

**Note: Both the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles are addressed to Theophilus, a name meaning “friend of God” or “beloved of God.” Together, these two books form one continuous story: the Gospel reveals the mission of Christ, and Acts reveals that same mission continuing through the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit. We also are called to be a friend of God — a Theophilus or Theophila, so that we may know Christ more deeply and recognize our place in the Church’s mission. Just as Jesus commissioned his apostles, we continue to be commissioned today to spread the “good news.”**

1. At the beginning of Acts, Luke recounts events and teachings that happened between the Resurrection and Ascension.
  - a. How long did Jesus appear to His disciples after his resurrection? (Acts 1:3)
  - b. What subject did Jesus speak about to his disciples during this period? (Acts 1:3)
  - c. How do we know that the apostles received their commissioning orders just before the Ascension? (Acts 1:2 and 8)
2. What is “the promise of the Father” that the disciples are to wait for in Jerusalem, and when did the Father make this promise? (Acts 1:4-5)
3. Jesus spoke to the apostles about the kingdom of God.
  - a. What question did the apostles ask Jesus about restoring the kingdom to Israel, and how did Jesus respond to their question? (Acts 1:6-7)
  - b. What did Jesus say was more important than knowing this date? (Acts 1:8)
4. Jesus’ commissioning of the apostles is included in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, and Luke’s Book of Acts. (See Commissioning Handout for comparisons.)
  - a. According to Luke, what mission did Jesus give the apostles to carry out after receiving power from the Holy Spirit? (Acts 1:8)
  - b. What three geographic areas does this mission cover? (Acts 1:8)
  - c. How did the apostles’ area of mission differ from that of Jesus himself? (Matt 10:24)
5. *Challenge:* The introductory verses connect Acts with the Gospel of Luke, in which Luke revealed much of what Jesus taught during his life on earth. Why do you think Luke wrote the Book of Acts?
6. In Acts 1:3, Luke tells us that Jesus often appeared to his apostles during the forty days after His resurrection. The apostles’ final encounter with Jesus was on Mount Olivet, where Jesus often went to pray, and from where He ascended into heaven. (Luke 21:37; 22:39)
  - a. Describe the Ascension of Jesus. (Acts 1:9-12)
  - b. What did the apostles do after the Ascension? (Acts 1:12; Luke 24:50-53)
7. How would you describe the apostles’ activities in Jerusalem after the Ascension? (Acts 1:13)
8. Who else was with the apostles while they were in Jerusalem? (Acts 1:14-15)
9. *Reflection:* How can we relate to challenges in Acts 1 about waiting, mission, and dependence on the Spirit?
10. What process was used to choose another apostle, and why is this important for the Church today? (Acts 1:24-26; CCC 77, 860)