

## Preparing for the Promise!

### Welcome

**Series Review:** Best year yet, 7 days, a fresh work of God. Jesus, mission, how?

**Read: Acts 1:12–26**

### 1. Obey. Acts 1:4, 12

**Explain:** Jesus gives the disciples a simple command, “do not leave Jerusalem”. Remember, at that moment, they are being persecuted by both the Jews and the Romans. It would have been so easy to justify leaving Jerusalem. Obviously, Jesus does not understand what’s going on here. There is no way we are going to stay.

**Obedience is a choosing to trust God because we believe He is good.**

**Illustrate:** Marriage- 29 years later, I am so grateful for the grace to obey.

**Argue:** 1 Samuel 15:22, “But Samuel replied, “What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.”

**Obedience leads to a blessing.** “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends the gift.” If you leave Jerusalem, if you disobey, you miss out on the gift, the blessing. This is true in life.

**Illustrate:** Marriage- I could have justified leaving but I would have missed out on the gift of marriage, the growth it has produced in my life, my three beautiful kids, and ministry. God wanted to bless me but I had to choose obedience.

**Argue:** Deuteronomy 28:1-14, Luke 11:28, James 1:22-25

**Why does God care?** When we live the way God tells us to live, we are all blessed, everyone benefits. When we reject what God says, assume we know better, everyone suffers. God wants to bless us.

**Argue:** Genesis 2-3, Obedience leads to blessings! Sin produces Hell on earth.

**When we trust and obey, we hear God’s voice more clearly.**

**Argue:** James 1:21, “So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.”

**Apply:** God wants us to trust Him and obey. **What is God asking you to do?**

### 2. Pray. Verse 14

**Explain:** What is prayer? I think prayer is one of the most misunderstood of the spiritual practices. Prayer is more than a list of stuff I’m trying to get God to agree to.

If Jesus made them a promise, “in just a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit” why do they need to pray? Prayer is opening my heart to God. Prayer prepares me to receive what God has promised. Prayer is how we communicate with God in order to strengthen our relationship.

**Argue:** Matthew 6- Lord’s Prayer,

- **Our Father** (Child of God, Love, watches over, present, the place I can run)
- **Who art in Heaven** (Strong, wise, noble, king, victorious)
- **Hallowed be thy name** (Worship, affection, admire, adore, bless)
- **Your kingdom Come, your will be done** (surrender, trust, faith)
- **Give us this day our daily bread** (provision- strength, knowledge, opportunity)

- **Forgive us our sin as we forgive those who sin against us** (grace)
  - **Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil** (freedom, holiness)
  - **Thine is the kingdom, the power, the glory, forever** (I am a joint heir with Christ)
- Illustrate:** God and Tina- practicing the presence of God, mind fixed on what the Spirit desires, mind fixed on things above, fix your eyes on Jesus...
- Argue:** John 15, 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- Apply:** Moment of silence, open your heart, stay connected...

### 3. Trust. Verses 15-26

**Explain:** When we open our hearts, God speaks to us about stuff that needs to be settled. Peter stands up and reminds everyone about what happened to Judas, helps them to see that moment through scripture, to see that moment redemptively. God is at work in every moment. **Peter also failed**, however He opened his heart and allowed God to work redemptively through his failure and now he is leading the early church.

**Illustrate:** Vision- Helping people follow Christ and experience the hope of redemption. God wants to redeem your past. We all have a past- will you allow God to redeem your past.

**Argue:** Romans 8:28, Peter- my failures do not define me.

**Illustrate:** Abraham- 75 years old, 15 years- Ishmael, Dividing the land, Isaac, Sarah- my sister, four kings, tithe, servant looking for a wife for Isaac. When he trusts God, he was very blessed. When he failed to trust God, he made a mess and the people he loved were hurt. We are talking about him 4000 years later!

**Quote:** Failure isn't fatal!

**Apply:** God is not finished with you. God wants to redeem your story.

**Apply:** 2026- Obey, pray, trust!

Invitation