



Message Notes & Discussion Guide

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 1 – POWER AND PROMISE

¹In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen. ³After His suffering, He presented Himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶Then they gathered around Him and asked Him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹After He said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.

¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.”

– Acts 1:1-11 (NIV)

BIG IDEA

God’s _____ prepares God’s _____ for God’s _____

OBSERVATIONS

- The _____ of Jesus' _____ is secondary to the certainty that He _____
- The Holy Spirit _____ us to _____ God's _____ in the _____
- The church exists to provide an _____ of the _____ to the world
- The _____ of Jesus provides the _____ and _____ needed to pursue our _____

ADDITIONAL NOTES

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What do you think of when you hear the word “church”?
2. How do your thoughts differ from today’s message?
3. How do your thoughts align with today’s message?
4. Why does the church exist?
5. Why is it important to recognize that God’s mission is an active work and not a passive work?
6. How should this affect the way we live our lives?
7. Why did God give believers the Holy Spirit?
8. What does the Holy Spirit give us? Why is this vital for our ability to accomplish God’s mission?
9. What can happen if you focus too much on the uncertain timing of Jesus’ return?
10. How can the certainty of Jesus’ return help us persevere in God’s calling for the church?
11. What are some ways that you can live as a witness of the Gospel to the world?
12. What are some ways that you can help Bear Valley accomplish God’s mission in the world?