

INTRO // WELCOME TO THE BEST NIGHT OF THE WEEK!

We are kicking off the school year with a brand new series called “Beyond These Walls”. In this series we will be focusing in on a book of the Bible called Acts. Acts is all about how the Christian church started and what God’s mission and plan for us NOW is.

So before we get started... grab your Streetlights bible and turn to page 162, and hold it.

REVIEW BOOK OF JOHN //

- Last year we spent the whole year in 1 book... the Book of John.
- The main point in the entire Book of John was... “JESUS IS GOD.” In John we saw that Jesus came. Lived a sinless life. Experienced everything we go through. Performed miracles. Taught sermons. Declared Himself to be the Son of God. Called 12 men to be His disciples, learning from Him for 3 1/2 years. Made many enemies. Was arrested. Put on trial. Tortured. Crucified on a cross where He payed the penalty for the sin of the world. He was buried in a borrowed tomb. 3 days later He rose from the dead! Revealed Himself to the disciples and hundreds of others!
- It was the story of Jesus and what He did to change the world!

Basic Background of ACTS

- Written by Luke. Who wrote the book of Luke.
- Was written while Paul was under house arrest in Rome
- Luke’s overall message in Acts is that God blesses those who shared His Gospel and will continue to do so... not matter who tries to stop them.
- This is the story of how God used the disciples and uses us to change the world!

MAIN SCRIPTURE // ACTS 1:4-8 NLT

“Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the **gift he promised**, as I told you before. 5 John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

6 So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”

7 He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know.

HERE IS THE BIG PART... THIS IS EXCITING...

8 But you will **receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be **my witnesses**, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Jesus paraphrased: “YOU ARE GOING TO LITERALLY CHANGE THE WORLD!”

TENSION // Have you ever been given an assignment that seemed to big for you to accomplished? Have you ever been crippled by a task you felt ill equipped for? The disciples felt that way for sure!

Tonight we are going to look at Gods plan and purpose for our lives and what we need to get it done!

PRAY

MAIN POINT //
GOD HAS A PLAN. YOU HAVE A PURPOSE.
WE NEED HIS POWER.

TELL THE STORY //

- The resurrected Jesus is hanging with the disciples and gives them instructions to go back to Jerusalem and wait for the gift God promised... the Holy Spirit.
- Then Jesus gives them their job description. The Vision. The Mission. Their Purpose... vs.8. To go into all the world and preach the Good News.
- Then Jesus literally ascends into heaven... leaving the disciples behind wondering... what is next?
- Angels show up and remind them of the directions Jesus gave them, and they get moving back to Jerusalem and waited together 10 days for this gift to arrive.
- While they waited they prayed and pursued the Lord together.

A. GODS PLAN

John 3:16-17

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 **God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.**

APPLICATION //

God’s plan has always been to have a relationship with you. Since the beginning of time, He created us for relationship. But because of our sin there was a massive canyon between us and God, and nothing we could ever do could build a bridge from one side of that canyon to the other. His plan was never for us to save the world. It was never for us to pick ourselves up and dust ourselves off. He knew that weight what to heavy for us. The price that had to be paid was too much for us. So Jesus came to fulfill the original plan of perfect communion/relationship between God and man.

God’s plan was to have a relationship with you, and Jesus made it possible!

CHALLENGE // TAKE OFF THE CAPE. YOU AREN'T SUPERMAN.

- God's plan is not for you to be the answer to every problem.
- God wants you to know that He is the answer for every problem.
- God's plan is not to just sit on a throne in heaven with His arms crossed waiting for you to work hard and build that bridge over the canyon so you can reach Him.
- God want you to know that He has bridged that canyon with the cross of Jesus, and you have access to Him at all times!

So you may be asking yourself...

"So if God's plan is to have a restored relationship with me, and Jesus has already made that possible... what does He want with me?"

B. YOUR PURPOSE

8*"And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere..."*

APPLICATION //

- We were not created to save the world, but we were created to share about the one who has saved the world.

WHAT IS A WITNESS?

- Someone who **tells** about what they have **seen, heard and what they know**.
- To be a good witness for Jesus, we need to

ILLUSTRATION // A RELIABLE WITNESS

- In the court of law, they will only allow the testimony of a witness who saw something, heard something and knows something to speak.
- They would throw out the testimony of somebody who was just sharing 2nd or 3rd hand information they heard from someone else, but had no first hand knowledge.
- To be a good witness for Jesus with a credible testimony we need to listen to His voice, know what He has said, and see His power displayed.

QUESTIONS //

- Are you a reliable witness? Have you seen Him move, heard His voice, and know His Word?
- Is your testimony credible? Do you look like Him? Do you act like Him? Have you been with Him?
- Or is what you have to say 2nd hand information, because you have yet to truly come to know Him?

GOOD NEWS!

Your purpose is to experience the life changing love of God. To be filled with His joy, grace, mercy and favor. Your purpose is to live a life YOUR PURPOSE IS TO SHARE ALL THE AMAZING THINGS THAT JESUS HAS DONE IN YOUR LIFE TO HURTING AND LOST PEOPLE!

YOU DON'T NEED TO SAVE ANYONE. YOU DON'T NEED TO FIND THE ANSWERS. THE ANSWER ALREADY FOUND YOU, AND NOW YOU GET TO HELP OTHERS EXPERIENCE THE SAME THING!

C. HIS POWER

4“Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the **gift** he **promised**, as I told you before. 5 John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

8 “But you will **receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.”

TELL THE STORY //

- The disciples and others go back to Jerusalem and spend the next 10 days praying and pursuing the Jesus together as they waited on this promised gift.
- On the 10th days the Holy Spirit showed up and everyone was baptized in the Holy Spirit and fire.
- They began speaking in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability.
- People could hear them all praying in different languages and wanted to know what was going on.
- Peter stands up, explains what happened and preaches the gospel and 3,000 people became Christians that day!
- The Holy Spirit came. Baptized and filled each believer. They spoke in tongues. Preached the gospel. Thousands saved. That is when the Christian church started... the moment God's plan, our purpose and His power all showed up at the same time in the same place!

ILLUSTRATION // Power changes everything

- Play electronic instruments on stage with no power... silent. Plug the power in and it sounds beautiful.
- Turn power off from the mic and try to talk... quiet. Plug the mic in... powerful.
- Have a flashlight with no batteries... dark. Put batteries in.... Bright.
- ***His Power is what allows us to become all we were created to be!***

APPLICATION //

To do what you were meant to do... you need His power.

To be who you were meant to be... you need His power.

ALTARS //

GODS PLAN

- Make space for prayer and response for students who have been questioning God's plan for their lives.

YOUR PURPOSE

- Create a moment for students to process their purpose with the Holy Spirit.

HIS POWER

- Make space for students to pursue the infilling of the Spirit.
- Have students who have their heavenly language to practice in prayer.