

# Belmont Exeter House Group Notes

## w/c 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### Acting it out – The Elevator Pitch. Acts 1:1 - 11

#### Background

This teaching series will direct out attention to Jesus call to be his disciples, together on mission. The church is the outworking of the events of the life, death and resurrection of Christ. One of the key themes of the book of Acts is how the people God are to 'live under the rule of Jesus, between covenant fulfilment and cosmic renewal. The gift of the spirit makes us living examples of the former (covenant fulfilment) and signposts to the latter (cosmic renewal). Welcome to the Missionary church' (The Challenge of Acts, Tom Wright).

In our earlier series through Mark, 'Who is this man?' we've seen the answer that Jesus is the Messiah, God's anointed king. He becomes king through his death and resurrection, turning the world upside. In Acts. Luke describes what happens next. How we are to act this out. Jesus sends out his people to be messengers and signposts, so that others may come into this kingdom and enjoy restoration and reconciliation.

Through these studies we will focus on how the people of God, as a spirit filled community in Christ, are to live out this vocation.

This study follows the sermon on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026. If you weren't able to be at the service, you can watch on YouTube (<https://youtube.com/belmontexeter>) or listen on the Belmont website (<http://belmontexeter.church/talks>)

The discussion outline below is a guide only. Please take time to pray and prepare the discussion for your group. Some resources you may find helpful to supplement these notes are:

Tom Wright, *Acts for Everyone*

Tom Wright, *The Challenge of Acts*

John Stott, *The Message of Acts* (BST)

<https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-acts/>

**BIG IDEA:** Jesus equips his people to be witnesses of the resurrection and of its implications. We are part of the church to live this out in community.

**WAY IN:** A friend says to you 'I know you're a Christian and you go to church but other than a Sunday service, what's the point of church?' What would you say?

Pray

**READ: Acts 1 : 1 - 11**

The book of Acts is the second half of Luke's writings. You can see the overlap if you look back at Luke 24:45 – 53. Acts 1: 1 & 2 give a clear sense of continuity. Jesus' work is ongoing.

## DIG IN

What questions would you like to ask Luke about these opening verses?

*(Always helpful to listen to any puzzles, surprises. Consider whether these will be answered later in the study, or whether you need to address them as a group now)*

How does Jesus prepare his disciples for what is to come? (v3)

*(See how Jesus provides explanation, evidence and experience)*

What specific instructions does Luke note? (v4, 5, 8) Why do you think these are particularly significant?

In what ways is Jesus' ascension (v 9,10) into heaven an encouragement to us, and a reminder of what is to come? Take a look at Hebrews 10 : 11 – 25 for some more detail and for how we live in response.

## LIVE IT

What has helped you to be a witness for Jesus?

What do you find challenging about being a witness?

We are called to do this together, as a people called into being through God's reconciling work (see 1 Peter 2:9). Revisit the two questions above and respond from the perspective of our shared life as a body of believers rather than individuals.

For what would you like to pray in order to respond (as individuals and community) to Jesus' elevator pitch? You could revisit the themes of explanation, evidence, and experience

## PRAY IT IN

Later this summer we are engaging in mission locally in Newtown and across the city through the JoyFest initiative. Pray for specific individuals who you are likely to encounter and for opportunities to explain and demonstrate the good news that Jesus is Lord.