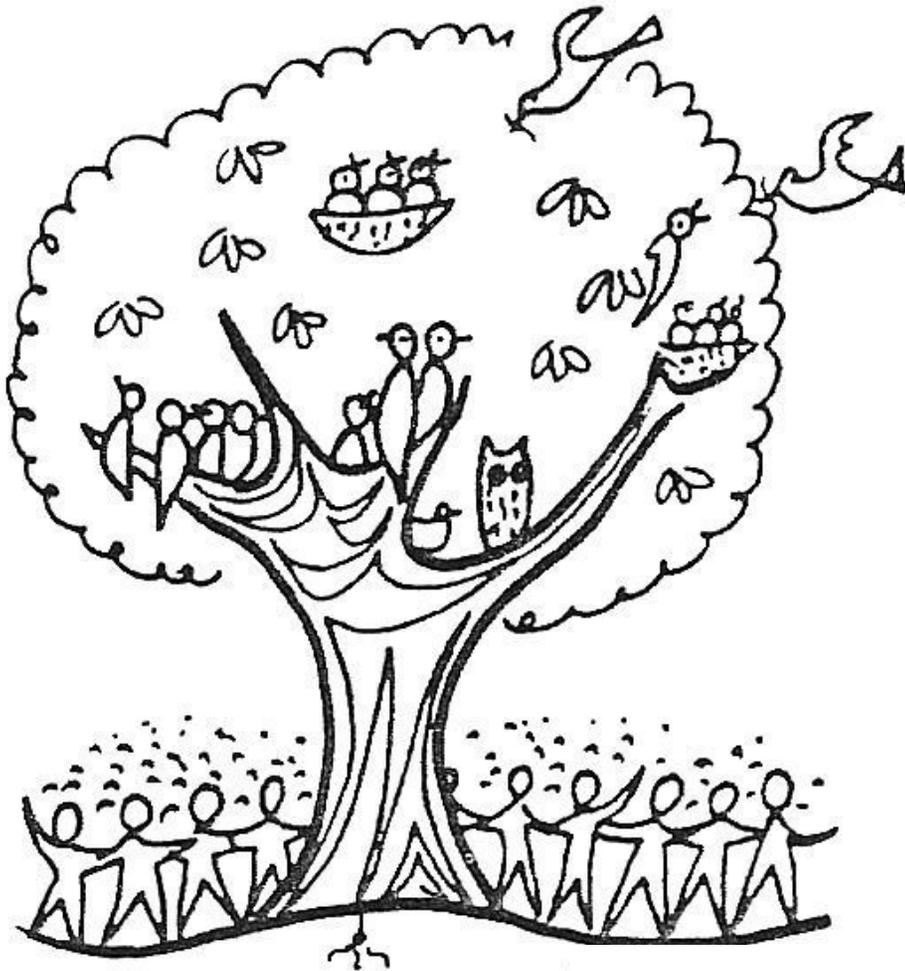


6. READ Mark 4:30-32. What does Jesus' parable about the tiny start of the kingdom of heaven (and growing and growing and growing and growing) have to do with the book of Acts?



(Coloring page for the young at heart)

The Sequel Begins (and continues!)

Acts 1:1-11

January 20, 2019

The prequel (Acts 1:1-5)

"The first book" (see Luke 1:1-4)

*"all that Jesus **began** to do and teach"*
(John 20:30; 21:25)

*"after He had given **commands** through the Holy Spirit"*
(Matthew 28:19-20; John 20:21; Luke 24:46-47)

Our faith is **evidence** based

Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservation.

*"presented himself alive to them . . . by many **proofs**"*

The women at the tomb (Luke 24:1-10; Matthew 28:8-10)

Mary Magdalene (John 20:10-18)

On the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-32)

Simon Peter (Luke 24:34 and 1 Corinthians 15:5)

Ten disciples, without Thomas (John 20:19-20)

Eleven disciples, including Thomas (John 20:26-29)

Seven in Galilee (John 21:1-2)

Eleven in Galilee (Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-51)

500 at one time (1 Corinthians 15:6)

James, the brother of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:7)

"appearing . . . and speaking about the kingdom of God"

Acts begins and ends (28:31) with the kingdom of God

Wait for the Father's gift, the **promised** Holy Spirit
(Luke 24:49; John 14:15-16 and 16:7; 13-14)

The sequel (Acts 1:6-11)

“Lord, will you at this time **restore** the kingdom to Israel?”

- They equated the Spirit’s coming with Israel’s restoration (Ezek. 36:27; Joel 2:28)
- Don’t worry, the kingdom will come when the Father says so

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come . . .”

God’s empowering presence; **divine** enablement

“and you will be my witnesses”

first-hand knowledge of Jesus made **bold** by the Spirit

An outline of the book of Acts (continuing in Acts 29!!!!!!!)

- In Jerusalem (Acts 2:5 to 8:3) **and** ,
- In all Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:4 to 12:25) **and** ,
- To the end of the earth (Acts 13:1 to 28:31)

global and **local** = glocal (neighborhood and **nations**)

“as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him”

Jesus’ ascension happened while they **watched**

“This Jesus . . . will come in the same way as you saw him go”

Christ has died (sin does not have the last word)

Christ has risen (death does not have the last word)

Christ will come again (evil will not have the last word)

Life Group Homework

What insight, observation, or principle did you find eye-opening, troubling or helpful from today’s sermon?

1. READ Luke 1:1-4. What words or phrases does Luke use to indicate his “evidence based” approach to writing his gospel?
2. READ Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24
From these passages, what can we learn about Luke?
3. READ John 16:13-14. How did Jesus promise the Holy Spirit would minister to the disciples after Jesus was gone?
4. The Ascension of Jesus is His transition from humble earthly ministry to exalted heavenly glory. What impact did watching Jesus ascend have on His disciples? What did they still lack?
5. SUMMARIZE Hebrews 1:3; 2:9; 7:25; 8:1; 12:2 Where Jesus is now and what is He doing? When is He returning?