

Week: for January 27, 2021

Scripture: Acts 1:1-5 and 8-9

A personal note from Camille: tonight's teaching is an introduction to the book of Acts, as a whole, and an introduction to the Holy Spirit. I hope it helps in laying the groundwork for what's to come as we study Acts this semester. As you move along there will be prompts to pause the video along the way to read scripture and ask some questions. Please adjust and adapt as needed for your group.

Pause One -

1. Read Acts 1:1-5; 8-9
 - a. What do you first notice while reading in the passage? What seems weird to you? What seems most important?
 - b. *Hint Acts 1:8 is the main/theme verse of the whole book.*

Pause Two -

1. How does Jesus' presence remain in the world after he ascends back to heaven?
2. What do you know or what have you heard about the Holy Spirit / Spirit of God?
 - a. *Not necessarily looking for theologically sound answers here but knowing what your students share will help you know what they do or do not understand about the work of the Holy Spirit.*
3. What questions do you have about the Holy Spirit?
4. How do you respond to the idea that Jesus is "a person who can be known and loved, a person who can be obeyed and followed, a person who continues to act within the real world?"
 - a. *Would probably be best to take each of these one at a time.*

End of Video -

1. Why was it important for Jesus' followers to WAIT for the Holy Spirit before going into the world to share the gospel and build the church?
2. How does it comfort or encourage you to know that the Holy Spirit is still given and lives within those of us who profess and trust in Jesus?
 - a. *Could move into talking points asking them what they think about the Holy Spirit? Do they feel attentive to the work of the Spirit in their life? Do they have examples of how the Holy Spirit has worked in their life before? Leaders - if you have examples of this from your own life, it could be helpful for your students to hear from you.*
3. What might it look like to be Jesus' witness, Jesus' love in the world this week? To a particular person? In their ordinary life?
 - a. Remind them they don't have to "go anywhere" to do this. The disciples were first called to Jerusalem before they were sent anywhere else.

