



WARM-UP

How many countries have you been to? Which was your favorite and where do you want to go next?

Would you consider yourself a powerful person? In what ways do you have or lack power?

What is the role of a witness? Which do you find more compelling, a strong witness or strong evidence?

WORD

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- Acts 1:8 (NIV)

They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

- Acts 1:14 (NIV)

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

- Acts 2:1-4 (NIV)



INTRODUCTION

When we hear the word “viral” we’re likely to think of a YouTube video or an internet image that millions of people have shared with others, or a disease that is easily spread from one person to the next. When something “goes viral” it may greatly impact people’s lives as it gains national or international notoriety.

This is what we see happening in the Book of Acts. Shortly after the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, the Holy Spirit arrived and Christianity was birthed in Jerusalem. The gospel began to impact people’s lives in incredible ways as once fearful disciples who would not even admit to knowing Jesus became bold witnesses to his claim to be the Son of God. Most of Jesus’ disciples ended up giving their lives for the sake of the gospel!

The church is still God’s plan for advancing the gospel. Have you identified and embraced the Acts 1:8 mission for your church and your life? The Book of Acts challenges us to “go viral” with the gospel in our world, sharing Christ with others. This book instructs and encourages us to take the gospel across various cultural contexts with missionary intent and commitment. We hope you’ll be inspired to reach your community.

DISCUSSION

1. In verse 8, Jesus told his disciples that they would receive power. What kind of power was Jesus talking about? What was the purpose of this power?
2. What do you think Jesus meant in verse 8 when he told the disciples that they would be his witnesses? Would you describe yourself as a witness? Why or why not?
3. In verse 14, Jesus’ brothers were among those who gathered in Jerusalem to await the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they could be witnesses to Jesus. John 7:5 tells us that Jesus’ brothers didn’t believe in him.



DISCUSSION CONTINUED...

In fact, in Mark 3:21, Jesus' brothers thought that he was "out of his mind". What do you think caused them to believe in Jesus? What convinced you to believe in Jesus?

4. In chapter 2 verse 4, everyone in that upper room was "filled with the Holy Spirit". What does it mean to be "filled with the Holy Spirit"?

APPLICATION

1. What steps can you take this week and in the coming weeks to be a better witness?
2. Jesus told the disciples to begin by witnessing to those in Jerusalem, those most immediately accessible to them. Make a list of 5-10 people or groups of people that you would describe as your "personal Jerusalem", the people most accessible for you to be a witness to.
3. Are there any people in your "personal Jerusalem" that you know are particularly in need of the love or healing of Jesus? What might you do this week to be a witness to them?

PRAYER

Read Acts 1:8 and ask God to fill you with the power of the Holy Spirit in order to be his witness.

Pray for the people you listed in Application Questions 2 and 3.