

ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 1: Christ: Humanity's Only Hope

READ Acts 1:1-3 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

In this new series we will explore together the continuing story of God's expanding kingdom under the saving rule of Jesus Christ. Luke's book of Acts picks up where his gospel left off. It provides details of how the church of Christ was born, how it grew, and how it overcame fierce opposition. It is the account of how the followers of Jesus "turned the world upside down" (17:6) by taking the good news of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ to "the end of the earth" (1:8).

Big idea: Our study introduces the continuing word and works of the risen Lord, through His church, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Questions:

1. What is the link between Luke's gospel and Acts? See Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-2a. What was the purpose Luke had in writing this two-volume account?
2. Based on Luke's purpose for writing, how do you think his letters helped to strengthen Theophilus' faith?
3. What were some of the things Jesus "began to do and teach" (v. 1)?
4. In what way did Jesus continue His doing and teaching ministry through the book of Acts (see Matt 16:18)? Look at the account of Peter's healing of the lame man in Acts 3 for help.

How does knowing this change your perspective on your service for Christ?

5. Why do you think it was important for Jesus to "present himself alive" to the apostles for 40 days (v. 3)?
6. Why do you think Jesus, after his resurrection, also spent 40 days "speaking about the Kingdom of God" (v. 3)?
7. In his message Craig stated, "Fluffy, subjective feelings [about Jesus] will not help me during my darkest days. Only a living Christ will". How does an objective knowledge that Christ lives change the way you look at life and deal with discouragements and challenges in life?
8. How did this knowledge of the Kingdom of God change the believers' perspective on living in this life (see 2:44-47; 4:32-37)?

What difference does the resurrection of Jesus and His kingdom have on your perspective in every area of your life? What changes do you need to make?

STOP AND PRAY:

Confess: your sins to God and joyfully acknowledge His mercy to forgive them

Praise: Jesus for His direct involvement in your life and ministry

Pray: that you may be a powerful instrument to do Christ's work to seek and save