



Explore

Look up and read your memory verse, Acts 1:8, in your Bible.

What did Jesus tell His followers that they would receive when the Holy Spirit came upon them?

The disciples had been able to do miracles by the power of God. But Jesus said they would now have God, the Holy Spirit, living in them.

Jesus told His disciples that they were going to be “witnesses.”

What is a witness? (Hint: Look at the definitions if you don't know.)

What makes someone a witness isn't that they share feelings or ideas; it's that they share important facts about the truth. God's witnesses tell others the truth about God.

The book of Acts tells us how the Holy Spirit filled the disciples and helped them to be God's witnesses.

Look up and read Acts 4:31 in your Bible.

The believers were all filled with the _____.

They spoke the Word of God with _____.

The disciples were told not to tell others about Jesus through their own strength and power. Instead they were filled with the Holy Spirit and given His power to preach the gospel.

Look up and read Acts 13:49 in your Bible, and fill in the blanks.

Because the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking the Word of God boldly, where did the Word of the Lord spread?

More and more people heard about Jesus because the Holy Spirit was empowering the disciples.

Look up and read Acts 13:52 in your Bible.

The disciples were filled with _____ and the _____.

Look up and read Acts 2:38 in your Bible.

If we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, we will receive the gift of the _____.

Everyone who accepts Jesus Christ is a believer and has received the Holy Spirit. When we are given the Holy Spirit, we have the power of God in us. This is how we can live in a way that honors Him, loving and serving others. With the power of God, we can be the witnesses He needs us to be. We can tell others the important truth about God's love for them.

Is there a time when you've seen someone be God's witness in what they said or did? What happened?

DEFINITIONS

DISCIPLES — followers of Jesus Christ

POWER — ability to do something

WITNESS — a person who tells the truth about God

Discussion Questions

These questions are just a few that your small group will talk about. Think about your responses to the following questions.

1. What does it mean to be one of God's witnesses?
2. When do we receive the Holy Spirit? What does He help us to do?

3.1 | JESUS REIGNS

During the triumphal entry, the people laid clothes and palm branches on the ground. Some people went in front of Jesus and some followed as Jesus traveled down the road into Jerusalem. The people were excited! They shouted praises to Jesus, but they didn't understand that He didn't come to live as their king in Jerusalem but came to save them from their sin.

Jesus loves you so much that He came to live here on earth so that He could die on the cross for your sin. He came to be the King of your life. If you know Jesus Christ as your Savior, He is your King. You probably won't spread clothes and branches on the ground, but you can still do something special for Jesus.

What can you do to worship Jesus as your King?

3.2 | JESUS SERVES

Jesus came to serve others. He loved His disciples and washed their feet to show them. Jesus also did it to show us how we should love and serve people too. Jesus came to serve the people He created. He came to give His life and die on the cross so that we could have a relationship with God.

We can only have a relationship with God if we accept Jesus as Savior. When we do that, Jesus washes away our sin, just like He washed away the dirt off of the disciples' feet. If you know Jesus as your Savior, you want to love and serve Jesus by serving others. When you follow Jesus' example, you will have joy because you have obeyed God.

Whom can you love and serve this week?

3.3 | JESUS PRAYS

When Jesus knew it was almost time for Him to be arrested, He took His disciples with Him to the garden of Gethsemane. Jesus was very troubled, and He knelt down and prayed. Jesus knew what was going to happen and how hard it all would be. He also knew that God's plan was best and wanted to be a part of that plan.

Prayer is the safe place you can tell God everything good AND bad. God will always give you the strength you need when you ask Him. We can talk with God when we are having a hard day or have to do something difficult. You can tell God exactly how you are feeling and what you are thinking.

What do you need to ask God to give you strength to do?

3.4 | JESUS SACRIFICES

Jesus loves you more than you can imagine. Jesus gave Himself up to God as the sacrifice for our sins. Jesus died on the cross in your place so that you can have a relationship with God. Jesus is the only one who could have made that sacrifice because He is perfect, and He is God.

People are sinful. Because of our sins, we cannot pay the price and be the sacrifice for our own sins. God wants you to understand that Jesus died in your place for your sin. He wants you to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior. God wants you to grow in your love for others, and that love comes from God.

What can you do to thank Jesus for the sacrifice He made for you on the cross?

3.5 | JESUS LIVES AGAIN

After Jesus died on the cross, His body was laid in a tomb. When Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb, an angel told them Jesus was not there. The angel told the women to go tell the disciples Jesus was alive. Jesus is the only one who has risen from the dead. Since Jesus is God, He has power over death.

Jesus died on the cross for your sins and has risen from the dead. If you trust Him as your Savior, you will be saved from the eternal punishment of sin. God wants us to be filled with joy because Jesus is alive.

Do you believe that Jesus is alive?

3.6 | JESUS RESTORES

Peter loved Jesus deeply. Jesus said that Peter would deny Him before the rooster crowed three times. Peter said he rather die than say he didn't know Jesus. What Jesus had predicted came true! Peter felt horrible because Jesus saw it all happen. Peter learned what it meant to stand up and say that he knew Jesus when others might hate him for it.

God loved Peter, just like God loves us. Remember that God is patient, and He won't give up on us.

How do you need God to restore and strengthen you this week?



3.7 | JESUS GIVES

God's witnesses tell others the truth about God. Jesus told His disciples that they were going to receive the Holy Spirit. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and given His power to preach the gospel. More and more people heard about Jesus because the Holy Spirit was empowering the disciples.

Everyone who accepts Jesus Christ is a believer and has received the Holy Spirit. When we are given the Holy Spirit, we have the power of God in us. With the power of God, we can be the witnesses He needs us to be.

Where does God want you to be His witness?

Review Verses

Luke 19:38

Saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

Luke 22:41-42

And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed.

Saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me. Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done."

Ephesians 5:2

And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Matthew 28:6

He is not here, for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay.

1 Peter 5:10

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

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.

SECTION 3.8 REVIEW COMPLETED



Leader Signature

Date