

# UNSTOPPABLE

## THE CHURCH JESUS INTENDED

### STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, April 19, 2026

**Teaching Title:** The Wrong Question

**Key Scripture:** Acts 1:6–11

# CEDAR VALLEY

### 5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

**Monday:** Acts 1:1–26

**Tuesday:** Acts 2:1–41

**Wednesday:** Acts 2:42–3:26

**Thursday:** Acts 4:1–31

**Friday:** Acts 4:32–5:11

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's Word (The Bible), what do I need to do?
4. What's your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

### MEMORY VERSE:

Acts 1:8 NLT

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

### LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

**Introduction:** In Acts 1:6–11, Jesus redirects the disciples from asking the wrong question. They were focused on Him restoring Israel's political kingdom, but Jesus shifts their attention to something far bigger: His mission for the Church. The Church is a Spirit-empowered movement of people sent to be His witnesses in the world. Jesus calls His followers to share who He is and what He has done, crossing every cultural and geographic boundary. The ascension marks the moment when Jesus entrusts this mission to His people. The Church is a mission to live out, not a place to just hang out.

**Introduction to the Book of Acts:** The book of Acts is not a free-standing work—it's the second volume of what many scholars call "Luke-Acts," which includes the Gospel of Luke and Acts of the Apostles. In Luke, we read about what Jesus began to do; in Acts, we see what He continues to do. Just as the Holy Spirit empowered Jesus in His ministry, He now empowers the Church to carry out God's mission in the world. Luke was a careful investigator, researcher, historian, and physician (Colossians 4:14). In fact, his writings make up about 28% of the New Testament—more than Paul's letters (about 24%). Acts 1 and 2 serve as "bridge" material connecting the Gospel of Luke and Acts. Luke ends with the ascension, and Acts begins with it, providing more detail than the end of Luke. Acts 1 focuses primarily on Jesus' interactions with His disciples after the resurrection, as well as the selection of a new disciple to replace Judas. William Barclay calls Acts, in a sense, the most important book in the New Testament. It provides the context for Paul's letters and gives us important insight into the early Church. Acts 1:8 is often seen as an outline for the entire book of Acts (see "Digging Deeper").

### Questions:

Ice Breaker: Have you ever expected something to be one way and then realized it was completely different? What happened?

1. Read Acts 1:1–11 together as a group. When you hear the phrase "Kingdom of God" what comes to mind? How would you describe the Kingdom of God to a friend, neighbor, or co-worker who doesn't know God?

2. Read Isaiah 43:10–13, Isaiah 49:6, and Acts 1:8. How is Acts the fulfillment of Isaiah's words?
3. What do you think it means to be a "witness"? Why are the locations mentioned significant? (See Notes)
4. Also in Acts 1:8, Jesus promises power through the Holy Spirit. What do you think that power is for? What is it not for?
5. In Acts 1:9–11, the angels ask, "Why are you standing here?" What do you think they're really getting at? How does that speak to us? (See Digging Deeper)
6. Where is your "Jerusalem" right now—your everyday place where God has already positioned you to be a witness?
7. What is one practical way you can step more fully into the mission of Jesus this week instead of just "attending" church?

## NOTES

### Question 3 | Here are notes from Pastor Neal's message to help with this question:

Witnesses: Originally, this referred to someone who gives testimony about what they have seen (think courtroom language). A witness tells the truth about what they actually know. Notice, Jesus didn't say His followers must become professional debaters or win every argument. He said they will be witnesses. They will testify about who Jesus is and what He has done. This appears throughout the book of Acts. Over and over, the followers of Jesus simply share what they have seen and experienced. The progression of Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth is not just geographical; it's also cultural.

1. Jerusalem represents their own people (culture)
2. Judea represents their broader region (still primarily their own culture)
3. Samaria represents people who were very different from them. Historically Jews and Samaritans had deep hostility toward each other. And yet Jesus includes Samaria in the mission, which means the Gospel is meant to cross cultural boundaries.
4. Finally, the ends of the earth points to the GLOBAL MISSION. The message of Jesus is not meant for ONE nation. It's meant for ALL nations.

## DIGGING DEEPER

### From Introduction | Acts 1:8 as an outline for the whole Book of Acts:

- 1:1–5:42 Witnesses in Jerusalem
  - 1:1–2:47 The beginning of the Church
  - 3:1–5:42 The church in Jerusalem
- 6:1–11:18 Witnesses in Judea and Samaria
  - 6:1–9:31 The Church begins to expand
  - 9:32–11:18 The beginning of the Gentile mission
- 11:19–29:31 Witnesses to the ends of the earth
  - 11:19–14:28 The mission from Antioch to Asia Minor
  - 15:1–35 The discussion concerning the Gentiles in the Church
  - 15:36–18:17 Paul's mission in Macedonia and Achaia
  - 18:1–20:38 Paul's mission in Asia
  - 21:1–28:31 Paul's arrest and imprisonment

### Question 5 | The Ascension

The ascension of Jesus marks the exaltation of Christ. He is King and is seated at the right hand of the Father. It marks the completion of His earthly ministry and the moment He entrusts His mission with His people. It also marks the lasting goodness of Jesus' humanity. Christian theology states that Jesus is fully divine and fully human and this nature of Jesus is forever. "Jesus didn't just start off being divine, then stopped being divine and became human on earth, then stopped being human again and went back to being divine. The Jesus who has gone into heaven, is the fully human and fully divine Jesus. The ascension therefore affirms the lasting value of being human. The risen Jesus was more human, not less, than He was before. The ascension is the affirmation that God has taken that fully human, deeply and richly human being Jesus, and has embraced Him to Himself within His own space, making Him indeed Lord of the world. God has always intended that His human creatures should inherit the world, the created order, to rule over it with wisdom and gentleness, to bring it order and to enhance its beauty. In the ascended human Jesus that vision is in principle realized." —NT Wright, *Surprised by Hope*