



Study Guide

Message:

“Powered for the Mission.”

SCRIPTURE

Main Text:	Other Text:
<i>Acts 1:4–14</i>	<i>Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Luke 11:13, Matthew 18:19-20</i>

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

(This section focuses on understanding what the text means — before jumping to what it means for us.)

Read Acts 1:4-14

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Main Idea:

The disciples are called to wait—and they respond with unified, persistent prayer.

Commentary:

Jesus gives a clear command: don't go yet—wait for the promise.

This is significant because they already had the mission—to make disciples of all nations—and they already had the message—that Jesus is alive and there is forgiveness of sins through the shedding of His blood! But they did not yet have the power. So instead of rushing ahead, they chose to obey, and their waiting wasn't passive.

They gather together, stay unified, and pray consistently and persistently.

In a culture that resists waiting, this moment shows that preparation for God's work is aligning our hearts to God, waiting and praying for His power to send us out.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What specific instruction does Jesus give the disciples?
- 2) What are the disciples doing while they wait?
- 3) Why would it have been tempting to rush ahead instead of waiting?

Takeaway:

Waiting on God is not inactivity—it is active dependence expressed through prayer.

Read Acts 1:8

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Main Idea:

The mission of God requires the power of the Holy Spirit.

Commentary:

Jesus makes it clear:

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...”

The task in front of them is massive—reaching the world.

But the key is this:

The mission is not fueled by our effort, the mission is empowered by the Spirit.

The disciples are not sent out empty—they are equipped by God Himself.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What does Jesus promise the disciples in this verse?
- 2) What is the connection between power and mission?
- 3) Why can't the mission be accomplished without the Holy Spirit?

Takeaway:

God doesn't just give us a mission—He provides the power to fulfill it.

Read Acts 2:39 & John 12:32

Main Idea:

The promise of the Holy Spirit and the message of Jesus are for everyone.

Commentary:

Acts 2:39 expands the promise:

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It's for you, your children, all who are far off

John 12:32 reminds us:

Jesus is drawing all people to Himself

This reveals something important:

God is already at work, God uses us as His church to bring people to Him!

The mission is not about forcing results—it's about participating in what God is already doing.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Who is included in the promise of the Holy Spirit?
- 2) What does it mean that Jesus is drawing all people?
- 3) How does this change the way we view sharing our faith?

Takeaway:

God is already moving—our role is to respond and join Him in reaching the lost with the gospel!

Read Luke 3:21–22 & Acts 4:31

Main Idea:

Prayer precedes the movement and power of the Holy Spirit.

Commentary:

Throughout Scripture, a pattern emerges:

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Jesus prays → the Spirit descends. The early church prays → they are filled with the Spirit and speak boldly

This isn't coincidence—it's a pattern.

Prayer is not just preparation: It is the pathway through which God releases His power in and through us.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What happens in these passages after prayer?
- 2) What pattern do you notice between prayer and the Holy Spirit?
- 3) Why do you think prayer is so central before God moves?

Takeaway:

Prayer is the foundation for experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

The disciples didn't just have a mission—they had a posture: prayer.

Before they moved, they prayed.

Before they acted, they waited.

Before power came, prayer was happening.

Reflect:

1. Where are you tempted to rush ahead instead of waiting on God?
2. What does your current prayer life reveal about your dependence on Him?

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3. Are you asking God for His power—or trying to rely on your own strength?
4. What are you consistently praying for right now?

Key Truth:

The power you need for what God has called you to do is found in prayer.

LIVING IT OUT

Let this passage move you from reflection to action this week:

Prioritize prayer daily

Set aside intentional time to seek God—not just when you need something, but to depend on Him.

Pray for the Holy Spirit

Ask God to fill you, guide you, and empower you for His mission (Luke 11:13).

Pray with others

Don't do this alone—gather with 1–3 people and pray consistently together.

Pray for the mission

Ask God to:

- 1) Send workers (Luke 10:2)
- 2) Give boldness
- 3) Open doors to share your faith with others.

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Persevere in prayer

Keep going even when it feels slow, quiet, or difficult (Romans 12:12).

Identify one person

Ask God to put someone on your heart and begin praying for them intentionally.

For LifeGroups:

ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER

Talk through these together:

1. Where do you struggle most with waiting on God?
2. What helps you stay consistent in prayer?
3. Where do you need God's power in your life right now?

Share honestly and help each other grow in dependence on God.

PRAY TOGETHER

1. Thank God for inviting you into His mission
 2. Ask Him to fill you with the Holy Spirit
 3. Pray for boldness and obedience
 4. Pray for specific people who need Jesus
 5. Ask God to grow your hunger for prayer
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Final Thoughts:

Prayer isn't extra—it's the foundation.

Before the church moved, they prayed.

If we want to see God move, we start the same way.