SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Acts

Chapter 1

You Shall Be My Witnesses

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 1:8

"but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Acts 1

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He gave His men one job and one promise: be My witnesses, and wait for the power. This week He is asking you the same thing — to stop running ahead in your own strength, to pray with your brothers, and to tell the people closest to you what He has done.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Acts study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Alive by Many Proofs

READ · ACTS 1:1–5

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How long did the risen Jesus appear to the apostles, what did He talk about, and what did He tell them to wait for (1:3–4)?

REFLECT

Luke says Jesus "presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs" (1:3). What has convinced you that Jesus is really alive — and what doubts do you still carry?

REFLECT

Jesus commanded them "not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait" (1:4). Where are you tempted to rush ahead and fix things yourself instead of waiting on God?

RESPOND — TODAY

Before you make one decision today, stop and pray about it first — even if it is only a minute.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 1:8)

DAY 2 OF 5

Power to Be a Witness

READ · ACTS 1:6–8

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the disciples ask Jesus, what did He say about the timing, and what did He say they would receive and become (1:6–8)?

REFLECT

The disciples asked "when?" and Jesus told them "you shall be My witnesses" (1:7–8). What questions about the future do you spend energy on that keep you from the job in front of you?

REFLECT

The witness starts "in Jerusalem" (1:8), right at home. Who are the people closest to you who most need to see that Jesus has changed you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell one person in your "Jerusalem" — family, cellmate, coworker, sponsor — one true sentence about what Jesus has done for you.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 1:8)

DAY 3 OF 5

The Same Jesus Is Coming

READ · ACTS 1:9–11

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How did Jesus leave, what were the disciples doing as He went, and what did the two men in white promise (1:9–11)?

REFLECT

The angels said, "This Jesus … will come in just the same way" (1:11) — not a stranger, the same Lord who forgave Peter. How does it change things to know the Jesus coming back is the same Jesus who has been patient with you?

REFLECT

They asked, "why do you stand looking into the sky?" (1:11). Is your hope in His return making you busier and more faithful, or just more curious?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one thing you would want to be found doing if Jesus came back today, and do it before you sleep.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 1:8)

DAY 4 OF 5

With One Mind in Prayer

READ · ACTS 1:12–14

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who was in the upper room, and what were they all doing together (1:13–14)?

REFLECT

A tax collector (Matthew) and a Zealot (Simon) prayed side by side "with one mind" (1:13–14). Who is a brother you have trouble getting along with, and what would it take to pray with him?

REFLECT

Jesus' brothers, who once did not believe in Him, are now praying with the others (1:14). Whose turnaround are you still hoping and praying for?

RESPOND — TODAY

Ask one man to pray with you this week — out loud, together — and set a time.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 1:8)

DAY 5 OF 5

Another Takes His Office

READ · ACTS 1:15–26

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What happened to Judas, what two things did a new apostle need to have seen, and how did they choose Matthias (1:18, 21–26)?

REFLECT

Judas "was counted among us and received his share in this ministry" (1:17) and still turned aside. What keeps you honest so that being around Jesus never becomes a substitute for belonging to Him?

REFLECT

Before they cast lots they prayed, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men" (1:24). What would you want to say to the Lord who already knows your heart completely?

RESPOND — TODAY

Give one trusted brother permission to ask you a hard question about how you are really doing, and answer him honestly.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 1:8)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Jesus spent forty days giving “many convincing proofs” that He was alive (1:3). What evidence of the risen Jesus have you seen in each other’s lives since you started meeting?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Acts 1:8 moves from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria to the ends of the earth. What would it look like for our group to take the next step outward together?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

The church’s first act after the ascension was to pray “with one mind” for ten days (1:14). What would change if our group gave as much time to praying together as to talking together?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You are alive and You are coming back the same way You left, so fill me with Your Spirit today and make me Your witness to…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 1:8

"but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."