



Week 4

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: ACTS 1:1-11

"In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After 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. On 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. For John baptized with[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with[b] the Holy Spirit." Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But 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." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "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."

ADULT DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. In vs. 1 we learn that this is not the author's first book. Who is the author and what was his first book? Does the style of this book see the same? Why or why not?

2. Jesus asks his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Promise of the Father. When is a time you had to wait for something? Was it easy or difficult? Why? Do you feel like this is a season of waiting? Why or why not? What are some of the positives of waiting?

3. The "trinity" is not specifically mentioned in the Bible, but the concept clearly permeates scripture. How is this passage an example of that?

4. What do you know about the Holy Spirit? Do you think about it often? Do you think the Holy Spirit is something we talk much about at our church? Why or why not? If we don't talk enough about the Holy Spirit, should that change? How?

5. What did Jesus mean when he said the disciples would be "baptized" with the Holy Spirit? If you can, think about what we learned about the differences between ritual cleansing and baptism. How might those differences apply to baptism in the Holy Spirit as well?

6. Why were the disciples asking if Jesus was about to restore Israel? Do you think the disciples were wrong or foolish to ask?

7. What was Jesus' final command before he went to Heaven? Is that still a command for us today? What does it mean to follow this command until Israel is restored?

8. Angels are often used as important messengers from God. They delivered the message of Jesus' birth. They delivered the message of his resurrection. What is the significance of the message they deliver to the disciples in this passage?

STUDENTS DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Sometimes the Holy Spirit can be a hard concept to grasp. What do you already know about the Holy Spirit and what questions do you have about it?
2. When we receive the Holy Spirit we are receiving Jesus in our hearts and surrendering to His guidance. Have you received the Holy Spirit in your heart? If so, how can you better surrender to His guidance? If not, what is holding you back to receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit?
3. When Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples were in awe of Him. What are some characteristics of Jesus that cause you to be in awe of who He is? Write them down, take time to give God thanks and praise for those characteristics.
4. The ascension of Jesus caused the disciples to wonder what was next for them in their walk of faith. They had received the Holy Spirit but the Lord was calling them to action. What action is God leading you to next in your faith?

Here's Your Challenge:

- Find 2 other passages of scripture that talk about the Holy Spirit. Write down at least 3 new things you learned about the Holy Spirit from what you read. If you feel lead, take time to research more about it!

KIDS DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. How many days did Jesus stay on the earth after His resurrection? Read 1 Corinthians 15:6. How many people saw Jesus after the resurrection.
2. What were Jesus' final instructions for the disciples? What would you tell people if you were about to leave them for a long time?
3. Why were the disciples staring at the sky? How long do you think you would stare at the sky after you just watched Jesus ascend into heaven?
4. Have you ever been given an important message to deliver to someone else? What made it important?
5. Do you know that Jesus will return one day?! Isn't that exciting! What do you look forward to the MOST about Jesus returning to the earth to gather those that love Him?

Family Activities:

- Elementary & Preschool: If you have dominoes at your home, find them and set them up as you talk about the "domino effect" that the disciples had with their mission and message!
- Elementary & Preschool: Next time you're at the store get a white balloon with helium and take it home to watch it float into the sky. see how long you can keep track of the balloon and talk about how the disciples probably didn't want to lose sight of Jesus as He ascended into heaven.