

MESSAGE

CALLED

ACTIVATE SERIES | MAY 2/3, 2015 | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON | ACTS 1:1-11

"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." (Acts 1:8)

Called to Jesus: Living with the Resurrected Jesus (Acts 1:1-3)

- Jesus in-between events
- Jesus alive in the flesh
- Jesus at the table

Called into God's Kingdom: Facing Confusion and Time Delays (Acts 1:3-7)

- Jesus and the kingdom
- The kingdom of God and the kingdoms of earth
- Timelines and the delayed arrival

Called to the Holy Spirit: The Gift of Power (Acts 1:4-5, 8)

- The gift to you
- The baptism of you
- The power upon you

Called to Witness: The Lifestyle of the Empowered Disciple (Acts 1:8-11)

- Jerusalem
- Judea and Samaria
- The ends of the earth
- Until Jesus will come back
- "Why do you stand here looking into the sky?"

STUDY GUIDE

1. When have you felt most energized in your life with God? What was going on and what led you to that place?
2. Following our exploration of Jesus as the way, truth, and life, we are beginning a new series this weekend at Eastbrook entitled "Activate" about the church energized for God's mission. This week, we are looking at Acts 1:1-11. Take some time to pray, asking God to speak to you as you read His word.
3. Background: The book of Acts is the second of two works that Luke, an early believer and a physician, wrote in the first century. The first of those books, the Gospel of Luke, focuses on the life of Jesus in Galilee and Jerusalem. The book of Acts picks up after the resurrection of Jesus, charting the life of the first followers of Jesus. Both books are addressed to Theophilus, whose name literally means 'lover of God.'
4. As Luke recounts the events after the resurrection, he tells of Jesus' activities until the time He returns to the Father. What is Jesus doing and for how long is He doing these things (verses 1-3)?
5. Looking at verses 4 and 5, what does Jesus ask of the disciples? Why do you think Jesus is making this sort of request of the disciples? What other options might they have considered?
6. The Holy Spirit is the personal presence of God in the life of every person who reaches out to God through Jesus Christ by faith. What do you think it means for us to wait for the power of the Holy Spirit in our own lives?
7. The disciples ask a question in verse 6 that Jesus redirects in verse 7. What was the disciples' concern and what is Jesus' teaching on this point?
8. Acts 1:8 is a pivotal verse in this chapter and the history of God's people. How would you outline what Jesus is calling these apostles to in this verse?
9. The book of Acts traces the early believers as they live out what Jesus calls them to do here in Acts 1:8, witnessing to Him from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria and to the ends of the earth. This is a universal call for the good news about Jesus to go out to all people, high and low, rich and poor, near and far. If this is our calling, how are you living out this calling right now? What are some ways you think you could live the calling out more fully in your everyday life?
10. What is one specific thing that God is speaking to you through this study about being called by God as His witnesses? How will that shape your life in the coming week? If you are with a small group, discuss that with one another and pray for one another. If you are studying on your own, write it down and share it with someone.

[Next week: We continue the "Activate" series by exploring Acts 1:12-26, with special attention to the prayers of the early believers.]