

## WEEK 8: THE MISSION AND POWER

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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#### Big Picture

*This is where we're going... the big ideas you want people to understand more deeply during this session.*




- Jesus' Commission to Make Disciples/Be His Witnesses.
- Jesus is Lord of the Mission.
- Disciples wait on the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit comes to live in disciples
- Disciples are empowered by the Holy Spirit
- The gospel is preached
- Thousands respond—repent, and are baptized
- A call here to affirm Jesus as Lord by being baptized in community (Family)

#### Set the Training Tone

*You will not need to repeat this list every week, but be aware of these and reestablish the right tone as necessary.*

- We are here to learn and change (not just a social time, but we also desire to grow closer and build community)
- Have fun, keep things moving and participatory.
- Welcome a challenge from me or others in the group (let's give each other permission to challenge us—probe, ask questions etc.).
- Strive to be honest and vulnerable and we should honor that by keeping what is shared in confidence.
- We are going to try and answer questions as much as possible from within the Story found in the Bible. Everything we need to learn about God and humans can be found right here in his Story!

#### Review Last Week's Story

-  **Last Week...** We looked at Jesus' death and resurrection. We saw that Jesus is the Passover Lamb that takes away the sins of the world. He died as a substitute for us—taking our sins and punishment upon himself. He came offering forgiveness—not judgment. But we also learned that Jesus taught that people bring judgment on themselves by not obeying his teaching and commands.
-  We talked through Jesus lordship. Jesus is Lord over: Salvation... Sin and death... Righteousness... Humanity... *Everything!*
-  We ended with the question:  
***Is Jesus Lord over your heart and life?***

## THE STORY & DIALOGUE

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### Story ~ The Mission and Power

*Story from John 20, Matthew 28 John 14 Acts 2 1 Corinthians 15:3-8*

In the weeks that followed Jesus' death, he appeared to his disciples many times and was seen by over 500 eyewitnesses. Quickly, the news about his resurrection spread throughout the land.

One of Jesus' disciples named Thomas said, *"I won't believe he is alive unless I can put my fingers into the holes where his hands were nailed to the cross."*

A few days later, Jesus appeared to his disciples and said to Thomas, *"Put your fingers here—feel the hole in my hand. Put your hand into the wound on my side."* Thomas shouted, *"It is you, Jesus—my God!"* Then Jesus said, *"I will bless those even more who haven't seen, but still believe!"*

Soon after that, Jesus met with his disciples over a meal. He said, *"John baptized you in water, but in a few days you will be baptized with God's Spirit. This will give you power to live in my ways and tell the entire world about me."*

Jesus commanded his disciples, *"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, GO and make disciples of all the nations, all over the world. Baptize these new disciples in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey all the commands I have given you and to walk in my ways. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." God's Spirit will come and live inside of you—giving you peace and leading you in all the ways of truth."*

As the disciples watched, Jesus went up into the sky, disappearing in the clouds right in front of them!

***(Pause for a moment...)***

A few weeks later, a group of 120 of Jesus' followers, including his closest disciples gathered to pray together in Jerusalem. All of sudden, they heard a loud sound, like a roaring windstorm, that filled the house where they were meeting. Each of them was filled with God's Spirit and started speaking in languages that were not their own! They went out into the street and began to tell people about all that Jesus had done.

This roaring sound was heard throughout the entire city, and a large crowd had gathered outside the house to see what was going on. At that time, Jews from all over the world were living in Jerusalem.

When the people heard Jesus' followers speaking, they said, *"How can this be? They're from Galilee, but they're speaking in our own languages. This is amazing!"*

One of Jesus' disciples, named Peter, stepped forward to explain to the crowds what was happening. He said, *"This is part of God's prophecy being fulfilled. We are eyewitnesses of the fact that Jesus was raised from the dead and is the true Messiah!"*

Then Peter explained how Jesus had fulfilled everything the prophets said about the Messiah. He told the crowd, *"Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God. In Jesus, you will find forgiveness—he is the final sacrifice for everyone's sin. This is God's new covenant offered not just to the Jews, but for all who want to be part of God's family."*

That day, thousands believed what Peter said and repented putting their trust in Jesus. They turned from their sins to follow Jesus and walk in God's ways. They were baptized and became a part of God's family—once again empowered to live out God's promise to be a blessing to all people.

God's new covenant was not written on tablets of stone like before, but on the hearts and minds of his people, so they would always know how to live in his ways.


These followers of Jesus were deeply committed to God and each other... sharing everything they had, praying, learning God's ways together, and helping anyone in need—all with great joy and generosity. Daily they ate together to honor and remember Jesus' life given for them.

They saw God do amazing things through them—miracles and healing—as he added people to their group each day.

This was the beginning of what the Bible calls the Church—a community of people all over the world who, because of Jesus, once again enjoy a life that is full and complete—a life lived close to God—the way God always intended it to be!

## Dialogue ~ The Mission and Power

Remember **this is a dialog, not a quiz**. The “answers” below each question are there to help you as a leader guide the discussion toward some key ideas.

 **Jesus commanded his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, GO and make disciples of all the nations, all over the world. Baptize these new disciples in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey all the commands I have given you and to walk in my ways. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” God’s Spirit will come and live inside of you—giving you peace and leading you in all the ways of truth.”**

**1. What is the mission Jesus sends his disciples on?**

*You may need to guide the discussion toward:*

- *Make disciples and baptize them...*

**2. What is a disciple? How do you make a disciple?**

**3. In light of the mission, why is it important that Jesus has ALL authority?**

- *He has the authority to command the mission*
- *He has the authority to fulfill the mission*
- *Disciples make disciples in his authority and power*

**4. What do you think is the implication of “GO” and “make” disciples...?**

*What are Jesus’ disciples to be about?*

- *“Go” implies intentionality, movement, change*
- *“Make” implies it’s a process*

**5. Is this command also for us today?**

**6. What’s the difference between someone who believes in God and a disciple of Jesus?**

**7. How do you need to live differently in light of this command?**

- *Disciples make disciples.*
- *Who are you discipling now in your life?*

**8. What’s keeping you from making disciples?**

**9. What do you see Jesus saying here about disciples and baptism?**

**10. Who is to be baptized? What is the purpose of baptism?**

**11. If you have submitted to Jesus as Lord of your life and have confessed this to be true in your life, then you are his disciple... Have you been baptized?**

**12. If you confess Jesus as Lord and have never been baptized raise your hand...**

*In your context you may not need to ask people to raise their hands. What you are trying to do here is find out which disciples have never been baptized. Do this in an appropriate and sensitive manner.*

**13. Is there anything keeping you from being obedient to this command of Jesus for your life?**

**14. In the Story, thousands repented and put their trust in Jesus. What were they repenting of and turning to?**

*You may need to guide the discussion toward:*

- *Living for themselves, as their own God, and turning to God in faith—submitting to Jesus' Lordship over all of life.*

**15. What was the result of their repentance? How did they live differently?**

*You may need to guide the discussion toward:*

- *They turned away from their old way of living and began walking in Jesus' ways.*

**16. What do we learn about the Spirit from this Story?**

*You may need to guide the discussion toward:*

- *Jesus said God's Spirit will come and live inside of you—giving you peace and leading you in all the ways of truth.*
- *In some ways like back in the garden (closeness with God restored), in some ways better... God, by his Spirit now lives INSIDE people! Restoration is taking place now.*
- *The Spirit preceded them preaching the gospel. It even affects their language and it interprets the gospel to the hearts of the listeners individually (many languages)! THEN they went boldly to explain to people what happened. It was the work of the Spirit preceding and empowering their "going and preaching the gospel."*

**17. Do you have a growing sense of the Spirit of God dwelling in you?**

**18. How is the work of the Holy Spirit changing your life right now?**

**19. After Jesus ascended into heaven, what were his followers/disciples doing in the story?**

*You may need to guide the discussion toward:*

- *Jesus commissions them; they wait on God's Spirit in prayer. That is their role—Wait on God's power. They were praying (listening) and the Spirit came.*

 **[Resting Slide]**

 **Mark 16:20**

***Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word***

 **1 Corinthians 1:18**

***For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.***

 **[Resting Slide]**





## EXTENDING THE DIALOGUE

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### Using Media

Use of songs, stories or artwork for further discussion...

### *Story of the Moravian Church*

20.  What are your thoughts after hearing this story?
21.  Where do you see the Moravians fulfilling the mission Jesus gave to his disciples?
22.  What do you think the motivation was behind the Moravians “going and making” of disciples?
23.  What do you think of the Moravian cry...  
*“May the Lamb that was slain receive the rewards of his suffering?”*

### Further Application

24.  If what we discussed today is true, how does/should it affect your life?
25.  How would it affect us as a community?
26.  How would it affect others... our neighborhood, our city?

### WALKING IT OUT

The Walking It Out handout is tool to help us engage the Story individually and with others during the week. This session alone is not nearly enough for someone to be saturated in the Story and begin living out the implications of the Story in everyday life with a community.

As you distribute them...

**point out a few key things from the handouts you as a leader have already found meaningful.**