

ACTS

OF THE APOSTLES

October 3 - 4
Lesson 4

Aftereffects: Answers for the Skeptics

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 4:1-31

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

One of the effects of being filled with the Spirit is a boldness in being a witness for Jesus in both word and deed that shows genuine love and respect for others as you enter into their world. This certainly requires confidence and not fear, especially those skeptical about people of faith. What fears come to mind when it comes to being a witness for Jesus?

DISCUSSING THE WORD

1. Read Acts 4:1-32. In verse 8 it says that Peter was "filled with the Holy Spirit" and spoke to them about Jesus. Have you ever made the connection between being filled with the Spirit and being a witness? If not, why not? What would look different in your life if this were so?
2. Read v. 13. How does your time with Jesus affect your confidence in being a witness? How do you spend time being in Jesus' presence?
3. Read v.19-20. How does your experience with Jesus inform your confidence in being a witness? What experiences with Jesus and His presence have made you more confident in what you share?

BOOKS & RESOURCES

River Dwellers by Rob Reimer

Surprised by the Spirit by Jack Deere

Unspeakable Joy by Martyn Lloyd Jones

PERSONAL RESPONSE TO GOD

The heart of the Father is to fill you with His Spirit. How do we receive the fullness of the Spirit today?

- 1) Attune yourself to what Scripture says about the Spirit bringing the Kingdom in your life.
- 2) Ask God for the filling of His Spirit and wait patiently on His timing.
- 3) Align your soul with the hear of the Father in confession and repentance of any sin. Let God have access to the deep parts of your soul.
- 4) Abide in Jesus' presence as a daily rhythm and part of 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.