**Fellowship CommUnity Group**

 **Discussion Guide for Leaders**

*Witnesses: Study of Acts*

*Sermon: Stay and Wait!*

 *2-2-20*

1. **Getting To Know Each Other** Opening Question: **Share the longest and most frustrating ‘waiting time’ you have ever had to endure**. (Could be anything: store, traffic, appointment, etc.)

*(***Opening Prayer**. (Either leader, host home or someone who is willing to pray out loud)

*(Notes from message for reference only – use only as needed)*

**\*\***Use Sermon notes bulletin insert

**Background and Context of Acts**

Who is Luke? A close companion and friend of the Apostle Paul; He was a physician; He was a Gentile.

When was it written? This book was most likely written between AD 60 and 70.

What about the genre? Biblical narrative.

Who was his audience? This book was written primarily to Christians, it is written as the true story of the church.

**I. An Introduction to Theophilus**

**II. Luke Recaps his First Book**

**III. The Significance of the Risen Christ**

**IV. Jesus Commanded his Apostles to Stay and Wait in Jerusalem**

**Why did they have to wait?**

>They had to wait to receive divine power, to receive divine presence, divine understanding, divine instruction.

**What was required of these disciples even before the Spirit came at Pentecost?**

> They needed to see, believe and trust in the risen Christ.

\*\*True Christianity requires a real historical Jesus that lived, died, and rose again. And…we have exactly that, a Jesus that lived, died and now lives. If Jesus is dead, Christianity is dead.

**Into The Text** (Leaders: This time is not meant to be application yet, this is time in the Word, before we seek to apply truth, we need to understand the truth. The section after this one will focus on application.)

1. *Who wrote the gospel of Luke? Describe together what we know about the author Luke. What time period was Acts written?*
2. Ask someone to read Acts 1:1-3 and someone else to read Luke 1:1-4. *Ask: What similarities do you see in both books? According to what Luke wrote, why did he write Acts? Why did he write Luke?*
3. *Ask: Why did Luke make it a point to speak to Jesus presenting himself alive to the disciples? What did Luke mean by ‘many proofs’ in v3? Describe together how important it was to Luke that the disciples had seen the resurrected Christ? What is the significance of the 40 days?*
4. Ask someone to read Acts 1:4-5.  *Ask: Why did Jesus order the disciples to remain in Jerusalem? Why did Jesus refer to the Holy Spirit as the promise of the Father? What did Luke mean when he said ‘you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit’?*

**Application**

1. Say: **Let’s move to discussion and application**. *How hard is it for you to wait for things? Is there a time to wait on God and other times to move in faith?* *How can you discern the difference? Does waiting on God require faith?*
2. *Ask: How important is the resurrection of Christ to the Christian faith? How important is the historical Jesus to our faith? For Christianity to be true, did people need to see the resurrected Christ alive?*
3. *Ask: How certain are you that the historical Jesus lived, died and rose again? Are you willing to stake your life on what you believe? How does your certainty about Christ impact the strength of your witness?*
4. Ask: *Is it fair to say the disciples witness as gospel bearers was directly sourced by their faith in Christ’s death and resurrection? If someone is uncertain about Christ really being God and rising from the dead – can they really be a gospel witness?*
5. Ask: *If someone asked you to give a specific reason for why you are a Christian, what would you say?*

**Closing Prayer Time**: **(Leader Say:**) Let’s close with a time of prayer. Let’s declare the truth of Christ in our prayers, who he is and what he has done, he is alive! Ask the Lord to strengthen your faith in him and to empower your witness. *(Ask someone to open, let people pray as they feel led, and then leader closes.)*