Luke's gospel, Acts is Luke's second volume, writing to Theophilus (Acts 1:1). Luke wrote Theophilus to tell him what Jesus began to do (Luke) and then also what Jesus continued to do through the Spirit, in His disciples (Acts). Although the book's name is "The Acts of the Apostles," describing many different characters, the unifying person is Jesus. His death and resurrection gave the disciples a mission to bring the good news to the nations.

Background for Acts 1:1-8:

After giving the introduction to Theophilus, Luke recounts that Jesus spends 40 days on earth, teaching the disciples the things concerning the kingdom of God. Before going back to heaven, Jesus told his disciples three essential things. First, he promised them the Holy Spirit. Second, he told them, concerning the question about the beginning of the kingdom of Israel, that they are not supposed to know the day the Father would establish the kingdom. Finally, He told them that they would be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and even to the earth's remotest parts.

Some questions to engage with the text:

1. Before Jesus promises the Holy Spirit, he commanded them to stay in Jerusalem. Why do you think the disciples had to wait?
2. What does it implicate that Jesus told the disciples that it is not their business to know when the Father would establish His kingdom? What are some practical implications for *our* mission for Christ?
3. Jesus told the disciples that they would be witnesses of Him. Is "being a witness" an option or a reality? What does centrifugal faith mean for us?

Note: As mentioned above, Jesus is the unifying person of the book of Acts. Remember the last series and our discussion about John 14:16-24; 16:5-15. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit so that when he would come, Jesus would be with his disciples.

Scriptures for upcoming weeks:

September 20-26	Acts 2
September 27-October 02	Acts 3