



Group Guide

The Church Has Power and Purpose

June 1, 2025

Main Passage: Acts 1:4-11

Theological Theme

The Holy Spirit empowers us as we walk out the Great Commission and act as Jesus's witnesses. This act of sharing the good news is an essential function of a healthy and growing church. We have purpose, and we have power. Let's start living like it.

Introduction

- ❓ How would you define a witness?
- ❓ What does it mean to be a witness for Jesus?

1. The Father's Promise (Acts 1:4-5)

The book of Acts was written by Luke, who also wrote the gospel of Luke. Luke, a doctor by trade, was not one of the twelve initial disciples chosen by Jesus. He opened the book of Luke by sharing that he composed his Gospel from eyewitness accounts of Jesus's ministry (Luke 1:1-4).

- ❓ What was the command Jesus gave His followers in these verses?
- ❓ Why is it necessary that we have the power of the Holy Spirit to obey this command?
- ❓ Application: What role does the Holy Spirit play in our lives today? In what ways is the Holy Spirit a "helper" or "advocate" in your life?

2. Witnesses (Acts 1:6-8)

In verse 6, Luke recorded a question the disciples asked: Would Jesus restore Israel now? The people were under Roman occupation at this time, and many Jews hoped the Messiah would come to bring victory over and relief from this oppression. Now that their minds had been opened to the prophetic truth of the Old Testament, they believed further that God's restoration was coming, and they hoped to find out when.

- ❓ Jesus said that the disciples would "receive power" in verse 8. What was the stated purpose of this power? How does this apply to our lives today?

- ❓ Compare Acts 1:8 and the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. What is similar or different?
- ❓ Application: Think about how you have witnessed the Lord's goodness in your life. What experiences have you had that you could share with as a witness to others?

3. The Ascension (Acts 1:9-11)

Our final passage today records Jesus's ascension, also recorded in Mark 16:19 and Luke 24:50-51. At the end of the forty days Luke mentioned in verse 3, while standing on the Mount of Olives outside of Jerusalem (Acts 1:12), Jesus gave instruction regarding how His followers would receive the Holy Spirit, and then He ascended to heaven.

- ❓ How did the events of this passage further fulfill God's promises about Jesus?
- ❓ In verse 11, the disciples were called to action. How have we been called to action by God today?
- ❓ Application: How does the reality of Jesus's return give hope for the future and motivation to act as His witnesses now?

Conclusion

In the book of Acts, we see the presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of individual believers radically change from being bestowed on certain believers for specific purposes, to dwelling in all believers. Receiving the Holy Spirit in this way kickstarted the ministry of the early church, and the Holy Spirit is just as essential to believers today.

- ❓ How has God shown His power in your life through the presence of the Holy Spirit?
- ❓ Why is it important that we follow the guiding of the Holy Spirit together as Christ's body and not as isolated followers?
- ❓ Who can you act as a witness of Jesus to this week? What steps will you take toward this?