

“In Over Our Heads”

Scripture: Acts 1:1-14

1. **In his last 40 days on earth, Jesus spoke about the Kingdom of God. (v. 3)**

2. **Like the 12, we may be stuck in a political concept of the Kingdom. (v. 6)**

The Roman empire has occupied Israel for 100 years and counting

Q. Will you restore the kingdom to Israel?

3. **Jesus’ Kingdom promises us spiritual power - not political power. (vv. 5,8)**

“You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (5)

4. **Jesus commands us to wait for and depend on his Spirit: (v. 4)**

7 days of prayer and waiting follow. (vv. 12-14)

5. **Jesus triumphantly ascends to heaven. (v. 9)**

“He was taken up before their very eyes.”

6. **Our shared mission: take the gospel to the ends of the earth. (v. 8)**

“You will be my witnesses.”

7. **Jesus will triumphantly return and fully establish his kingdom. (vv. 9-11)**

“This same Jesus, will come back in the same way...”

Zechariah 14:4 “The Lord will be king over the whole earth...”

For reflection... “What is my purpose in life?”

- Level 1 purpose – serve God and his mission
- Level 2 purpose – mature in Christ-like character
- Level 3 purpose – godly wisdom for practical decisions

Questions for individual or small group study

OBSERVATION (TEXT):

- How many days did Jesus spend with his disciples after his resurrection?
- What was his teaching focus during this time?
- What gift does Jesus promise?
- What mandate does Jesus give his disciples and us today?
- What question is top of mind for the disciples?

INTERPRETATION (THEOLOGY):

- How might the disciples feel after Jesus’ ascension?
- Why does Jesus ascend into heaven instead of sticking around?
- What does Jesus mean by the “Kingdom of God?”
- What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the expansion of the Kingdom?
- How does the Kingdom differ from the church?

APPLICATION (TODAY):

- How do you respond to the mission of taking the gospel to the ends of the earth? Does it feel overwhelming?
- What can we learn from church history about taking the gospel to the ends of the earth?
- How does the promise of Jesus return influence our approach to his mission?
- What challenges do you see in fulfilling this mission?
- How much work is left to complete the mission?