

MANIFESTO FOR THE CHURCH



Sunday 21 January 2018
Acts 1:1–8

Only the beginning (v.1, 2a)

Inspired instructions (v.2b)

*“Then **he opened their minds** so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.” Luke 24:45*

The need to wait (v.4, 5)

Whose kingdom? (v.6)

'...to the ends of the earth.' (v.7-8)

Partnering with God

See Philippians 2:12-13

Whose power?

The role of a witness

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A part to play

Continuing the work of Jesus

*“God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,
the Spirit who calls out “Abba Father”. Galatians 4:6*

*What stories of God working in your life
could you share with someone this week?*



Growth group questions

You will find it helpful to have heard the talk so why not listen at:
<http://leightonbaptists.org.uk/media-links/current-teaching/>

Some of these questions are personal and others are more general. Feel free to pick and choose which questions your group will find most helpful.

1. Read Acts 1:1-3. Why do you think the resurrection appearances of Jesus to his disciples were so important?
2. How important do you consider the role of the Holy Spirit when you are reading the Bible?
3. Read verses 4 & 5. Why does Jesus tell the disciples to wait? Are there limitations to baptism in water alone?
4. What previous teaching had Jesus given about the Holy Spirit? See Luke 24:45-49 and John chapters 14-16.
5. Even though John 15:5 doesn't refer to the Holy Spirit directly, how might it help our understanding?
6. Read Acts 1:6-8. How is this kingdom different from the kingdom mentioned in v.3?
7. What are the disciples be hoping for?
8. How does Jesus shift the disciples' focus in his answer to their question?
9. How difficult do you find it to be a witness at home, work or even in church?
10. What do you tend to do more – rely on your own strength or on God to empower you?

Pray that God might give you the strength needed for this next week.