

# STAND-ALONE

## SERMONS

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### ***ACTS 1:1-11***

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#### **GETTING STARTED...**

How would you explain to someone what you do? It is one of the most common questions that you get asked when you meet new people, where do you live? And what do you do? We get used to talking about our jobs, explaining it to people who work within our industry and people who have no idea about our job. You should be able to explain your job to either group, often using different language to get the point across. As disciples of Jesus we are also tasked with sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, and what is even better is that we get help! We are not alone in this as God sends his Holy Spirit to dwell in our hearts, to help us share the gospel, and help us live for Him! Praise God that we are not alone!

#### **READ THE TEXT: ACTS 1:1-11**

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In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup>And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” <sup>9</sup>And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup>and said, “Men of Galilee, why

do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

## **UNDERSTANDING THE WORD**

1. What is the context of our passage? What has just happened? What is about to happen next in the story? It is helpful to remember that no command or promise comes to us in a vacuum.
2. How does the reality of the ascension into heaven give us confidence in the commission Jesus has given us?

## **REFLECTING ON THE SERMON**

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been applying to your heart from the sermon?

## **APPLYING THE POINT**

5. Do you find it hard to share your faith with others and help them enter into a relationship with Jesus? Why? What are some of the hardest things you encounter in doing so?
6. What three things did Jesus give His followers in order to enable them to succeed in this task?
7. Why is the role of the Holy Spirit so important in sharing our faith?
8. What do you see as your purpose in this world in relation to your faith in God?
9. Why does Christ's promised return give us such hope?

## **PRAYING & SHARING**

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



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## How to Use this Guide

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This guide is intended to help facilitate Promontory Small Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Small Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Small Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word, Reflecting on the Sermon, and Applying the Point.* We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*