



the upside down series
week one: Jesus turned the world upside down

1. Because He is Alive the _____ is not _____.
2. Because He is Alive the _____ has a Purpose.
3. Because He is Alive His _____ will Come.
4. Because He is Alive Lives are _____.
5. Because He is Alive Faith is _____.

I am beyond excited to get started with the Upside Down Series! God works in the lives of His followers through the study of His word. I can't wait to see what He's about to do in your life this year!



day one: first things first

You can't understand the Word of God without God's Spirit explaining it to you. Get in the habit of praying as you begin your time with the Lord.

As we begin this journey through the book of Acts, take a moment and page through the entire book of Acts. If your Bible has subtitles or headings, glance at them, and get a feel for what's in the Book. Maybe your Bible has a brief introduction. Read it. It will give you some background for our study of the book.

Today our focus will be Acts 1:1-5.

exploring the text

1. Verse 1 begins with a reference to "the first book" and a man named Theophilus. Which book is the author referring to? Who is Theophilus? (Hint: Luke 1:1-4 is helpful).

2. Can you guess who the author of the book of Acts is? Explain.



3. In Acts 1:1 the author mentions why the “first book” was written. What was the purpose of the first book?

verse

I Corinthians
15:3-8

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

4. Now focus on vs.3. List some of the things we're told about the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

5. What difference did the resurrection of Jesus Christ make on the apostles?

6. In vs.4 Jesus gives the apostles some specific instructions. What are they?



day two: He's coming back!

Don't forget to begin your time with prayer.

Today we will focus on Acts 1:6-11. Read the passage.

exploring the text

1. We see the disciples in verse 6 coming together for a purpose. What is their purpose?

interesting fact

2. What is on the minds of the disciples in vs. 6? Did the disciples have a good understanding of God's kingdom? How can you tell?

Witnesses - the English word "martyr" comes from this Greek word; it designates one who tells the truth about Christ (which often resulted in death).

3. What does Jesus promise to give to the disciples while they waiting for His kingdom?

4. Jesus commands the disciples to be witnesses of him in several places. List them.



day three: completely devoted

How is your week going? What difficult circumstance are you facing? Lay it down in prayer as you begin today's quiet time.

Our focus today is on Acts 1:12-14. It's short and easy. You can thank me later!

exploring the text

1. Why do you think the disciples went back to the upper room?
2. List the disciples who were present? Is anyone missing from the original 12?
3. Who else was in the upper room?
4. Describe the mindset of the disciples in the upper room as given in vs. 14.

interesting fact

Jesus' half brothers are named in Mark 6:3. James, Joses, Judas, and Simon. James was the leader of the Jerusalem church and author of the epistle that bears his name. Judas (Jude) wrote the epistle of Jude. At this time they were new believers in Jesus as God, Savior, and Lord.



day four: fresh start

Acts 1:15-20 is our passage for today. Read it prayerfully.

exploring the text

1. Based on what you already know about Peter, was he a likely candidate to take the lead in preaching? Why or why not? (Hint: read Luke 22:54-62 and Luke 22:31-32).
2. Which Judas is referred to in vs.16?
3. What does Peter remind the listeners about Judas in vs.17?
4. What happened to Judas after Christ's death and resurrection?
5. Which Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled in Judas?

interesting fact

Waiting for God to work does not mean sitting around doing nothing. We must do what we can, while we can, as long as we don't run ahead of God.



day five: heart matters

We get to our final day of homework for this first week of Bible study. Today, read Acts 1:21-26.

exploring the text

1. The disciples are gathered in the upper room and discover a problem to be solved. What is it? (hint: vs.20)
2. What criteria does Peter use to select a replacement for Judas?
3. How is the decision actually made? Describe the process.
4. Focus on vs. 24. As the disciples petitioned the Lord, did they seek out the person's accomplishments or his heart?

interesting fact

Apostle - the greek word means "one who is sent". In the NT, it refers to the 12 men Christ chose to accompany Him (Mark 3:13-19) and Matthaïas, whom the other apostles chose to replace Judas. Later Paul was uniquely set apart as the apostle to the gentiles (Gal 1:15-17) and was numbered with the other apostles.

