



SERMON STUDY

GUIDE

Small Group Guide: Acts 1.3 & Acts 1.1-26

Open with Prayer:

Sermon Summary:

This sermon walked us through what it looks like to trust God during a leadership transition. Using the stories of Moses and Joshua, Saul and David, and the disciples after the resurrection, we saw that God is never caught off guard by change. He is already working underground before anyone can see it. The most convicting moment came from the story of Matthias, where the disciples, ordered by Jesus to wait, got busy instead and filled a vacancy that God had not yet asked them to fill. We closed with a simple but powerful reminder: the most dangerous thing a grieving congregation can do is fill the gap on their own timeline rather than God's.

Discussion Questions:

1. When you heard the story of the disciples being told to wait and then immediately getting busy, what was your honest gut reaction? Did you sympathize with them or were you surprised by their decision?
2. Read Acts 1.4-5. Jesus gave a clear instruction to wait. Why do you think waiting is so difficult, especially in the middle of uncertainty or loss?
3. The disciples did everything right on paper. They prayed, they used Scripture, they vetted their candidates carefully. And yet Jesus never ordered it. What does that tell us about the difference between doing something good and doing something God actually called us to do?
4. Look at Joshua 1.1-9. God did not pause to grieve Moses. He immediately commissioned Joshua with the same promise of presence. The difference here is that a leader was already being trained to take the lead. How do you think a church could do that?
5. The sermon mentioned that Matthias disappears from the narrative entirely after Acts 1, while God's actual plan was already being prepared on the road to Damascus. Have you ever looked back on a season and realized God was already working in a way you could not see at the time? What did that teach you?
6. Where in your own life right now are you tempted to mistake activity for obedience? What would it look like to genuinely stop and wait on God instead?

7. The sermon described the Kingdom of God as the only thing big enough to hold both grief and hope at the same time. How does keeping an eternal perspective, like the one in Revelation 21.1-5, change the way you process hard seasons?

Key Takeaways:

- God does not panic in messy transitions. He is already working before anyone can see it.
- The mission was never about the leader. It has always been about the Lord.
- Activity is not the same as obedience. Busy hands can still be disobedient hearts.
- God's answer to your vacancy may not even be visible yet. Trust his timeline, not yours.

This Week:

- This week, identify one area of your life where you have been filling the gap instead of waiting on God. It might be a relationship, a decision, a role, or a worry you keep trying to solve on your own.
- Write it down. Then spend five minutes each day this week sitting with Psalm 27.14 before you do anything about it.
- "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD."
- At your next group meeting, share what you noticed when you chose to wait instead of act.