

Field Guide and Leader Guide 9.6.26

The Book of Acts

Synopsis

Human beings have always been drawn to stories because they help us make sense of our own lives. We want to know that our lives matter and that all the ordinary things we do are leading somewhere. But it is easy to become so focused on getting through the week, building a career, raising a family, paying the bills, and planning for the future that we never stop to ask what story we are actually living.

The disciples believed the restoration of Israel would be an enormous story, but Jesus showed them that God's plan was much bigger. He was sending them beyond their city, their nation, and the people they understood, all the way to the ends of the earth. That same story has now reached us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ordinary people carried the message of Jesus from one person and one generation to the next. Now God has given us a place in His story and entrusted us with the responsibility of carrying it forward.

Questions

1. What parts of your life are most likely to become the center of your story instead of allowing God's story to shape your priorities?
 - How can good things like family, career, comfort, or future plans become a story that is too small?
 - What might need to change for God's larger story to shape your time, priorities, and decisions?
2. How does knowing that someone carried the story of Jesus to you change the way you view your responsibility to carry it to someone else?
 - Who played an important role in helping the story of Jesus reach you?
 - What keeps us from seeing ourselves as witnesses who have been entrusted with that same story?
3. Who is one person God has already placed in your life who needs to hear or see the hope of Jesus, and what practical step can you take toward them this week?
 - What might it look like to pray intentionally for that person and begin looking for an open door?
 - How can trusting the Holy Spirit give you courage when an opportunity to talk about Jesus comes?

Scripture References: Acts 1:6–11 | Acts 1:8 | Genesis 12:3

Conclusion

The disciples were focused on their country, their problems, and their future. Jesus pulled the camera back and showed them a mission that would cross borders, cultures, languages, and generations. He was inviting them into something much bigger than the story they had imagined. And He did not leave them to accomplish it through their own strength. He promised them the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

The story of Jesus eventually reached us because countless ordinary people were willing to carry it forward. Someone prayed, someone crossed a barrier, someone translated Scripture, and someone spoke about Jesus when God opened the door. The story did not come all this way to stop with us. Think about the people God has already placed in your life. Pray for one person, look for an opportunity, and trust the Holy Spirit to help you share the hope of Jesus. Somebody carried the story to you. Now it is your turn. Don't waste your life on a too-small story.

