

# When God Turns Up



... people are transformed Acts 1:1-11

Birkdale Baptist Church  
Small group studies

*We all want to know when Jesus will return. The apostles were no different. But what was more important for them know was that they would receive power so that, between the Spirit's coming at Pentecost and the Son's coming again, they would be his witnesses in ever-widening circles. In fact, the whole interim period between Pentecost and Jesus' return is to be filled with the worldwide mission of the church in the power of the Spirit. Christ's followers were both to announce what he had achieved at his first coming and to summon people to be his witnesses "to the ends of the earth" (1:8). The themes of Acts 1 will encourage and instruct all who wait for Jesus.*

## OPEN IT

1. What helps you feel equipped to carry out Jesus' ministry on earth?

## DIG INTO IT

*Read Acts 1:1-11*

2. Acts 1:1-3 is a prologue that resumes the narrative begun in Luke. Luke 1:1-4 is the prologue that states the purpose for the combined work Luke-Acts. What was the purpose for both books?

3. After his resurrection, how did Jesus spend His time with the believers? (1:3-5) What did he teach them? Why would Jesus have spent his last conversations on these topics?

4. What tasks did he leave for them? (1:3-8)

What promises did Jesus make to his disciples to help them get their job done? (1:3-8)

5. What did the disciples think would happen when they received the Spirit? (vs 6) What are some of the major ways their idea of the kingdom differed from Jesus'? (1:7-8)

6. Who were the men in white and how did they encourage the apostles? (1:11) How are their words an encouragement to you?

## GET IT

7. How have you seen the operation and power of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of others? How about in your own life?

8. How would you specifically like to experience more of His power?

9. What specific means (opportunities, abilities, relationships) has God given you to carry out the task of being His witness?

10. When you talk to a nonbelieving friend about Christ, what proofs of Jesus' existence & presence can you offer them that would make sense to them?

11. How should the prospect of Christ's return affect the way you live as a Christian?

## APPLY IT

12. How can you invite the Holy Spirit to empower you throughout this week?

13. Where is your "Jerusalem" your "Judea & Samaria" and your "world"? What steps will you take to be actively involved in telling others in each sphere about Christ?

**Bibliography:** 1) Acts—Seeing the Spirit At Work, John Stott 1998 on Lessonworks. 2) Kingdom Power: Receiving the Power of the Promise (A Study in the Book of Acts) Jack W. Hayford 1993 on Lessonworks. 3) NT Lesson Maker, Navpress 1992. 4) NIV Serendipity Bible, Zondervan 1988. 5) Life Lessons from the Inspired Word of God - Book of Acts, Max Lucado, 1997 on Lessonworks.