

Power to Be a Witness

NOTES

[illegible]

WARM-UP

- Share where you'd like to go for your dream vacation. Why do you want to go there?
- Share about a gift that you received that was very special to you.
- If you could ask God for anything, what would you ask for?
- Recount how someone helped you accomplish a challenging task. How did he or she guide you?

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)

APPLICATION

- How can you pray for the nations this week? Pray that God would give you a specific nation or missionary whom you can commit to intercede for this month.
- In what specific ways can you be a blessing to the nations? How can you support the church program or individual missionaries who are currently bringing the gospel to different places around the world?
- Identify three people whom you can preach the gospel to this week. How will you go about it?

PRAYER

- Thank God for giving you His Spirit to empower you to be a witness. Ask God for the grace and wisdom to honor Him through your life.
- Intercede for someone whom you would like to encourage to preach the gospel. Ask God for opportunities to encourage him or her this week.
- Ask God for open doors in your family, campus, and office. Believe God for people to have the saving knowledge of Him, as you preach the gospel.



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