

UNLEASHED!

DAY 2— Align with Kingdom Priorities

Acts 1:6-8

Time Alone with God

Prayer

Explore the Word

1. Read Acts 1:6–8. What priority did the disciples have on their minds?
2. What priority did Jesus have for His disciples?
3. What priorities take up most of your energy?

Insights from Ellen White:

Before ascending to heaven, Christ gave His disciples their commission. He told them that they were to be the executors of the will in which He bequeathed to the world the treasures of eternal life. You have been witnesses of My life of sacrifice in behalf of the world, He said to them. You have seen My labors for Israel. And although My people would not come to Me that they might have life, although priests and rulers have done unto Me as they listed, although they have rejected Me, they shall have still another opportunity of accepting the Son of God. You have seen that all who come to Me confessing their sins, I freely receive. Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out. To you, My disciples, I commit this message of mercy. It is to be given to both Jews and Gentiles—to Israel, first, and then to all nations, tongues, and peoples. All who believe are to be gathered into one church. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 27, 28)

Prayer Focus

Surrender your personal priorities to Jesus as Lord. Ask God to make His kingdom your priority!

Family/Friend Circle

Connect Activity

Invite everyone to stand up and close their eyes. With all eyes closed, organize yourselves in a straight line without touching each other. You may use only your voices to form a line. After you form your line, open your eyes. How did you do?

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Pray together, “Oh Lord, open our eyes by the Holy Spirit so we can be united in Your mission for us.”

Explore the Word

1. Read Acts 1:6–8. Compare James and John’s request in Mark 10:35–37 with the disciples’ question in Acts 1:6. What theme occupied the disciples’ minds?
2. Read Acts 1:7. What does Jesus’ response to the disciples say to your family about your concerns for the future?

Insights from Ellen White:

The gospel commission is the great missionary charter of Christ's kingdom. The disciples were to work earnestly for souls, giving to all the invitation of mercy. They were not to wait for the people to come to them; they were to go to the people with their message. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 28)

Prayer Focus

Make a circle on your knees in prayer. Unite in asking God to give you His heart for His priorities. Ask for His promise of the Holy Spirit so that you may be His witnesses wherever you go.

Church Family

Welcome

Worship in Prayer

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Sit with your small groups. Our prayer team will invite your small group to pray through the Word of God together. After praying for a few minutes, you will hear the prayer team begin to sing one stanza of a song. When you do, please transition from prayer to song.

Praise:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) With your Bibles open to Luke 19:10, think of names for Jesus that describe His priorities (for example: Shepherd). Praise Him for these names!
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of praise.

Repent:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Luke 19:8. Zacchaeus repented from his sins. Ask God to help you live a life of repentance.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of repentance.

Ask:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read John 14:16. Pray for the Holy Spirit to come and be our Helper.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of the Holy Spirit.

Testify

(SMALL GROUPS)

Form groups of two or three within your small groups. Ask and answer: "What did God help you do with yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge?"

(Yesterday's 24-Hour Challenge: Sometime in the next 24 hours, turn off all electronics for 10 minutes. Read Psalm 46 privately—just you and God. Praise Jesus Christ for being the living God! Ask the Holy Spirit to put one person on your heart, and share with that person one reason that you know Jesus is alive. Read Acts 1:6-8 in preparation for tomorrow.)

Connect Activity

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Stand in a circle with your small group. Think of one important chore that is currently on your to-do list (such as paying bills, jogging, or repairing a car). Take turns silently acting out that activity while others guess what it is. We all have many priorities—both urgent and important—but what are God's priorities for us?

Worship in Word

(SMALL GROUPS)

1. Read Acts 1:6, 7 and Matthew 6:33. How do Jesus' words in Matthew 6:33 give meaning to His words in Acts 1:6, 7?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1–11. What can we learn in this passage about the gift of time and priorities?

Insights from Ellen White:

The disciples were to carry their work forward in Christ's name. Their every word and act was to fasten attention on His name, as possessing that vital power by which sinners may be saved. Their faith was to center in Him who is the source of mercy and power. In His name they were to present their petitions to the Father, and they would receive answer. They were to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Christ's name was to be their **watchword**, their badge of distinction, their bond of union, the authority for their course of action, and the source of their success. Nothing was to be recognized in His kingdom that did not bear His name and superscription. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 28)

Prayer Focus

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Pray for the priorities of Christ's kingdom. Pray for Christ's heart for the lost to become your heart.

Appeal

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Who here tonight is convicted that their life priorities in these last days are not the priorities of Jesus Christ? I invite you to join me in asking God to re-order our priorities to match His Kingdom priorities.

24-Hour Challenge

LEADER TO EVERYONE: List your four top priorities in life right now—being honest about the present reality of where your heart and focus are. Pray and read James 1:5–8. Ask God what He wants your top four priorities to be. Make a list and place it where you will see it every day. With God's help, take a faith step now to live according to His priorities for your life! Read Acts 1:9–11 in preparation for tomorrow.