
Part I: The Church is Born *(Acts 1-5)*

Application Guide: Acts 1

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Think of a time when someone you were close to moved away or passed away. How did it make you feel?

- b. How do you think you would feel if the person you are closest to now moved away? How would you stay in touch?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Background: It is a historical fact that Luke and Theophilus were real people who lived back in the first century. They were friends with each other, and with Jesus too. Luke and others (see 1 John 1:1-3) were eyewitnesses who attested to the undeniable fact that Jesus was a great teacher, performed many miracles, was crucified, raised from the dead and ascended back to heaven.

Picture it: Imagine you were a disciple—one of Jesus' friends. What would it have been like to walk and talk together, and watch Him teach and heal people?

Think of three things you think you would have done with Jesus on a typical day.

What would it have felt like to watch your friend Jesus float up into the sky and back to heaven?

Do you think you would have missed your friend, Jesus, when He went back to heaven? Why?

Both at the end of the Gospel of Luke and here in Acts 1, Luke wrote that God's people are not to try and witness without the help of the Holy Spirit. What he's saying is that it's not about you and what you can do—it's all about God and what He wants to do in and through you!

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

- a. Have a discussion with or write an email to someone with whom you've shared a spiritual experience—just like Luke did when he wrote to Theophilus. Try to relive some of your best experiences in church, Sabbath School, Pathfinders or summer camp.
- b. Discuss with someone or sit alone outside at night and think about Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus (John 3). Think about how it feels when the wind blows across your face and through your hair. Think about how the Holy Spirit is with you just like that—everywhere you go, in everything you do. Where have you recognized the Holy Spirit working in your life? Where would you like to see Him more? Discuss this with your group or write about it in a journal.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

- a. Thank Jesus for creating you and wanting to have a relationship with you.
- b. Tell Him something about your day.
- c. Ask Jesus to help someone you know to realize He wants to be his or her friend, too.