

WARM-UP

WORD

"But 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." **ACTS 1:8**

Jesus commanded His disciples to preach the gospel, but He did not leave them alone in this task. Before He ascended to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to fill them with power from on high. In the same way, God sends us His Spirit so we can be His witnesses. In this lesson, we will answer three questions about going to the nations.

1 Who has the power of the Holy Spirit?

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you . . ." **ACTS 1:8**

When the Holy Spirit filled the disciples at Pentecost, they started out as "uneducated, common men" (Acts 4:13). In the same way, each one of us is charged to go and preach the gospel to all nations (Matthew 28:19,20). We don't have to be leaders or in full-time ministry to do this. The Holy Spirit empowers each one of us to boldly preach the gospel. Recall a time when the Holy Spirit gave you the words to say as you were preaching the gospel to someone.

2 What are we called to do?

" . . . and you will be my witnesses . . ." **ACTS 1:8**

The Holy Spirit empowers us to be witnesses for Christ in order to live a life that reflects the gospel. A witness is one who tells the truth about what God has done for, in, and through us. We are not just to declare His Word, but to be a witness—to set an example of Christlikeness, while boldly declaring who God is in our lives. How have you been a witness for Christ to the people around you?

3 Where should we go?

" . . . in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." **ACTS 1:8**

We are filled with the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel and go "to the ends of the earth." This does not just literally mean that we need to go to a new nation on the other side of the world—we can start being a Spirit-empowered witness in our homes, campuses, offices, and with our friends, where we are. What happens when we obey God's command to go? (Romans 10:14,15)
