

Liberty Baptist Church Scripture Reflections

The Viral Church

Small Group Discussion

This Discussion Guide is prepared to help believers apply the truths of Scripture to life. As you prepare, make sure you have read the Scripture text and listened to the Sermon. If you missed the Sermon, go to www.experienceliberty.org and select the Sermon title listed above.

Sermon Bible Verses: Acts 1:1-11

Acts 1:1-2 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

- What does that mean, to go viral? Do you think the church is viral?
- What event in Christian history might be considered the viral event that propelled the church?
- This verse gives us a few clues in order for the church to be viral. What are they?

Acts 1:4-5 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence

- We commonly see baptisms with water, but what does it mean to be baptized with the Holy Spirit? Is that often seen in church today?

Acts 1:6-7 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

- The Israelites believed Jesus would be the One who would conquer the Roman Empire and deliver Israel as a kingdom. Had the message of Christ been misunderstood? How often do we as believers, but not students of the Word, misinterpret the Gospel?
- During this pandemic of the Covid-19 virus what have you found most difficult to deal with? What have you feared the most, the unknown? Is there a such thing as healthy fear? How can fear be redirected positively?

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

- Everyone doesn't have the same gifts and talents, but you do have the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the task(s) God has given you. Discuss what task has God given you, and the difficulties/hinderances to accomplishing it?

- Can you think of some cost the apostles may have faced for following Jesus and being his witnesses? What cost are there today for following Jesus? What if anything holds you back from being a witness for Christ?
- Think of someone you know, or know of, who are a model witness for Christ is. What characteristics do they possess? In what ways would you like to be like this person? In what ways different?
- Do you consider social media post, political opinions, comments as witnessing?

Acts 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

- How can we cultivate a spirit of expectant waiting in our remote-controlled, fast-paced culture?
- When the angels spoke to the Apostles, asking them why they were standing around, do you think the same question can be asked of us today? Why are we just standing around?

Sermon Points

1. The Future is not our worry
2. Our Power is the Holy Ghost
3. The Mission is to Witness
4. His Promise is He will Return