

All Christians' Fellowship International

INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: Concentric-Circle Outreach

TEXT: Acts 1:1-11

Instructions - Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.

Introduction: We're all instinctively ethnocentric. We tend to think of our own "people"—culture, language, country, and socioeconomic group. But the mission heart of God calls us to rise above ethnocentricity. He empowers us to overcome our pride and fears, and he sends us out as his witnesses locally and cross culturally, even to the "ends of the earth." In the book of Acts, Luke (also the author of the Gospel of Luke) continues his explanation of the work of God through the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. In Acts we find Jesus—after his crucifixion, burial, and resurrection—convincing his followers of his power over death and preparing them for his departure so that the Holy Spirit can come.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Some people confess that when they think of trying to build relationships and sharing the love of Christ across cultures, fears come to their mind. In what ways do you sense God's power in your witness for him?
- 2. Read Acts 1:1-11- How do you think the disciples were feeling at this time? Why did Jesus tell them to wait in verse 4? Discuss.
- 3. What do these verses tell us about Luke's intent in writing Acts?
- 4. Verse 3 tells us that Jesus spoke about the kingdom of God. What does the disciples' question in verse 6 tell us about what they were thinking when Jesus referred to the kingdom?
- 5. Why do you think we are not allowed to know the specifics about the "end times" (v. 7)?
- 6. What connection (if any) is there between Jesus' post-resurrection demonstrations cited in verse 3 and his promise of "power" in verse 8?
- 7. Paraphrase Acts 1:8 in a way that reflects how those disciples might have heard this command. Now paraphrase it in the way you understand it.
- 9. What do vs 9-11 tell us about the way in which Jesus will come to earth a second time?
- 10. What is the connection between the Holy Spirit's power and our witness in the world?