

**An Introduction to the Book of Acts**

Call to Worship - Philippians 1:3-4

This week I finished a project I started about a year ago

I was at Aaron's a year ago & saw a frame that would hold several pictures of my family  
including wallet size graduation pictures so I bought it

But it wouldn't hold them all and I couldn't find a matching frame

I kept looking

This week I found one at Michael's, which I bought and finished my project

Now I walk by that wall and smile at the family photos which are nicely displayed

This project was something I wanted to do so I worked at it

Even when it appeared that nothing was happening I hadn't forgotten

Finally when I found what I wanted I put it all together

I thought—that's how God is with us

It wasn't the "task" of the frame or pictures to complete this project

It was mine to do and I did it

Because it was important to me, I pursued it

God does the same with us—God began a work in us

AND God is faithful to complete it in us

It's not our "task" to do—It is God's task and God WILL finish it

That's also how God was with the disciples

After Jesus left—God completed what he had started on this earth...

Look at the book of Acts, the record of what happened after Jesus...

Acts 1:1-4

First book mentioned is the Gospel of Luke

This is volume 2—what happens after Jesus' death and resurrection

While the name of Luke is not in the book of Acts

Luke is traditionally considered the author of Acts as well as the Gospel of Luke

The structure and style of the two books is the same

Luke—companion of Paul—"we" passages with Paul

Physician—Colossians 4:14—Paul says, *Luke, good friend and physician,  
and Demas both send greetings.*

Probably a Gentile

Luke's purpose in writing is to tell the story of what comes after the gospels

After the story of Jesus and his time on earth

It is not surprising that Jesus is remembered as a significant person in history

Even from a merely human perspective

the life of Jesus was outstanding enough to attract notice.

His life consistently drew attention



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Peter, afraid for his own life, denied that he even knew Jesus  
Even Jesus' closest friends, his 12 disciples, were frightened and left him

Common grief and shared sorrow brought some of them together after the crucifixion  
Others joined them following the resurrection  
But less than 2 months after Jesus' death and resurrection  
the congregation in Jerusalem was about 120 persons  
Not very impressive if you had seen the crowds that followed Jesus earlier

In addition those who remained were afraid  
They were afraid for their own lives  
They were confused  
They didn't understand what was happening

Yet God used these very same people to spread the news of his son Jesus Christ to the world

Quote from Margaret Mead - *"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

We here at North Seattle Friends—a small group of thoughtful, committed people  
*are changing the world!*

Patty and Carolann are in Burundi  
We are actively involved in ministry as a congregation  
and it is making a difference

Say yes to the next step  
In Acts 1:4 Jesus told the disciples they were not to leave Jerusalem  
They "must wait for what the Father promised"  
The next step was to simply wait

We want to know more than that  
Jesus will always give us the next step—even when that step is to wait

We can do what God calls us to do—we can change the world  
Just say yes to the next step