Waterkloof Baptist Church
Life Group Study

“They Believed”
SERIES: “Stretch Your Nets” – Acts (part 3)
Acts 1:1- 3
Dan Riddell

**Prepare**

View the sermon and complete the sermon notes.

Choose those questions that are pertinent to the group member’s needs and experiences.

**Open**

1. Over the past weeks we have spoken about the importance of prayer. How has your prayer life been impacted over the past week? Share if any prayers have been answered or if God has laid something on your heart.
2. Luke reminds Theophilus of all that Jesus “began to do and teach”. What are some of the teachings and actions of Jesus that stand out for you, from Jesus’ ministry on earth?
3. When we study the book of Acts, we see the early church on fire for God. Do you think the church of today has lost that fire and if so, why do you think that has happened? Why do you think the Christians of the early church focused on Jesus resurrection when they shared their faith?
4. In what ways could our church be the hands, feet and mouth of Jesus in our community?

**Digging Deeper: Read Luke 24, Acts 1:1-3 Focus Acts 1:3**

1. Why do you think it is significant that Luke writes about things being fulfilled (**Luke** 1:1)?
2. What is the significance of Jesus’ use of the introduction, ‘This is what is written …’ (Luke 24:46)? (see also Luke 4:4; 4:8; 4:10; 19:46; 21:22; 22:37).
3. Why does Luke highlight that Christ suffered before presenting Himself to the disciples (Acts 1:3)?
4. To strengthen the disciple’s faith Luke says that Jesus “gave many convincing proofs” (Acts 1:3) . Luke does not list these proofs. Why does he not do so?

What change do you see in the character and witness of the disciples after meeting with the risen Lord? Why was this so?
5. Why is it vital that we believe in the Resurrection (1 Cor 15: 1-8,17 and Rom 10:9-10) and are convinced about its truthfulness?

**Going forward**

1. Warren Wiersbe says “By their words, their walk, and their mighty works, the believers told the world that Jesus was alive. This was *“the sign of Jonah”* that Jesus had promised to the nation (Matt. 12:38–41)—His death, burial, and resurrection.”

In what ways can we show the world that we believe in a risen Christ?

1. Because Jesus is alive, we are never alone, death has lost its victory and we can eagerly wait for His return. How has knowing that Jesus is risen and alive made a difference in your life?
2. One of the most powerful tools that we have in sharing our faith is our personal testimony. Using a simple formula, (what my life was like before knowing Christ, what brought me to a place where I knew that I needed Christ, and how Christ has made an impact on my life since), spend the next number of weeks preparing, polishing and sharing your testimony to your Life Group. A key is to keep it clear, short and honest. Use a separate piece of paper to write down your testimony.

\* My Life Before Christ…

 \* What brought me to place where I knew that I needed Him…
 … and my experience of accepting Christ ….

\* Because of knowing Christ my life has been…
3. Paul says in Philippians 3: 10-12, *“I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.*”

Spend time as a group praying that we would once more know the power of Christ’s resurrection in our personal lives and that this truth would inspire the church once more.

 **Close**

Read and commit to memory Philippians 3: 10-12

Some of the questions were adapted from Cook, D. (2007). Teaching Acts: Unlocking the Book of Acts for the Bible Teacher. (D. Jackman & R. Sydserff, Eds.) (p. 51). Ross-shire, Scotland; London, England: Proclamation Trust Media; Christian Focus Publications.