

NSAC SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sermon: “Introduction to Acts / The Gifts God Gives” NSAC

Series: “Lessons from the First Church” Dave Sattler

January 7, 2024 Text: Acts 1:1-5 Sub-texts: Ezekiel 36:26-27; Joel 2:28-29; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:38-39

I. Intro Questions:

- Who wrote Acts and what do we know about him and how he wrote?
- Pastor Dave said, “*Acts offers core lessons in how to relate to one another in church community and how to engage in the mission of Jesus in our world. And, most importantly, Acts offers us some ‘boots-on-the-ground’ instruction on how live and grow in relationship with Jesus.*” When you think about the Book of Acts, what grabs you? Why?

II. Read Scripture: Acts 1:1-5, Dr Luke’s Prologue

III. Questions on the Text

1. When Dr Luke refers to his “*former book*” (v1a) what does he mean? What is Acts a sequel to? What part of the story does Acts cover?
2. It’s common in the ancient world to dedicate writing to someone. Who do you think Theophilus (v1b) was?
3. What evidence does Jesus give to prove the resurrection? And, how does Jesus provide the evidence? (v3-4a; note “meals” and “40 days”)
4. Describe the impact of the risen Jesus’ presence on the disciples.
5. What does Jesus tell the disciples to do (v5)? And, why?
6. Read Joel 2:28-29. How would this prophecy be fulfilled in Acts?
7. Pastor Dave said, “*The book of Acts describes a revolution.*” What kind of revolution do you see in the Book of Acts? What is the role of the apostles and the Holy Spirit in this revolution?

IV. Life Application Questions

- A. ***The Gift of God’s Presence: The risen Jesus gives us the gift of His presence.***

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- Recall the story about Father John grabbing street people and saying, “*You were created to house the glory of the living God.*” What does it mean to you that God offers us the gift of His presence?
- Read Romans 8:38-39. What encourages you about these verses?
- How have you seen the presence of Jesus carry you in life? Share.
- How can you personally and we as a church be more open to seeking and welcoming the presence of Jesus in our midst? Give examples.

B. *The Gift of God’s Indwelling: God the Holy Spirit baptizes those who yield to Him.*

- Review the promise Jesus gives in Acts 1:5.
- Pastor Dave offered some thoughts on the “baptism of the Holy Spirit” and said, “*The Holy Spirit enters the life of the believer at salvation.*” Read Ezekiel 36:26-27. How do these verses describe the Holy Spirit’s work of “regeneration”?
- “Sanctification” describes the ongoing work God the Holy Spirit longs to do in our lives. What might this look like?
- What shakes down in Acts when God’s people yield to the Spirit? How can we yield more to the Holy Spirit in our lives? In our church? What might shake down at NSAC if we became more reliant on the Holy Spirit?

C. *The Gift of Participation in God’s Mission: God still invites ragtag disciples to be part of His mission.*

- Read Acts 1:8—the theme verse in the Book of Acts. Describe it.
- Pastor Dave said, “*The mission of Jesus in our world is absolutely unstoppable.*” How is this true? Yet, why is this hard to believe in Vancouver these days?
- Part of our church vision says: “*NSAC is for the global mission of God.*” How might God be inviting you to participate: to pray, to serve, to speak, to sacrifice, to love, to be willing to go? Discuss. Share. Pray!