

Acts 1: 1-11 (NLT) - In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. ³ During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

⁴ Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. ⁵ John baptized with^[b] water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

The Ascension of Jesus

⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”

⁷ He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. ¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

John 15:5-6 (NLT) - ⁵ “But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. ⁶ Instead, you grieve because of what I’ve told you. ⁷ But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate^[a] won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.

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Study Guide

This last week we continued our series called GO! by looking at Acts and how God placed His power in us so He could achieve His purpose through us. One of the examples we looked at was what Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth meant to them then — and what they mean to us now. So, how would you categorize those? Go through the list and share what these likely look like to you.

1. Jerusalem – Where you are and the place closest to you.
2. Judea – A bit further out. Not the closest to you, but still familiar.
3. Samaria – People not like you. People who seem far from God.
4. The ends of the earth – Far outside where you are comfortable or what you know.

Take a moment to read Mark 13:1-11. How does this scripture address how we can respond in moments where we are caught in conflict? How are we to navigate moments where we don't know what to say?

Again, it turns out the answer to the issues outside of my reach is that nothing is outside of God's. Take some time to pray for each other that God would guide us all outside of where we can handle, and that we would be quick to listen to and rely on the Holy Spirit.