

# The Confidence Gap

## Study Guide - Week Four: Purpose

Where do we go from here? Right after the resurrection, the disciples were excited but didn't really know what was next. They needed purpose and power, which is precisely what Jesus promised them. **Read Luke 24:46-49.**



Although we may be excited for the future, we don't often know what it looks like or exactly how to get there. In this study, we will discuss how to act in the present and prepare for the future.

## What Do You Think?

- There are times in life when we want to see our purpose, but the complexity or difficulty of the situation makes it very difficult to see beyond it. Have you ever had a troubling situation that you saw no potential resolution for? How did you deal with it? How have you seen others react?

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“As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, ‘Peace to you!’ ... And he said to them, ‘Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?’” Luke 24:36,38 (ESV)

## What Does God Say?

- Confidence Booster: Believing in Jesus reminds me that He is in control. **Read John 14:1.** This verse isn't really about the problem of being troubled. At times, Jesus himself was troubled. **Read John 13:21.** What is Jesus trying to say to his disciples? (*Hint: look quickly at the surrounding verses*). What is Jesus saying to us today?
- Confidence Booster: Although I look to the future, my purpose is best realized in the present. **Read John 14:15-17.** In Luke, Jesus told His disciples to “stay in Jerusalem,” the most dangerous place they could have been. They obeyed, stayed, and received the power of the Holy Spirit. The receiving of power was rooted in their obedience. When might running from God's commandments cause us to miss His purpose and power for the situation? What would it mean for you to “stay”?



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“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth,” John 14:15-17 (ESV)

- Confidence Booster: The Holy Spirit helps me to experience peace and purpose right now. **Read John 14:25-27.** What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping us find purpose and peace right where we are? Will you share personal experiences?
- Confidence Booster: God reveals our purpose on a need-to-know basis. **Read Acts 1:3-12.** Although we are impatient, God reveals things to us one step at a time. Each situation may have an immediate purpose, a short-term purpose, and a long-term purpose. Can you think of examples from the Bible or from your own life that show this?

## What Will You Do?

- What do you think God’s purpose for you may be immediately, short-term, or long-term? What are some steps you can take in the present to prepare for the future?
- Where one person sees chaos, another sees peace. Where one person sees randomness, another sees purpose. These are a matter of perspective. Is there a situation where you would admit that you need to change perspective? How can the group help you?
- What is the purpose for our group? We have a purpose, but have we found it, and do we see the Holy Spirit empowering us to do it? Take some time to look at the current circumstances in your group and see what God may want you to do.

