

2006-07 BSP#1 Group Time Discussion

(A) Group Orientation (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

Invite every group member to introduce himself or herself VERY BRIEFLY, including:

- Name
- Parish Group, if any
- What you expect to gain from this year's BSP

Remind participants not to spend more than 45 seconds each.

(B) Questions on the Text (Suggested time: 10 minutes)

1. Read the following footnote from the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible on Acts 1:6:

Judaism hoped for a militant Messiah who would redeem Israel from the yoke of Roman oppression and rebuild the kingdom of David that had lain in ruins since the 6th century B.C. These political aspirations are given a spiritual fulfillment in Acts with the enthronement of Christ in heaven (2:32-36) and the redemption of Israel and the Gentiles in the Church.

2. What did Jesus' disciples have in mind when they asked him the question in Acts 1:6?

Acts 宗徒 大事錄 1:6	⁶ When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"	⁶ 他們聚集的時候，就問耶穌說：「主，是此時要給以色列復興國家嗎？」
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3. What was Jesus' answer to the disciples' question? (Read Acts 1:7-8.) Based on Jesus' answer, do you think Jesus was in agreement with his disciples' presumption? Explain why the correct answer to this question is both yes and no.

Acts 宗徒 大事錄 1:7-8	⁷ He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."	⁷ 他回答說：「父以自己的權柄所定的時候和日期，不是你們應當知道的； ⁸ 但當聖神降臨於你們身上時，你們將充滿聖神的德能，要在耶路撒冷及全猶太和撒瑪黎雅，並直到地極，為我作證人。」
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Acts 宗徒 大事錄 2:32-36	³² God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses. ³³ Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the holy Spirit from the Father and poured it forth, as you (both) see and hear. ³⁴ For David did not go up into heaven, but he himself said: "The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand ³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool."" ³⁶ Therefore let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."	³² 這位耶穌，天主使他復活了，我們都是他的見證人。 ³³ 他被舉揚到天主的右邊，由父領受了所恩許的聖神；你們現今所見所聞的，就是他所傾注的聖神。 ³⁴ 達味本來沒有升到天上，但是他卻說：『上主對吾主說：你坐在我右邊， ³⁵ 等我使你的仇敵，變作你腳的踏板。』 ³⁶ 所以，以色列全家應確切知道：天主已把你們所釘死的這位耶穌，立為主，立為默西亞了。」
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(C) Session Review (Skipped for session 1 due to time constraint)

(D) Contemplative Prayer Using Studium Biblicum Devotional Commentary (SBDC) (Suggested time: 5 minutes)

Group facilitator will lead the group to do the following contemplative prayer:

1. Do the sign of the cross.
2. Read the excerpt from SBDC below. Make sure everyone in your group can hear you.

試想像門徒們看著耶穌升天有甚麼感受？耶穌升天前幾個星期，門徒見到那麼多的轉變，已令他們不知所措，但仍感覺到更大的事件將會發生。他們眼見耶穌被捕並被處死，令他們的世界變得翻天覆地。他們見到耶穌被出賣並受到誣衊，他們的心一定傷透了。但接著他們看見耶穌從死者中復活，身體留有被釘十字架的傷痕，這時他們一定十分激動震撼了。

過了幾個星期忐忑不安的日子，現在耶穌答應他們一項新的，值得欣慰的承諾：「當聖神降臨於你們身上時，你們將充滿聖神的德能，要在耶路撒冷及全猶太和撒瑪黎雅，並直到地極，為我作證人」(宗 1: 8)。這些說話一定令他們十分鼓舞！他們不再感到孤單，相反他們的心靈將接受來自天主的力量和指引。

同樣的承諾亦適用於今天。耶穌升了天坐在天父的右邊，但祂答允過與我們同在(宗 1: 11)。到了那天，天主「要拭去他們眼上的一切淚痕；以後再也沒有死亡，再也沒有悲傷，沒有哀號，沒有苦楚，因為先前的都已過去了」(默 21: 4)。耶穌更派遣聖神來教導、堅強我們，並將我們與耶穌結合在一起，直到世界窮盡。我們應為這承諾而歡欣鼓舞。

當宗徒等待聖神降臨時，他們徹夜祈禱(宗 1: 12-14)。我們等待耶穌光榮再來時，也要效法宗徒，每天多些祈禱等待聖神來臨。天主的愛比我們現在想像中的更豐厚。有誰能告訴我們，若我們接近聖神會獲得甚麼恩寵呢？我們不要認為自己已充滿聖神，但應時常祈求「主，請充滿我們的心！」

「耶穌，我們慶祝你升天充滿了天上的喜樂。你是復活的君王，猶太民族的雄獅！願所有受造物都頌揚讚美你，從今時直到永遠」。

3. End the prayer by inviting all group members to say Glory Be.

Web links

http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/_INDEX.HTM

<http://www.catholic.org.tw/bible/index.htm>

<http://www.cathlinks.org/ccc-toc.htm>

<http://www.christusrex.org/www1/CDHN/ccc.html>

