

ACTS

OF THE APOSTLES

September 26-27
Lesson 3

Aftereffects: Answers for the Lost

This Discussion Guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements, but members can still interact even if they missed the sermon. To use this guide in your Community Group, try to work through the questions on your own before you meet. You might not get to all of the questions, and that's okay. If your Community Group does not meet one week, walk through the guide on your own so that you can stay in sync with the series.

MAIN TEXT: Acts 1:1-11

SUMMARY OF THE SERIES: The Acts of the Apostles describes the beginning of the church missional movement that was started by the resurrected Jesus. Most importantly, the church's power and strength comes from the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit, the church ceases to be the church. Followers of Jesus have the Holy Spirit at conversion and receive a new nature, but Acts shows us how we need continual filling of the Holy Spirit to be the church engaged on mission. Of course, we can't manufacture this but need to put ourselves in a position of asking and waiting for the Spirit. Expectation without agenda.

GETTING STARTED

Being filled with the Holy Spirit has aftereffects, just like waves and ripples that are formed in a pond when a large stone is thrown into the water. We will explore this in the discussion. To begin, what aftereffects of the Holy Spirit have you seen in your life? How have these aftereffects benefited those you know that aren't a person of faith in Jesus?

DISCUSSING THE WORD

1. Read Acts 3:1-10. This healing is an amazing aftereffect of the Holy Spirit and testimony of the goodness and life within the Kingdom that Jesus brings. How have you seen others healed today? What roadblocks do you see in your life that prevent you from embracing this ministry with life in the Kingdom?
2. Looking at verse 1, Peter and John were going up to the temple for prayer. Prayer plays an important part of the Christian life. How have you seen the aftereffects of the Holy Spirit through your prayer life?
3. Looking at verses 4-6, it's amazing to see Peter's boldness. How do you think Peter's time with Jesus and being filled with the Spirit gave Him such boldness? What needs to happen in you to have such boldness?
4. Looking at verses 7-10, God did a miraculous work in healing this man. What was the result in this man's life and those around him?

BOOKS & RESOURCES

River Dwellers by Rob Reimer

Surprised by the Spirit by Jack Deere

Unspeakable Joy by Martyn Lloyd Jones

PERSONAL RESPONSE TO GOD

Having the boldness and spiritual authority that Peter had with healing this man is available to you! The key is that it is developmental and all of God's doing. We cannot manufacture or fake it. The key in developing in spiritual authority is rooted in developing your identity in Christ, expanding your intimacy with God, and activated by faith in His promises of the Kingdom. How can you develop in this today so that God can bring the aftereffects of the Spirit to those around you in your life?

MISSIONAL RESPONSE TO GOD

1. Think of 2 friends who haven't experience life-change through Jesus. Write them down on a piece of paper and commit to pray for them.
2. Pray for opportunities to get to know them and pray for the filling of God's Spirit for boldness to enter into their pain, their world, their interests, their reality so that you can earn the right to speak into their heart and soul.
3. Invest in getting to know them. Think through these ideas:
 - Is there a need? Then fill it.
 - Is there a hurt? Then heal it.
 - Is there a common interest? Then do it.
4. When God's timing allows, invite them to a Worship Service, Alpha, or any other type of church gathering.