



Growth Group Questions

June 1, 2025

“Time to Focus”

SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:1-11

¹In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with^[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with^[b] the Holy Spirit.”

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

QUESTIONS

1. In Acts 1:3, we are told that Jesus appeared to His followers over a period of forty days and spoke with them about the Kingdom of God. Pastor Noel said that He likely did this by reminding them of the various parables He had told them over the three years that they were together before His death and resurrection. As you look back over the various parables that Jesus told during that time, which ones stand out to you as good descriptors

of the Kingdom of God? What lessons about the Kingdom of God did you learn from the parables you selected?

2. Why do you think Jesus focused his conversations with His apostles during this forty-day period on the Kingdom of God?
3. How does the question Jesus was asked in Acts 1:6 indicate that His apostles still did not understand Jesus' mission on earth?
4. How would you characterize Jesus' response to their question?
5. What does it mean to be a witness? Have you ever been called upon to be a witness for someone or about something? What did this entail? What did you have to do?
6. What does the Bible tell us about the Holy Spirit?
7. Why do you think Jesus told His apostles to wait for the promised Holy Spirit before launching out on the mission He was giving to them?
8. What does it mean to be a witness for Christ?
9. What can distract us or keep us from being effective witnesses for Christ? How can we guard against these distractions?
10. How does the Holy Spirit empower us to be effective witnesses for Christ?