

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

*“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .*

*And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”*

# Let’s Worship God

29th Dec. - 3rd Jan. 2014  
Acts



Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

[airdrierpcs.org](http://airdrierpcs.org), 01236 620107  
Part of the RFCS - [rpcscotland.org](http://rpcscotland.org)

**Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!**



Mon.  
29th Dec.

# Let's Worship God

## Verse To Learn

You will be my witnesses  
in Jerusalem and in all Judea  
and Samaria,  
and to the end of the earth.  
Acts 1:8b

### reading notes

Acts 1:1-3 - The Sequel to the Gospel

The first words of Acts tell us two important things: first, that Luke, the man who wrote the Gospel of Luke, also wrote Acts, and second, that Acts is the record of how Jesus fulfilled His promise to build His church through His apostles and disciples. It is the story of the church's growth from its base in Jerusalem to Rome, the capital of the Roman Empire

After Jesus rose from the dead, there was a 40 day period before His Ascension (going back to Heaven). Luke tells us that during these 40 days:

- Jesus appeared to the apostles (another name for the 11 disciples) on many occasions during those 40 days.
- Jesus told the apostles to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus told the apostles about God's kingdom.

The reason why Jesus gave the apostles these lessons and commands was because He was preparing them for the next stage in their lives when they would go out without Him and preach and teach the good news of the Gospel. They were to become the foundation stones in Christ's Church.

### questions

1. Who wrote Acts?
2. What was the other book he wrote?
3. How many days were between the Resurrection and the Ascension?

### praise pray

Ps. 91A:7-12

1. Give thanks for the gift of God's Word.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Sat.  
3rd Jan.

# Let's Worship God

## Verse To Learn

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Acts 1:8b

### reading

Acts 1:21-22 - What are Apostolic Qualifications?

### notes

The man who is going to replace Judas must be someone who:

- is a disciple of Jesus from the time of Jesus baptism to His Ascension (the return to Heaven)
- sees Jesus after He has risen from the dead.

Why does Peter insist that the man who is going to replace Judas have these two things?

First, because Judas' successor has to be a man who has been under Jesus teaching and example from the very beginning right to the end of His time on earth.

Second, because the Resurrection is the main event in the earthly ministry of Jesus. It is crucial that Judas' replacement be someone who has seen - and, of course, accepted - the evidence that Christ has risen from the grave.

Every apostle can say that he has done both these things, except one - Paul. Although he does not sit under Jesus' training, he does see the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus and is appointed personally by Jesus to be the apostle to the Gentiles. God then shows that Paul is a true apostle by giving him the ability to do miracles and preach with great power, hence the reason why the other apostles accepted him as an apostle.

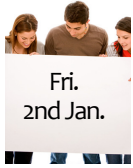
### questions

1. What were the two qualifications for being an apostle?
2. What was the main event of Jesus' earthly ministry?
3. Who was the one apostle different from the others?

### praise pray

Ps. 92B:1-6

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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**reading notes** Acts 1:15-20 - God Works Even in Evil

Peter tells the disciples that Judas betrayal is the fulfilment of psalms written by David centuries before. (See Psalm 69:25 and Psalm 109:8)

Peter has understood a great truth - Judas betrayal of Christ has been ordained by God. Amazing as it seems, God uses even the sinful actions of men to bring about what He wants done - His righteous purposes. God uses Judas evil betrayal of Jesus as part of His overall plan for our salvation.

We must be careful though - just because God uses Judas actions for His purposes, doesn't mean that Judas is not guilty. Judas does what he does and will pay the price for it for all eternity.

Luke gives us some details of Judas death. Judas probably ties a noose, puts his head into it, attaches the other end of the rope to some object, and jumps off a height. The field where he dies comes to be called the Field of Blood.

- questions**
1. What was Peter's idea?
  2. How many apostles were there originally?
  3. How did Judas die?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 92A:all
1. Give thanks that God can use evil for good.
  2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
  3. Pray for family matters.



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**reading** Acts 1:4-8 - An Outline of Acts

**notes** On at least one occasion during the 40 day period between His Resurrection (being raised from the dead) and Ascension (going back to Heaven), Jesus ate with the apostles. The reason He did this was to show that He was a real, risen human being and not a ghost. At this particular meal, Jesus gave a very important command to the apostles: they are to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit comes and baptises them. He also reminds them that He has told them about this before as had John the Baptist.

It was at this point that the apostles asked Jesus if He was now going to make Israel into a great nation. Jesus answer was simple - He had not come to build an earthly nation (with a flag, a capital city, an anthem, etc.) but a spiritual kingdom. In this spiritual kingdom, people all over the world would come to believe in Him, read their Bible, pray, and learn how to live the way God wants them to. Central to this happening would be the work of the apostles, who would go out and tell people about Jesus. Acts tells us how the apostles did just that.

- questions**
1. Why did Jesus eat in front of the disciples?
  2. Who were the apostles to wait in Jerusalem for?
  3. What was going to be the disciples' job?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 91B:1-6
1. Pray for your minister and elders.
  2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
  3. Pray for family matters.



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**reading** Acts 1:9-11 - Jesus Goes to His Coronation

**notes** The day has come for Jesus to return to His Father in Heaven. The apostles have known this is coming, for Jesus has told them it will happen, but now the time of parting is at hand. Imagine how they feel - the Man who has called them to leave their everyday work and follow Him, the man they have eaten, laughed, cried, and worked with everyday for three years, is now leaving them. Yet, there is no sadness here. Luke tells us in his Gospel (Luke 24:52) that they return to Jerusalem with great joy. Why are they so happy?

- First, because Jesus has stressed to them that His departure will bring good things. He is going to Heaven to prepare a place for them, and He will send the Holy Spirit to help them.

- Second, because the disciples know that they are returning to Jerusalem not as the servants of Jesus the man, but of Jesus the king - the King of kings. Reading what they write later in their letters, it is clear that they know that when Jesus goes to Heaven, God makes Him king over everything (Ephesians 1:22; Philippians 2:8-10).

- Finally, God sends two angels to tell them that Jesus has gone into Heaven and to remind them that He will come again.

- questions**
1. Where was Jesus going?
  2. What were the disciples to wait for?
  3. Who did God send to the disciples as they looked up?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 91B:7-12
1. Give thanks that Jesus is our king.
  2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
  3. Pray for family matters.



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**reading** Acts 1:12-14 - The Disciples Are Transformed

**notes** Following the Ascension (the return of Jesus to Heaven), the apostles go back to Jerusalem and meet regularly with other followers of Jesus. Acts 1:15 tells us that there are about 120 people who meet regularly like this.

Their whole world has changed. No longer are they a group of frightened people who meet behind closed doors afraid of what might happen to them if caught by the Jews (John 20:19); now, they are bold enough to be continually at the temple where they pray and praise God (Luke 24:53). No longer a scattered flock (John 16:32), each looking out for just themselves; now they are all joined together praying and doing exactly what Jesus has commanded them to do - waiting in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

As they wait, they pray. Jesus has taught them, both by what He says and does, to pray regularly to God Himself - that prayer, talking to God, is essential for the Christian. Prayer, therefore, becomes a fundamental characteristic of the early church.

- questions**
1. How many people gathered together?
  2. What were they waiting for?
  3. What did they do while they were waiting?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 91B:13-15
1. Give thanks that God hears and answers prayer.
  2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
  3. Pray for family matters.