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Session 1: Purpose & Power	
SESSION GOALS	
Every session has specific goals, things you want your	
Every session has specific goals—things you want your group to walk away knowing, feeling, and committing to do.	
Main Idea	
Jesus calls us to build his church to the ends of the earth through bold evangelism and by making disciples	
of all people.	
Head Change To know that we have a mission to make disciples until Jesus returns.	
Jesus returns.	
Heart Change To feel excited about God's mission to be unfolded in our lives.	
our lives.	
Life Change To look for God's purpose in every circumstance, even when God calls us to patiently wait where we are.	
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OPEN	
Do you believe that you have a purpose? If so, what is your purpose?	
It can be easy to go through the motions—to get so caught up in the demands of our lives that we don't	
even think about what the purpose of those days might be. In the book of Acts, God shows us that he has a	
purpose for us in every moment, even when it seems	
like nothing much is going on.	
In this series, pastor and founder of the Passion Movement Louie Giglio will take us through the book of Acts. This book tells the story of the early church and	
holds deep promises for our lives. But chapter 1 of Acts does not begin with a bang, but with a command to	
wait.	
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READ	
Acts 1 (If you are pressed for time, you can shorten your reading to Acts 1:1–11.)	
Note: We have made a daily reading guide for the book of Acts so that you can read this whole chapter and understand the context of this letter from Luke. You can find the reading plan at the end of this study in Go Deeper Section 3.	
WATCH	
Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Louie Giglio's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how he answers the following questions.	
What promises did Jesus give to his disciples?	
What purpose did he give to his church?	
Show Session 1: Purpose and Power (18 minutes).	
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DISCUSS

Acts 1 is the bridge between the Gospel of Luke and the	
foundation of the church. It is a brief pause before Jesus released his disciples to spread the gospel in	
Jerusalem, Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth. As we	
read this chapter, we will discover the purpose and power Jesus promises to give his followers and his call	
to us to participate in his ongoing work.	
Note: To learn more about the author and purpose of	
the Book of Acts, go to Go Deeper Section 1 at the end of this study.	
Read Acts 1:1–8.	
These opening verses set the stage for the entire book	
of Acts, giving us an overview of Jesus's work between his resurrection and his ascension into heaven. While	
Luke, the author of Acts, does not give us an exhaustive list of everything Jesus did, these brief verses make one	
thing clear: the church was founded on the resurrected,	
living, and active Son of God, Jesus Christ. What was Jesus doing at the beginning of Acts? What sorts of	
things seemed important to Jesus after his	
resurrection?	
Jesus commanded his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they were baptized by the Holy Spirit. His	
command gave them a place, a purpose, and a promise,	
but they had to wait a few days to receive that promise. What makes waiting on a promise different than	
waiting on an uncertain hope?	
Verses 6–8 show us that the disciples still did not fully	
understand Jesus's purpose. Jesus came to establish	
the kingdom of God, but they thought he came to throw out the Romans and reestablish the kingdom of Israel.	
Their hope for Jesus was far too small, focusing on temporary changes rather than his eternal kingdom.	
What are you hoping Jesus will do in your life? In your	
city?	
In what ways might your hopes be too small, or too focused on your "kingdom" on earth?	
What could it look like for you to refocus your hope on the kingdom of God?	
Instead of telling his disciples exactly when things would	
rigiappen, he pointed them to what they should be doing	

while they wait. In the video, Louie showed us the four truths that will guide our waiting and our work for Jesus.	
The first is the guide with of leave the great who	
The first is the authority of Jesus, the one who conquered sin and death. Louie quoted from Matthew	
28:18–19, "Jesus came near and said to them, 'All authority has been given to me in heaven and on	
earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" to help us see that Jesus not only has authority over	
sin and death but authority over <i>everything</i> .	
In what ways are you submitting to Jesus, the	
authority of heaven and earth, in your life? Are there any areas of your life you don't see him as the	
authority?	
Jesus reminded the disciples of his authority before commanding them to make disciples. What do you	
think it means to make disciples? How have you seen	
discipleship play out in your life?	
The second truth we can see in this verse is the promise	
of purpose. Jesus, the great author and authority, has given us a singular and clear purpose: to be his	
witnesses. But what does it mean to be a witness?	
What have you seen leave do in your life? In what	
What have you seen Jesus do in your life? In what ways has he changed your life? What have you heard	
or been taught about Jesus through his Word?	
What do people changed by Jesus say about him?	
In a court, witnesses give testimony to what they have	
seen and heard so that the truth might be known and	
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What additional resources or circumstances do you think you need to accomplish what God has asked you	
to do?	
God has given you a purpose, his presence, and the power you need to fulfill his call. The final truth from	
Acts 1 is that we are living in God's greater story of grace. While each of us has a different experience, all of	
us are a part of God's greater story.	
The book of Acts shows us how the church began in Jerusalem, spread through Judea and Samaria, and	
grew throughout the known world. We are still caught	
up in the story of the church today as the gospel continues to reach new people.	
In what ways is God writing his story in your home, neighborhood, workplace, and church?	
What might be your role in furthering his story?	
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Read Acts 1:9–11.	
Note: To learn more about the second half of Acts 1, go to Go Deeper Section 2 at the end of this study.	
The disciples were stunned when Jesus left. They had spent the last few years following him across Judea, watching his miracles, obeying his commands, and	
listening to his teaching. And now, they had to wait without him. Like the disciples, we are waiting for Jesus	
to return. Sometimes, it can feel like we are looking at	
the sky, waiting, with no powerful purpose.	
In what ways do you feel unsure of what God wants you to do next?	
God has given you a mission and a purpose, so even if you don't know what is coming next, you can always	
know what you should be doing today.	
Based on the truths from this chapter, what is your	
purpose for today?	
We are a part of God's greater story. We have purpose and power. In what ways will you live out God's	
mission for you this week?	

LAST WORD The disciples were so stunned by Jesus's departure that two angels had to snap them out of their stupor to remind them of the commission they had just received. If you are unsure of what God wants you to do, don't wait around for a sign from heaven. God has told you what to do. You are his witness, empowered by his Holy Spirit to make disciples. That is a mission worth giving your life to.

GO DEEPER	
 This section has two potential functions: 1. It can supplement your small group discussion with topics your group may be interested in. We've highlighted where each of the following segments could fit in the Discuss section of the study guide. As the leader, it would be good to familiarize yourself with this section just in case your conversation turns to one of these topics. 2. These sections can also function as short devotionals to carry you through the week until your next group meeting. Consider using these sections to deepen your group's study of the book of Acts. 	
1. The Author and Context of Acts	
As Louie mentioned in the video, Acts is the direct follow-up to the Gospel of Luke. Some historians believe the two books used to be one unified work, making Luke—Acts the longest work in the New Testament. But why was it written?	
Read Luke 1:1—4. What does this passage tell you about the author, recipient of the letter, and why this long letter was written?	
Tradition tells us and Luke was a physician, from either Syrian Antioch or Philippi, who was a friend and traveling companion of the Apostle Paul (Col. 4:14). The early verses of Luke tell us that this Gospel was written for two reasons: 1) to compile all the first-hand accounts of Jesus's life in an orderly way and 2) so that the readers of his letter might be certain of what they were taught.	
As you read Luke and Acts, you can't help but notice the detail Luke adds to his accounts. He tells us where things happened, when they happened, and who was there. Ancient Greek converts could read Luke and Acts and have an assurance that Jesus was who he claimed to be, not merely a legend, and that the church grew under the sovereign hand of God. If any still had doubts, they could visit the people Luke spoke to and verify the facts in these books.	
Even though we are living a millennia after these books were written, Luke's purpose of writing them remains: to give us an orderly account of Jesus's life so that we might be certain of what we have been taught.	

What questions do you have about the reliability of the accounts of Jesus's life?	
While you read through Acts, how might you look for clues to the reliability of these accounts?	
Sometimes, history can seem like a boring list of names and places. But Acts is more than history; it is the story of the church that is still being written and meant to give you assurance for your faith. If you tend to get bored with history, how might you reframe this book in your mind to help you gain assurance and hope?	
2. Choosing Judas's Replacement After the disciples returned to Jerusalem, they waited for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. But they were not inactive as they waited.	
Read Acts 1:12–14.	
What is the first thing Jesus's followers did after returning to Jerusalem? Why do you think it was important for them to be "united in prayer"?	
The apostles (a Greek word meaning "sent ones") and Jesus's family gathered in prayer together. To them, waiting was more than sitting around hoping for someone to knock on their door. Waiting on the promises of Jesus was a prayerful, unified, expectation of God's upcoming work.	
What would it look like for you to prayerfully wait on the Lord in your current circumstances? How might	
you involve your community in your prayerful waiting?	
As you read through Acts, you will see the apostles continually stopping to pray. When they did not know	
what to do, were waiting on uncertain outcomes, or simply had a moment to rest, they prayed together.	
In what ways could you live like the apostles and incorporate prayer into your decision-making and downtime?	
When they weren't praying, the apostles were actively preparing their community for God's coming promise.	
Read Acts 1:15–26.	
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What were the requirements for Judas's replacement, listed in verses 21–22?	
While the broader community of the early church	
proposed two candidates to replace Judas, the apostles ultimately decided by casting lots, an ancient way of	
seeking guidance from the Lord (Prov. 16:33). When we	
pray, we are trusting God with our cares and concerns. But it can be difficult to trust God with our futures. What	
can make it difficult to trust God with a big decision?	
Matthias was chosen as Judas's replacement, but we never hear about his life and ministry in Acts. We may	
wonder if he was the right choice. Even when we let God guide our decisions, it can be difficult to trust him	
with his chosen outcomes. We may sit in doubt of his	
answers until they prove themselves to be "good decisions." When have you doubted God's reply to	
your prayers?	
What could it look like to trust God with your prayers, even when he leads you in a way you didn't expect to	
go?	
3. Weekly Reading Plan	
Acts is a long book, and we won't be able to study every verse of it during each of these sessions. This reading	
plan will help you familiarize yourself with the entirety of the book so that you can dig more deeply into God's	
Word. Some weeks will have more reading than others,	
so feel free to complete the daily readings at a pace that makes the most sense to your group.	
Session 1 covers only one chapter of Acts, which gives	
you space to go back to the Gospel of Luke. This will help you build the connection between these two books	
and understand the fuller context of this passage.	
<u>Day 1</u> : The Resurrection (Luke 24:1–12)	
<u>Day 2</u> : The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–35) <u>Day 3</u> : Jesus's Final Appearance in Luke (Luke 24:36–	
53) Day 4: Jesus's Final Appearance in Acts (Acts 1:1–11)	
Day 5: Waiting for Pentecost (Acts 1:12–26)	