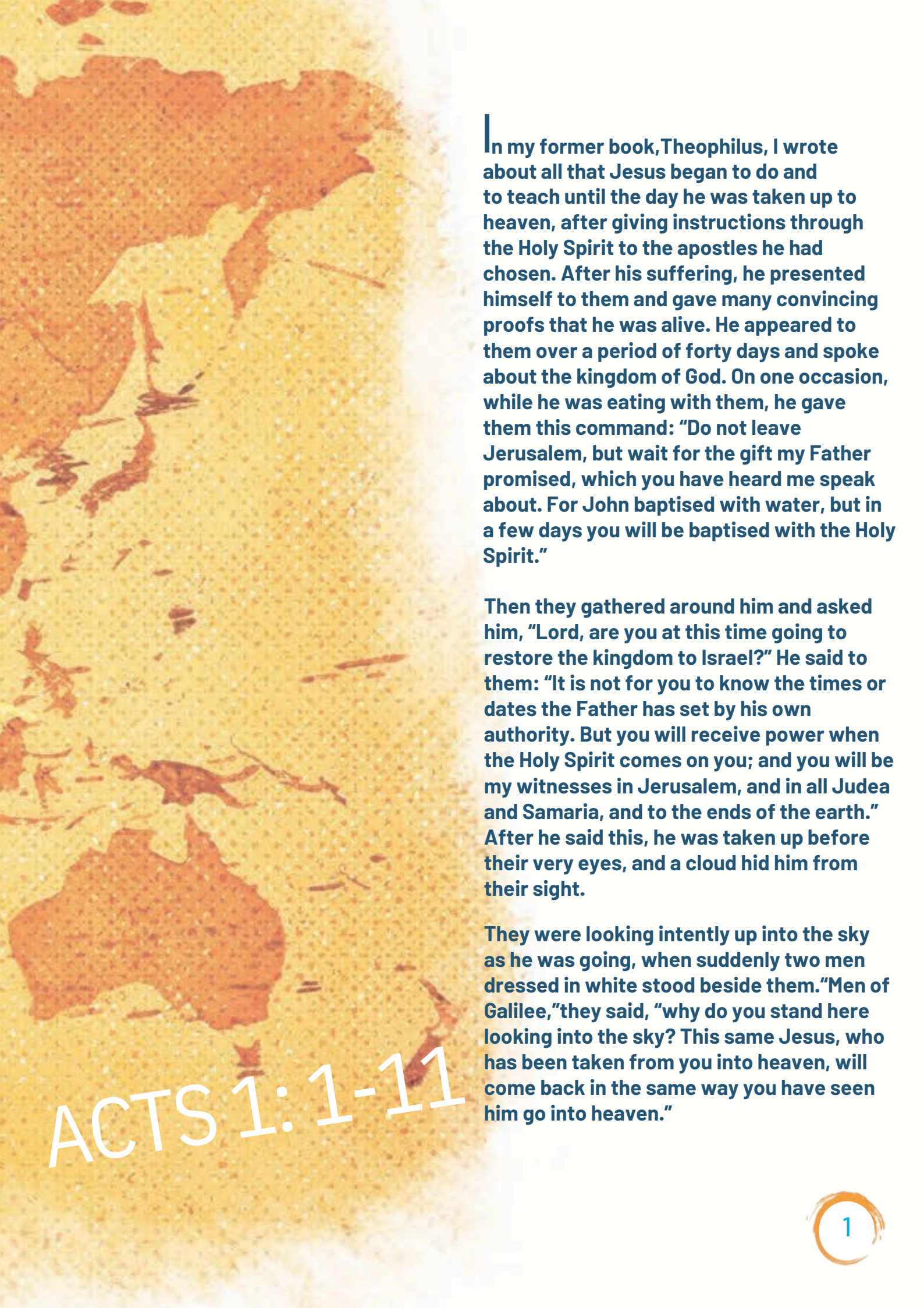




# Easter **to** Pentecost

On the journey  
with Jesus to  
see **Pentecost**  
everywhere.





**I**n my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

ACTS 1: 1-11

**'During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.' Acts 1:3**

We've just celebrated Easter, the most significant event in our Christian calendar. It's the critical element that sets Jesus and our faith in him apart from all other religions. Jesus is alive and invites us to take part in seeing God's vision fulfilled: **'the earth being filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, just as the waters cover the sea.'** (Habakkuk 2:14)

It was early Sunday morning when Jesus rose from the dead. Just 3 days beforehand the disciples had watched him die a brutal death as he hung from a cross. Jesus was dead,

Joseph and Nicodemus, both prestigious men, perhaps even secret believers, secured the release of his body from the authorities and made sure that he was respectfully and appropriately buried. For the eleven disciples and the community around them Sunday started out as a dark and hopeless day as they mourned the loss of their beloved Rabbi. But that same morning some of the women went to Jesus' tomb to care for the body. They were totally astounded to meet Jesus, now risen from the dead. The first bearers of good news, they ran to tell the other disciples what they had seen. Jesus



had risen, everything was turned upside down. This was the game changer, it is the very core of our faith.

Amazingly, Jesus didn't head off to present himself to the authorities or the crowds who had yelled "crucify him!" a few days earlier. Instead, his priority was to reveal himself to his disciples, explain to them the Scriptures and talk with them about the Kingdom of God.

Encounters and conversations between the now resurrected Jesus and the disciples continued for 40 days. He walked with them, ate food with them, helped them catch fish, looked at scripture with them, re-instated them after

their personal failure and recharged their spirits with his vision and mandate to...

**'Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'**

(Matt 28:19- 20)

For 6 weeks Jesus had been pouring into his disciples. Then he ascended to be seated at the right hand of the Father. The disciples at first were left staring up at the sky, trying to get

their heads around what just happened. But they had encountered Jesus in his risen form and been commissioned by him. Now they were to wait for the promised Holy Spirit, it was time for the church to be birthed. The day of Pentecost came and Jesus' disciple-making movement burst into action.

Over the 50 days between Resurrection Sunday and Pentecost, like the first disciples we too want to take a walk through Scripture, looking at the Kingdom of God and allowing God to speak. As we do this we'll be relying simply on the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to bring revelation and fresh vision.

We are excited, and expecting God to do significant things, as we set aside these seven weeks to delve into God's Word. Just as Jesus spent time with his first disciples explaining the Scriptures and speaking about the Kingdom of God before the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost, we too need to be prepared by the Word of God and Spirit of God to see the Holy Spirit explode onto the scene both in our discipling communities, and the harvest we are wanting to reach.

This book is a guide for you to use with others . We have prepared a very simple and flexible guided process for you.

You could either do this individually, with a group or your existing team as you engage in prayer and Scripture over the 7 weeks between Resurrection Sunday and Pentecost. With a few Scriptures to look at each week and some discovery questions, give space for God to speak to you and challenge you.

Our prayer is that God will speak, prepare our hearts, lead by His Spirit, and empower us as we look at how we can reach out and make disciples who multiply throughout our cities, regions and into all the earth.

*Let's go...*

# Pentecost Sunday

*24th May*

**We invite you to set aside this day for prayer!**

From **Sunrise to Sunset** - gather with others in your community to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and a fresh movement of disciple-making.

**National Online Prayer Gathering:** As part of this, we will also connect together online.

2:00pm (AEST)

Join via Zoom  
[QR code]  
[Link here](#)



# How to Prepare for Pentecost Sunday

*Before there was a movement in Acts, there was a place full of people praying. Every movement of God begins the same way: people humbling themselves, praying, and listening to the Spirit.*

## STEP 1

The fifty days between Easter and Pentecost are an invitation to seek God together. Consider gathering a few others around you to pray together during this Easter - Pentecost season.

## STEP 2

Meet regularly across the 50 days to read the Scriptures, reflect on the questions in this booklet and pray.

## STEP 3

As you journey through these weeks, plan how you will mark Pentecost Sunday - the culmination of this season of prayer as we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the early church and ask God to move again.

You can also check out this **'On the Journey with Others'** printable resource with your group/team





**WEEK 1**

# He is Risen

**Matt 27:62-66**

## **DISCOVERY QUESTIONS**

**Matt 28:1-15**

Reflect on the resurrection...what does it tell you about God/Jesus?

**Mark 16:1-8**

**Luke 24:1-12**

Looking at how different people responded, what does it tell you about people?

**John 20:1-10**

What happens in the hearts of people when they encounter the risen Jesus?

What does it mean to me?

How should I respond and change?



**WEEK 2**

# Convincing Proofs

**Luke 24:13-49**

**John 20:19-29**

**1 Cor 15:1-11**

**John 21:1-14**

**Acts 1:1-5**

## **DISCOVERY QUESTIONS**

What stands out most to you from these Scriptures?

What does this tell you about Jesus?

How did people respond after seeing Jesus alive?

What action will you take as a result of these encounters?



**WEEK 3**

# The Kingdom of God

**Mark 1:14-20** **DISCOVERY QUESTIONS**

**Mark 4:26-34**

What do these passages teach us about the Kingdom of God?

**Matt 13:44-52**

How does the Kingdom of God come to earth?

**Matt 25:1-13**

**Mark 4:1-20**

How does the Kingdom of God spread?

**Matt 25:31-46**

What are we to do in response to the Kingdom of God?

**Luke 14:15-24**

(What action should I take?)

**Matt 6:7-13**



**WEEK 4**

# Resurrection Authority

**Rev 1:1-18**

## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

**Psalms 110:1-5**

**Matt 22:41-46**

What stands out to you most from these Scriptures?

**Acts 2:34-36**

What does this teach us about Jesus?

**Eph 1:18-23**

How do these passages impact us today?

**Col 3:1-4**

What should we do in response?

**1 Peter 3:18-22, 4:6**



**WEEK 5**

# Jesus Departs

**Acts 1:1-11**

## **DISCOVERY QUESTIONS**

**Luke 24:44-53**

As you read these passages, what are the key points God is highlighting to you?

**Matt 28:16-20**

**Mark 16:9-20**

How do these key points guide you as you think about praying for your community and region?

**John 20:19-23**

**John 21:15-25**

Who else can you invite to join you to pray and reach out in your community?

**1 Tim 3:16**

**WEEK 6**

# Holy Spirit

**John 14: 15-31**

## **DISCOVERY QUESTIONS**

**John 15:26-16:15**

What new thing have you learnt about the Holy Spirit and his work in and around you?

**Joel 2:28-29**

**Acts 4: 23-31**

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in reaching the harvest?

**Acts 13:1-5**

How will you respond to this new thing you have learnt?

**Acts 19:1-6**

**Romans 8:14-16**

How should we pray?

**Eph 1:3-14**

**WEEK 7**

# Pentecost

## The Time for Harvest

**Acts 1:8** **DISCOVERY QUESTIONS**

**JERUSALEM**

**Acts 2:1-47**

What insights do you have from these Scriptures about God's vision and plan for mankind?

**JUDEA & SAMARIA:**

**Acts 8:14-17**

What does this teach us about the life that God wants us to live?

**Acts 8:26-40**

What actions can I put into place moving forward after the Pentecost season?

**ENDS OF THE EARTH**

**Acts 9:1-22**

**Acts 10**

**Acts 19:1-10**

**Pentecost Sunday**

*May 24th*


# Discovery Process

**The discovery process** is a powerful tool to use helping us to slow down and understand God's word as the Holy Spirit reveals his truth.

You may like to use the regular discovery questions as you look at Scripture.

What does this show you about God ?  
What does this show you about man ?  
How should I obey? Who should I tell?

Or you may prefer to use the guided questions we have prepared for each week.

More information on doing a discovery Bible study can be found here 



# Stepping out what God has said to me

A series of horizontal dashed lines for writing.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal dashed lines.



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