

“influence”

the capacity or power of persons to be a _____
_____ on the lives of others (actions, behavior,
opinions, etc.).

Acts 1:1-11 (ESV)

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

WHAT COMES TO YOUR MIND WITH THE WORD “CHURCH”?

- The church is the _____ who follow Jesus.ⁱ

- The church is the _____ who have _____ of Jesus being who He says He is.

- The church is the _____ who have the _____ of the _____.

- The church is the _____ who have _____ to be a _____ for Jesus.

AS THE CHURCH, DO YOU REGULARLY SHARE GOD’S WORD AND HIS TRUTH TO OTHERS?

FOR MEDITATION/REFLECTION:

1. Jesus spent those 40 days preparing His disciples to be sent. Is there some kind of preparation that you need to do?
 - a. Heart issues?
 - b. Personal issues?
 - c. Emotional issues?
 - d. Theological issues?
 - e. Relationships that need to be repaired?
2. What ways have you seen the power of the Holy Spirit work in your life when it comes to accomplishing His mission of making disciples? If you haven’t seen the Holy Spirit work in your life, why do you think that is happening?

ⁱ History section is from Andy Stanley’s sermon, “Big Church: Day One”