

GONE TOO SOON—Study guide

(Acts 1:1-11)

1. REMEMBERING: What are reasons it might have been better had Jesus stayed on earth?

2. REFLECTING: What are reasons it may be good that he left?

3. DISCOVERING: Read Acts 1:1-11 below and answer the questions that follow.

*In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.³ After his suffering, he showed himself to these men 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.*

⁴On 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.⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”⁶ So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.⁸ 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.”

⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.¹¹ “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.”

- What did Jesus give his followers to prepare them for life after his departure?

- Which of these things are still accessible to his followers today?

4. CONNECTING: Where *are* you in the story presently and where would you *like to be*? (asking questions, staring into the sky wondering, going)

5. RESPONDING: What specific steps will you take in the coming week to help get there or at least begin to move in that direction?

He ascended so we could take his place.... When Jesus departed, he left the keys to the kingdom in our fumbling hands.

- Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*