

Small Group Discussion Guide

Acts 1:6-8

“Are We There Yet?”

Based on Sunday's
Sermon 7/5/26

Background

Read Acts 1:1-11. “A paradoxical component of the resources for continuing the Lord’s ministry was something believers don’t know and can’t find out. The apostles shared the fervent hope of their nation that Messiah would come and take up His earthly kingdom. Often Jesus had taught them prophetically about the future (Matt. 13:40–50; 24, 25; Luke 12:36–40; 17:20–37; 21:5–36). The enthusiastic question they were asking Him, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” is thus perfectly understandable. After all, here was the resurrected Messiah speaking with them about His kingdom. They knew of no reason the earthly form of the kingdom could not be set up immediately, since the messianic work signaling the end of the age had arrived. It must be remembered that the interval between the two comings of Messiah was not explicitly taught in the Old Testament. That Jesus does not deny their expectation of a literal, earthly kingdom involving Israel is highly significant. It shows that their understanding of the promised kingdom was correct, except for the time of its coming. If they were mistaken about such a crucial point in His kingdom teaching, His failure to correct them is mystifying and deceptive. A far more likely explanation is that the apostles’ expectation of a literal, earthly kingdom mirrored the Lord’s own teaching and the plan of God clearly revealed in the Old Testament. Since the season of His coming cannot be known, and the Lord could return at any moment in the rapture of the church (cf. 1 Thess. 5:2), believers must be continually ready.”¹

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

1. Share a moment when you misunderstood what God was doing, only to later realize He had a much bigger plan in motion.

Observation

2. Describe the context of Acts 1:6-8. What happened before the disciples’ question in verse 6?
3. What exactly did the disciples ask Jesus? (v.6)

¹ John F. MacArthur Jr., *Acts*, vol. 1, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), 19-20.

4. How did Jesus answer them? (v.7-8)

Interpretation

5. How does Jesus' answer give support that the kingdom is yet future?

6. What were the disciples supposed to focus on?

7. What role does the Holy Spirit play in the times and seasons in which we live?

8. What is the danger of replacement theology in terms of the urgency of reaching the lost and making disciples?

Application

9. Do you live with urgency and a sense of responsibility to be a discipler?

10. Where are you in your discipleship? Are you stuck in participating, when you should be serving and making disciples? Are you a disciple AND a discipler?

Prayer List: