

FACILITATOR / TEACHER GUIDE

Now & Then – Session 5

The Work Jesus Began

What Is Our Role in What God Is Doing?

Acts 1:1–8

SESSION PURPOSE

This session clarifies the role of Jesus' followers in the ongoing work of God's Kingdom. Drawing from **Acts 1:1–8**, participants will explore how the risen Jesus defines their mission—not as finishing the Kingdom through their own strength, but as **participating faithfully and visibly through the power of the Holy Spirit**.

This session challenges passivity while guarding against self-driven action, rooting all Kingdom participation in dependence on the Spirit.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, participants should be able to:

- Understand Acts 1 as the bridge between Jesus' completed work and the church's ongoing witness
 - Recognize that the Kingdom advances through *participation*, not control
 - Reject passive waiting and self-powered activism alike
 - Identify the Holy Spirit as essential—not optional—to Kingdom work
 - Name their role as witnesses in the “now” of God's Kingdom
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KEY PASSAGE

- **Acts 1:1–8**

Supporting Scriptures

- Luke 24:46–49
 - John 20:21–22
 - Zechariah 4:6
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SESSION LENGTH

60–75 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bible
 - Participant discussion guide
 - Pen
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SESSION FLOW

1. WELCOME & RE-ORIENTATION (5 minutes)

Facilitator Guidance:

Frame this session as the hinge between *waiting* and *going*. Emphasize that Jesus defines both *when* and *how* participation happens.

Opening Thought:

Jesus finished His saving work—but He intentionally did not finish His mission alone.

Opening Question (optional):

When you think about God’s work in the world, do you feel more responsibility—or more hesitation?

2. THE WORK JESUS BEGAN (Acts 1:1–3) (10 minutes)

Teaching Focus:

Luke frames everything that follows as a continuation—not a replacement—of Jesus’ work.

Read Scripture:

Acts 1:1–3

Key Insight:

The church does not invent a new mission; it carries forward what Jesus began.

Facilitator Notes:

Stress continuity. The risen Jesus remains active and intentional.

Discussion Question:

Why do you think Luke emphasizes that this is only the *beginning* of Jesus’ work?



3. MOVEMENT 1 – THE LIMITS OF OUR CONTROL (Acts 1:6–7) (10 minutes)

Teaching Focus:

The disciples ask the wrong question—about timing and outcomes.

Read Scripture:

Acts 1:6–7

Key Truths to Emphasize

- Curiosity about control is natural
- Jesus redirects rather than rebukes
- The Kingdom is not ours to schedule

Reflection Questions

- What are the disciples really asking for?
 - Where do we seek clarity instead of calling?
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4. MOVEMENT 2 – EMPOWERED, NOT SELF-DIRECTED (Acts 1:8a) (10 minutes)

Teaching Focus:

Mission without the Spirit leads to burnout or distortion.

Read Scripture:

Acts 1:8a

Zechariah 4:6

Key Insight:

Power precedes presence.

Facilitator Tip:

This is a critical corrective moment. Emphasize dependence, not competence.

Discussion Questions

- Why does Jesus command waiting before witness?
 - What happens when we try to act without relying on the Spirit?
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5. MOVEMENT 3 – WITNESS IN THE NOW (Acts 1:8b) (10 minutes)

Teaching Focus:

Witness is not mastery—it is faithful presence where God places us.



Read Scripture:

Acts 1:8b

Key Emphasis

- Witness is embodied, not abstract
- Location matters
- The Kingdom expands outward but begins nearby

Facilitator Insight:

Help participants see “witness” as lived faithfulness, not performance.

Reflection Questions

- What does witness look like in ordinary life?
- Where has God already placed you?

Additional Teaching Focus:

Jesus defines not only the role of witness, but the direction of that witness. The movement from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth shows that the mission expands beyond comfort, familiarity, and preference.

Discussion Question:

- Where do we naturally stay in “Jerusalem” instead of moving outward?
- Who represents “Samaria” in our context?

6. MOVEMENT 4 – PARTICIPATING WITHOUT FINISHING (10 minutes)**Teaching Focus:**

Our role is participation, not completion.

Read Scripture:

Matthew 28:18–20

Philippians 1:6

Key Truth:

Faithfulness is success in the in-between.

Discussion Questions

- How does this free us from pressure?
- What kind of trust does this require?



7. SUMMARY & CORE INSIGHT (5 minutes)

Key Insight:

The Spirit empowers ordinary people to carry forward an extraordinary Kingdom.

Core Takeaway:

We do not bring the Kingdom—but we boldly witness to it through the Spirit's power.

8. FINAL REFLECTION & PRACTICE (5 minutes)

Final Reflection Question

Where might the Spirit be inviting you to participate—without trying to control outcomes?

Practice for the Week

- Pray **Acts 1:8** daily
- Ask: *“Spirit, where are You already at work?”*
- Take one intentional step of witness or service

Closing Prayer

Pray for dependence on the Spirit, courage in participation, and trust in God's purposes.

FACILITATOR REMINDER

The goal is not urgency—but obedience empowered by trust.

