



Acts: Kingdom Community

Date: Sunday 18th October

Speaker: Becky Stamps

Key Verses: Acts 2:42-47; also Acts 4:3-34

Talk Summary:

Acts begins with the commission of Jesus to go and be his witnesses, in Judea, Samaria and all the world – the Kingdom of God going always forwards, and us following Jesus and going with it, as Andrew talked about two weeks ago. Jesus tells his followers to wait for ‘power from on high’ when the Holy Spirit comes to help them, which Jon taught us about last week.

The rest of the book of Acts is about the Kingdom Community that is formed and empowered by this commission and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. We spoke about several things that mark this community in these passages and throughout Acts – keeping Jesus at the centre, listening to and following Bible teaching, fellowship as generosity and as meeting/connecting/worshipping/praying together. This type of ‘discipleship’ is what our core Birmingham Vineyard vision is built around, ‘Following Jesus, Living Life to the Full and Making a Difference’.

We also talked about how this is a whole-of-life exercise, how this means that ‘we hold nothing as our own’ (Acts 4:32) but instead are willing to give our whole lives, all we have and are, to God for His Kingdom. While this seems like a mammoth invitation, it’s also an invitation to a life of joy, grace and freedom. Importantly, it’s made clear in these passages that this Christian discipleship is done with the help of three things: the power of the Holy Spirit, the grace of God making us right with him and overflowing into the world, and each other. We are to be a Spirit-filled people of grace who together, lead our city into what God has for it (which we trust is an expansion of His Kingdom and the saving of many people).

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- What from this week's talk/Bible passage stood out to you, and/or you found challenging? Why?
- Follow Jesus: What does this passage teach me about God?
- Live life to the full: What does this passage teach me about myself?
- Make a difference: What is God inviting you to do or change as a result of what we have discussed?

(You can give everyone a minute or so in silence to write it down)

Spend some time praying for one another.

Witness

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus.

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?

Note to Small Group Leaders: Please note that if you'd like to review the sermon, or have a hard time following the video, you can use subtitles on YouTube. On the YouTube video, click the "closed captioning" button (bottom left of YouTube video screen, first button). Google "how to show subtitles on YouTube videos" if you need help with this.