

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

Now & Then – Session 5

The Work Jesus Began

SESSION FOCUS

Jesus completed His saving work—but His Kingdom work continues.

In this session, we explore **our role** in what God is doing now, learning that faithful participation requires both **action and dependence on the Holy Spirit**.

Acts 1 reminds us that we are not spectators, but neither are we self-sufficient builders of the Kingdom.

OPENING REFLECTION

Take a moment to reflect.

- Do you feel more pressure to act—or fear of acting wrongly?
- How do you usually think about your role in God's work?

Personal Notes

SCRIPTURE READING

Read **Acts 1:1–8** slowly.

Notice:

- What Jesus continues
 - What the disciples ask
 - What Jesus promises
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KEY IDEA

The Kingdom advances
through participation empowered by the Holy Spirit—
not by human control.

PART 1: WHAT JESUS CONTINUES (Acts 1:1–3)



Reflection Questions

- Why do you think Luke emphasizes *what Jesus began*?
- What does that suggest about what follows?

Personal Notes

PART 2: THE TEMPTATION TO CONTROL (Acts 1:6–7)

Reflection Questions

- What are the disciples hoping for?
- Where do you struggle with impatience or control?

Personal Notes

PART 3: WHY THE SPIRIT MATTERS (Acts 1:8a)

Reflection Questions

- Why does Jesus require waiting for the Spirit?
- How does reliance on the Spirit change how we act?

Personal Notes

PART 4: WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A WITNESS (Acts 1:8b)

Reflection Questions

- How is witness different from persuasion or performance?
- Where is your “Jerusalem” right now?
- Where might “Samaria” be in your life—someone or somewhere you tend to avoid?
- Who are the “overlooked” or marginalized people God may be calling you toward?

Personal Notes

PART 5: FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION

(*Philippians 1:6*)

Reflection Questions



- How does trusting God to finish the work change how you participate?
- What small step of obedience feels possible right now?

Personal Notes

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- Where might God be inviting your participation?
- What might it look like to rely more fully on the Spirit?

Personal Response

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask the Holy Spirit for courage, clarity, and trust to participate faithfully.

OPTIONAL PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

- Pray **Acts 1:8** each day
 - Ask: *“Spirit, where are You leading today?”*
 - Take one intentional step of witness or service
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FINAL THOUGHT

The work Jesus began continues.

The Spirit empowers.

Our role is faithful participation.

