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# **Message Series: GOOD NEWS**

*Title: “Good News & the Purpose of Your Life”*

# *Teaching Pastor: Pat Shivers*

*Text: Acts 1:1-11*

# *For the week of Jan. 17, 2016*

# **Icebreaker**

Looking back – share a day or special event that you could hardly wait for. What heightened the anticipation as you got closer to the day? (maybe getting your driver’s license, season tickets, a prom date, a college date, etc.) Share your story.

**Getting Started**

The book of Acts opens with the story of Jesus’ ascension. After telling his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was “taken up before their very eyes.”

How would you view Jesus’ ascension to heaven? (Check one.)

sad – the end of his earthly ministry

hopeful – the start of a new phase of His ministry

prophetic – just as He left, He will return

amazing – that would have been something to see!

**Acts Facts**

The book of Acts is a sequel to the Gospel of Luke. Both were written by Luke, a physician who traveled with the apostle Paul. Acts ends with Paul under house arrest, awaiting trial before Caesar, A.D. 62. Luke’s purpose for writing his Gospel (see Luke 1:3-4) applies to Acts as well; to give an “orderly account” of the early church after Christ’s resurrection.

**Theme of the Book:** The spread of the Gospel to all the known world. (*see Acts 1:8*)

**The Text: Acts 1:1-11 (ESV)**

***The Promise of the Holy Spirit***

***1****In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,* ***2****until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.* ***3****He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.*

***4****And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me;* ***5****for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*

***The Ascension***

***6****So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”* ***7****He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.* ***8****But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* ***9****And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.* ***10****And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,* ***11****and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”*

**Discussion Questions**

What do you see as the major theme of this passage?

What are some common ways we “authenticate” documents, events, or agreements? In verse 3, what is Luke authenticating? Why is this important?

What is the difference between a “disciple” and an “apostle”?

(vs 4-5) What do you think the disciples did during the days they waited for the Holy Spirit to come?

(vs 8) Jesus says, “You will be my witnesses. Where do you sense God calling you to be His witness?

(vs 10) What were the angels telling the disciples?

What holds you back from spreading the word about the authenticity of your relationship with Jesus?

What is the most effective way to explain the Resurrection to your non-believing friends?

Why is the Holy Spirit important in helping you be a witness for Him?

**BodyLife**

**Men: STEPPING UP**, Sunday’s post-worship & Tuesday nights @ 8p

**Women: “One in a Million” Series**, begins Jan. 14, 9:30-11:30a

**Women: FERVENT**, 6:30p in the Conference Room

**I LOVE MY CHURCH Night**, 6:30 – 8p, Pot Luck Dinner | Theme: LOOK WHAT GOD IS DOING (Ps. 118:23)

Worship Center | Childcare Provided!

**Mark Your Calendars: Small Group Leaders Meeting**, Sunday, February 14