

Week 1 | LEADER GUIDE

Acts 1 | The Ascension and the Promise of the Holy Spirit

INTRODUCTION TO DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Welcome to this study on the book of Acts. The study will follow the Discovery Bible Study (DBS) method, encouraging people to explore scripture through open-ended questions and discussions. The emphasis is on personal discovery, application, and sharing insights with the group. Typically, there are three types of discussion questions: **observation**, **interpretation**, and **application**: what does it say, what does it mean, and how can I apply this?

As a group leader, your goal is to help each person in the group encounter God in community and discover their next step. As the group discusses scripture, listen for opportunities to ask follow-up questions and take the group deeper. Follow your curiosity. It's ok to go down rabbit trails that you think might lead to someone discovering their next step. It's ok to say "I don't know" if a difficult question is asked. It's ok to check references if someone is using a study Bible or if someone wants to search online. DBS leaders encourage the group to study the scripture together in community.

How does Discovery Bible Study fit into the strategy for small groups? Our small groups have always been designed to help people take next steps with God through living out the Acts 2 church model. Acts 2|42 says: "*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*" During our weekly small group gatherings, we are devoted to practicing these four things in community.

Discovery Bible Studies help keep our discussion focused on the **Apostle's teaching** from scripture. These guides will help make sure your group is also devoted to prayer. As a leader, you'll need to make sure your group doesn't neglect breaking bread together or spending time building relationships with each other through fellowship as well. Over the next few weeks, we'll share a little about each of these four things our small groups are devoted to week in and week out.

GATHER

What is the best restaurant around here?

Discuss how your group plans to share food together throughout the term.

**Leader Note: Share the importance of your small group "breaking bread" together. This was one thing that the Acts 2 church was devoted to. They shared in Communion together and shared meals with each other in their homes. For groups, we recommend you have a meal or at least some snacks every week. Everyone should contribute. Some groups have a potluck every week. Others have people sign up to provide a meal or a snack for the whole group a few times each term.*

DISCUSS

Read Acts 1 aloud

1. *What stood out to you in the passage?*
2. *Was anything confusing?*
3. *What do we learn about Jesus from this chapter?*
4. *What actions does this scripture prompt you to take?*

**Leader Note: Make sure to record the next steps people identify. This will help you follow up, encourage, and hold your group accountable to follow-through with where God is leading them.*

PRACTICE | COMMUNITY

Community takes practice! Especially for adults, and especially for adults who haven't experienced much community before. One way we help people practice community is by helping organize small groups. In Acts 2, the community of believers stayed devoted to: the **Apostle's teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer.**

Discuss:

- What do you hope community will look like for your group?
- How can we practice community to see those dreams become reality?

This week: connect with someone outside of the group time around one of the four things the early church was devoted to.

PRAYER

How can we be praying for one another?

**Leader Note: Invite someone to volunteer (or you can choose them) to record the group prayer requests each week. Have them volunteer to share these with the group each week via text or email.*