

01 THE KINGDOM ADVANCES

KEY TEXT: ACTS 1:1-11

CENTRAL truth

While the book of Acts is Luke's second work in the Bible, it is not meant to be a distant relative to his Gospel account—the two books tell a unified story. **Jesus's work continues through His people** by the Spirit's power.

key question

How does Jesus being King now and forever affect the way you live?

Jesus is not absent in the story of Acts. Instead, His heavenly throne is the location from which He now rules. As modern-day believers, we serve a King who cares for us and possesses authority over all things. This should shape the way we see Him in tough times as well as how we see ourselves and interact with others around us.

keep in mind

- The anxiety students have around sharing the gospel with others is real. We've all neglected opportunities to do so at one time or another. None of us want to feel the sting of rejection or rude remarks. Encourage students to remember the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. He empowers us to show and share the good news with others. You may even want to talk through practical ways of sharing the gospel story.
- Jesus's command in Acts 1:8 is central to the entire book. Through it, we see that the disciples were not only to go near and far, but also to both Jews and Gentiles with the gospel. Students and adults alike need to be reminded that the hope of the gospel extends to all people regardless of differences.

application

How can we challenge one another and help one another to participate in Jesus's mission to the world?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: King Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to enable His people to bring the good news to everyone everywhere. Students should be encouraged to begin praying for one to two people who they can share the gospel with over the course of this study.

FOR THE LEADER: Leaders have the opportunity to remind students that as followers of Jesus, we're all called to participate in Jesus's mission to the world now. This is not simply a task for pastors, church leaders, or super mature Christians—the Spirit enables all of us to be on mission in our communities.

SUMMER
2024