

## Acts 1.6-11 Discussion Questions

1. What does the disciples' question in v. 6 reveal about what's on their mind and what they expect from Jesus?

a. Why is this a natural question for them to ask?

2. How would you summarize Jesus' response?

a. Jesus' response reveals that God is not going to work like he did the past, by drawing the nations to Israel (God's people). Instead, he is going to send his people to the nations empowered by his Spirit. This is a new way to do things. When have you expected God to work the same way he did before, but found out that he was planning on doing something new?

3. Why does Jesus call them his "witnesses?" What does a witness do?

a. What does this teach us about the essential role of Jesus' followers?

b. How do we see this playing out in Scripture?

c. How have you seen this play out in your life? Do you think of yourself as a witness for Jesus?

d. What are some practical ways that you are currently or could implement in order to be a more faithful witness for Christ?

4. What does the connection between the need to be empowered and being a witness teach us about what it means and what it takes to be a witness?

a. Why do we need the Spirit if we are going to be faithful witnesses? How does he help us?

b. How have you seen this in your life?

c. Paul tells us to be continually filled by the Spirit. How do we do that?

5. Based on the attitudes of Jews towards Samaritans and Gentiles in Gospels, what was probably going on in the disciples' mind when they heard that they were going to be witnesses in the Samaritan and Gentile world?

a. Who are the "Samaritans" and "Gentiles" in your life that God has called you to reach out to?

6. The passage ends with "two men dressed in white" challenging the disciples to turn their gaze from the sky to the mission in front of them.

a. What hope or expectation do you currently have that you are tempted to fixate on? What do you need to take your eyes off of?

b. What aspect of the mission of God are you struggling to fix your attention on? What are you missing, ignoring or avoiding?

7. Pastor Mike observed that throughout the book of Acts there is a pattern: (1) the people are empowered by the Spirit; (2) they obey God; (3) God multiplies their numbers; and (4) they endure suffering and persecution.

a. Do you currently see this pattern in your life?

b. Which of these are most present in your life right now?

c. Which is most lacking?