

LIVING HOPE
STUDY GUIDE:
BOOK OF ACTS

Acts 1 & 2:1-41

The
Church
is Born



Throughout my youth, Sundays were feast days, days of family, friends, good food and celebration. I was going to church which, through the years, became something to celebrate, look forward to. Church is where we worshipped God, renewed our commitment to serve Him, and delighted in a community of fellowship.

Whenever we think of church or say, “I’m going to church”, we think of the building. It is a destination – a building where lots of things happen, a place where people gather.

And yet, church is not a building, a structure of wood and stone.

1. If you had to answer the question, “What is church?”, how would you answer?

2. What are your memories of church?

3. How do members of your family see church?

JESUS PREPARES FOR THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

READ ACTS 1:1-9

The book of Acts, written by Luke as a sequel to the Gospel of Luke, is rooted in many stories of what man can do in the power of the risen Saviour, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is often considered to be the story of the birth of the Church.

Jesus prepared His disciples in the 40 days after His resurrection. He appeared many times to His followers, spoke of the coming of the Kingdom of God, taught them to be ready for the coming of the Holy Spirit, and gave them this final command. His command was clear. “You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. You will receive power. You will be My witnesses to the ends of the earth.” Then Jesus ascended into the presence of God, out of sight, hidden by a cloud.

There was no question about His instructions to His followers. It was a staggering task. It is often wise to remember that our limited personal resources can be used effectively in the hands of our Almighty God. The power of the Holy Spirit is still available to each of us.

1. A cloud hid Jesus from the sight of the disciples. Where else, in the Bible, do we read about a cloud? What was its significance?

2. When you read the marching orders Jesus gave His followers, what does that mean for you?

THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME

READ ACTS 2:1-13

The Holy Spirit came and never left. His coming was a redemptive happening. The Holy Spirit changes our lives and makes us fruitful. The Power of Pentecost is a person, not an event. When we read of tongues of fire, and the sound of a rushing, mighty wind, we ponder symbols of power and purification.

The Holy Spirit, sometimes called the Comforter, comes alongside each of us, encourages us in our living for Jesus, convicts and authenticates each of us as a loved child of God in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit teaches and guides us in the truth of God’s word.

Every child of God has the Holy Spirit in them. The Holy Spirit saves us into the body of Christ – the Church, into a community of believers. We are united in the Spirit. Thanks be to God, the Holy Spirit is not done with us yet. He continues to build the Church.

1. Can we bear witness to the world and grow the Church without the Holy Spirit?

2. Is He present in our Church? How do you know?

3. What is the Holy Spirit doing in your life?

PETER'S SERMON

READ ACTS 2:14-41

Peter's sermon is a powerful message of the saving power of Jesus Christ, and the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy. "And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Joel

His sermon outlines who Jesus is, how the grave could not hold him and ended with the convicting statement: "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2: 36) Three thousand people were added to the Church that day. God continues to grow His Church in 2021 in His way, all over the globe. The Holy Spirit is at work. God's promises in Jesus Christ stand secure.

1. When you read Acts 2: 39, what do you think about the role of children in church today?

2. Does growing the Church have to do with various programs, numbers or buildings? If not, how does the church grow?

3. What is your part in growing the Church?