



MEMORY VERSE

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

SESSION 4

**ENABLED &
EMPOWERED**



One of the reasons we don't share our faith isn't because we don't know the message. One of the reasons we don't share the good news of Jesus is because we see ourselves as the disciples in the upper room, scared and intimidated versus the disciples who are empowered by the Holy Spirit. Let's look at what it means to be enabled and empowered by the Holy Spirit.



SHARE
**YOUR
STORY**

Open your group with prayer. This should be a brief, simple prayer, in which you invite God to be with you as you meet. You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

As we have said in previous lessons, sharing our personal stories builds deeper connections among group members. Your story may be exactly what another person needs to hear, and listening to others' stories is an act of love and kindness to them—and could very well help them to grow spiritually.

Begin your time together by using the following questions and activities to get people talking:

- **Have you ever witnessed to someone? Tell the group about it.**
- **Think about the Selfer's Prayer from last week. How did you allow Jesus to live through you this past week?**

Share one prayer request and one thing you want to thank God for. Spend some time praying about what you've shared.

Take some time for each person to share about how they're doing on the challenge of inviting the people on the **Circles of Life diagram** to church or your small group. What specific conversations are you praying about for the weeks to come?





WATCH THE VIDEO

Use the Teaching Notes space provided to record key thoughts, questions and things you want to remember or follow up on. After watching the video, have someone read the discussion questions in the **Hear God's Story** section and direct the discussion among the group. As you go through each of the subsequent sections, ask someone else to read the questions, and direct the discussion.

HEAR GOD'S STORY



READ LUKE 24:45-49.

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

READ ACTS 1:8.

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.

- What did Jesus do before He spoke in Luke 24:45?
- What is “the promise of my Father” that Jesus talks about in verse 48?
- Why did Jesus instruct them to stay in the city?
- What did the Holy Spirit empower the disciples to do?

STUDY NOTES

he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, verse 45,

Jesus enabled the disciples to understand in a different way following His resurrection. While Jesus had spent three and a half years with His disciples, the revelation of His mission (and their mission) was unfolded to them in stages.

Thus it is written, verse 46, Jesus' statement is not a direct quote from the Old Testament, but is a reference to Abraham offering Isaac as a sacrifice in Genesis 22.

Jerusalem, Luke 24:47 and Acts 1:8, Jesus and the disciples were in Jerusalem when Jesus spoke these words. Their mission started from the place where they were standing. The account of the disciples receiving power from the Holy Spirit and proclaiming the gospel in Jerusalem is recorded in Acts 2.

CREATE
**A NEW
STORY**



- In the video, Roger said, “To accomplish the greatest mission ever given...Jesus gave us a strategy and power source for its accomplishment.” How does the Holy Spirit empower believers to accomplish the mission?
- What does it mean to you to have 24 hour a day, seven day a week access to the Holy Spirit?
- In the video, Roger quoted John Bevere, who said, “The Holy Spirit longs to be our closest friend.” How comfortable do you feel about this statement? Tell the group why.
- What might cause believers to be reluctant when it comes to approaching the Holy Spirit?
- How are you allowing the Holy Spirit to enable and empower you?

- Each of you in the group has different gifts and abilities. And every small group has tasks and roles that need to be done. How could you serve this group—perhaps with hospitality or prayer, by organizing an event, research or study of a topic, or inviting new people?
- Spend some time praying about those you know who might respond to a simple invitation: to come to a church service, to join your small group, or even to just have coffee and talk about spiritual matters. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind people you can pray for.
- Groups grow closer when they serve together. How could your group serve someone in need? You may want to visit those who are homebound from your church, provide a meal for a family who is going through difficulty, or give some other practical help to someone in need. If nothing comes to mind, spend time praying and asking God to show you who needs your help. Have two or three group members organize a serving project for the group, and then do it!



FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY ▶▶▶

If you feel God nudging you to go deeper, take some time before the next meeting to dig into His Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own and jot your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. A great way to gain insight on a passage is to read it in several different translations. You may want to use a Bible app or website to compare translations.

▶ **READ JOHN 16:8-11.**

- According to this passage, what is the Spirit's work?
- Why does the Holy Spirit do this work?
- What partnership should you have with the Holy Spirit to fulfill Christ's mission?

▶ **READ JOHN 14:21-23.**

- According to Jesus, what is proof that someone loves Him?
- In verse 21, what does it mean for Jesus to "manifest myself to him?"-
- Based on this verse, how well are you loving Jesus?



DAILY DEVOTIONS

DAY 1

READ JOHN 8:28.

So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me."

Respond: What are you attempting to do on your own authority?

DAY 2

READ JOHN 14:10.

"Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works."

Respond: How does God dwelling in you impact your thoughts, words and actions?

DAY 3

READ MATTHEW 4:1.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Respond: Some people think the Spirit is leading them to where they want to go. Sometimes the Spirit leads us into difficult places. Where is the Spirit leading you?

DAY 4

READ ROMANS 8:27.

And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Respond: The Spirit knows your heart and intercedes on your behalf. What comfort (or discomfort) do you find in this verse?

DAY 5

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:11.

All these [spiritual gifts] are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Respond: What spiritual gifts have you received from the Holy Spirit? How does He use those gifts through you?

DAY 6

Reflect on the verses from this past week, and use the following space to write any thoughts God has put in your heart and mind about the things we have looked at in this session and during your Daily Devotions time this week.