

BYF—May 31, 2026
Resurrection Appearance #8: Acts 1:1-11
Dr. Clay Brown, MDPC Adult Discipleship Pastor

- 1. Greet one another, begin with prayer, and read Acts 1:1-11.**

- 2. Remind the class about the connection between Luke and Acts and the relationship between Luke and Theophilus.**

- 3. Discuss Acts 1:2-3 as Jesus prepares and instructs His followers for service.**
 - Jesus has been with His followers for 3 years, yet more instruction needed.
 - The Resurrection is essential for Christianity; see 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 for an explanation by the Apostle Paul
 - In Luke, the reality of the Kingdom of God is a primary message of Jesus
 - Examples in Luke: 4:43; 7:28; 9:60; 10:11; 11:20; 12:31; 13:18; 17:21; 22:16
 - ***What is the role of ongoing instruction in our Christian growth? Do we ever learn enough? What happens if we stop?***
 - ***How has the Kingdom already come? How has it not yet come? Give examples.***

- 4. Discuss the promise of the Holy Spirit and the promise's implications in Acts 1:4-8.**
 - Notice Jesus eats with His followers as He teaches, reinforcing His resurrected presence, and instructs them to remain in Jerusalem until the Spirit comes
 - Jesus connects His command with John's prophecy in Luke 3:16
 - Even with more teaching they continue to think of an earthly rule and reign
 - Jesus quickly cuts off this line of inquiry (as He does in the Gospel accounts)
 - Why do you think the disciples are still so clueless? How have we been similarly clueless about Christian faith and practice?
 - Power is promised with a focused aim: to be witnesses
 - The witness will start locally, then move regionally, nationally, and globally
 - ***Why do we need power specifically for being witnesses of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ? Can't we do it ourselves? What about witness makes it completely dependent upon the Holy Spirit?***
 - ***Why is the four-tiered structure of local, regional, national, and global witness important? How do we see this witness being made known today?***

- 5. Discuss the Ascension of Jesus in Acts 1:9-11.**
 - Jesus ascends to the right hand of the Father
 - Angels promise Jesus will return in like manner

- The Ascension reveals four crucial emphases:
 - 1) the coming of the Holy Spirit (Jesus said the Spirit would come when He left—John 16:5-11)
 - 2) the divinity of Christ (at the Father’s right hand)
 - 3) the humanity of Christ (His resurrected, changed body)
 - 4) the reign and rule of Christ (the new heaven and earth)
- **Why does the Ascension receive little emphasis within most of American Christianity? What makes it off-putting to us?**
- **In today’s climate, how are 1) Jesus’ divinity, 2) Jesus’ humanity, and 3) Jesus’ reign and rule often deemphasized at best and rejected/denied at worst? Both outside Christianity and inside the church? How are all three items absolutely necessary for living the Christian life? How do we experience them?**

6. Close in prayer.

Next week: Acts 9:1-20, “The Conversion of Saul”

BYF Summer Study: The Essential Tenets of ECO

June 14	“Our DNA”	<i>ECO: Reformed, Evangelical, Egalitarian</i>
June 21	“God Speaks”	<i>God’s Word: The Authority for Our Confession</i>
June 28	“God Is”	<i>Trinity: One of Two Central Christian Mysteries Part 1</i>
July 5	Stand-Alone Study	(4th of July weekend) TBD
July 12	“God Is”	<i>Trinity: One of Two Central Christian Mysteries Part 2</i>
July 19	“God Comes Near“	<i>Incarnation: One of Two Central Christian Mysteries Part 1</i>
July 26	“God Comes Near”	<i>Incarnation: One of Two Central Christian Mysteries Part 2</i>
August 2	“God Saves”	<i>God’s Grace in Christ</i>
August 9	“God Chooses/Sends	<i>Election for Salvation and Service</i>
August 16	“God Gathers”	<i>Covenant Life in the Church</i>
August 23	“God Entrusts”	<i>Faithful Stewardship of All of Life</i>
August 30	“God Forms”	<i>Living in Obedience to the Word of God</i>
September 6	Stand-Alone Study	(Labor Day weekend) TBD