

# WE ARE EMPOWERED TO BE WITNESSES TO THE END OF THE EARTH

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: LIVING ON MISSION / SERIES: ACTS

## BIG TRUTH: WE ARE EMPOWERED TO BE WITNESSES TO THE END OF THE EARTH

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 26:16; John 15:15; Romans 10:15

### BIBLE VERSE: 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."*

### BIG IDEAS

- The Father has all authority.
- The Holy Spirit gives us power to witness.
- Our witness proclaims Jesus to the ends of the earth.

### BIBLE PASSAGE: ACTS 1:1-11

### KNEEL: LIVING ON MISSION

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28) and to use our influence to lead others to do the same. We know that as we pursue a life of worship, we will pursue a life of both wisdom and mission. Throughout this year we will study and pursue the wisdom of God through the book of Proverbs and the mission of God through the book of Acts, and we will learn how both of these things must inform and shape our influence as Jesus followers!

### SERIES AIMS



#### Every student should know...

- The gospel has the power to turn the world upside down.
- They are empowered and chosen to be a gospel witness in the world.
- Our salvation has come by grace alone.



#### Every student should feel...

- Comfort that the Lord is with them wherever they go.
- Hope in the God of salvation.
- Responsible to use their influence to live for Jesus alone.



#### Every student should strive to...

- Read, study, and meditate on the entire book of Acts.
- Memorize the Bible verse each week.
- Pray consistently for boldness to make Jesus known.



#### Every student should want...

- To pursue faithfulness in living on mission.
- To share the gospel with people in their lives who do not know Jesus.
- To sacrifice their personal freedoms for the sake of the gospel

### GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



Property of Tri-Cities Baptist Church  
171 Promise Land Dr. Gray, TN 37615

# WE ARE EMPOWERED TO BE WITNESSES TO THE END OF THE EARTH

## BIBLE VERSE: 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."*

### God's people receive power from His Spirit.

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..."*

- The Holy Spirit is fully God and works inside of God's people to empower them to do His will. When Jesus prepared His people for His ascension into heaven after His resurrection, He promised them that the Holy Spirit would come, and the Spirit would give them the power to proclaim His truth in all of the world.
- God's people today receive this power from the Holy Spirit at work inside of them. At salvation, the Holy Spirit indwells a person and empowers them to do God's will. The Holy Spirit is God at work inside of His people making them bold to witness for Him wherever they are.

### God's Spirit abides in His people forever.

*"...when the Holy spirit has come upon you..."*

- One of the most remarkable things about being a follower of Jesus is that His Spirit lives inside of His people. The Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of the Trinity and when we have saving faith, the Spirit abides in us always.
- This means that there is never a time when the Spirit goes away or leaves us. We do not have to pray for the Spirit to come inside of us. God sends His Spirit to live inside of us when we repent and believe in Jesus. The Spirit is with us always. This means we have power always to witness for Jesus wherever we are.

### God's Spirit empowers His people to live obedient lives for Him everywhere.

*"...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

- To be empowered is to be given power and authority to do something. God's Spirit indwells His people and gives them power and authority to speak for Him.
- This means that wherever His people are, they are His witnesses. They can speak for Him and tell others what He has done for them and what He can do for them.

# WE ARE EMPOWERED TO BE WITNESSES TO THE END OF THE EARTH

## BIG IDEA #1: THE FATHER HAS ALL AUTHORITY.<sup>1</sup>

### [ THIS ]

The idea of authority is one that is viewed as positive or negative. We enjoy the authority of others when it is used for our good and benefit. When authority is used against us or to oppress us, we resist it and bristle under it. The world's idea of authority contradicts God's authority. God the Father holds all authority. He is the Creator of all things and has all authority. Just like an artist has control and authority over his creation, God has control and authority over His creation. In Acts 1:7, Jesus taught His followers that the Father, the first person of the Trinity, holds all authority. This authority is not used against God's people. Instead, it is used for the good of God's people. When we look at the world, we can see that this is true because the entire world benefits from God's rule over it. God rules over His physical world, which means that He tells the sun to shine, and He keeps the cycle of life going on earth. Everyone on earth benefits from His authority over His creation whether they follow Him or not. This authority is good and just and right because God is good, just, and right.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**How do we often view authority as something to be earned? How does the world distort authority?**

We often view authority as something that we should gain because it has been abused. People get authority and use it for their own personal gain instead of to help others. Romans 13:1 tells us that all authority is from God. This means that people only have the authority that God gives them. Authority originates with God because He has all authority.

### [ THIS ]

In Acts 1:6-7, the disciples wanted to know if Jesus was going to restore the kingdom of Israel on earth. Jesus' response was no doubt not what they wanted to hear at the time. They were hoping that He was going to put an end to the Roman rule that controlled them, but that was not the plan. In Acts 1:7, He tells them that the Father in heaven holds all authority and knows the time that the kingdom would be restored. God the Father has all authority, and He has always had it. Authority begins with Him and ends with Him. Our response to this truth should be one of hope and rejoicing because God is the God of the universe, and He alone has the power to control and rule over all things. This very authority that He has, He uses for His glory and our good. He doesn't use His authority to oppress us or to hurt us. Instead, He works all things for His glory and our good.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Why do we give earthly rulers more authority and power than they truly have?**

We are told in Scripture to submit to earthly rulers because this is what is right in the eyes of God as Romans 13:1-2 tells us. Often, though, we give these rulers more authority than they really have. Matthew 28:18 reminds us that all authority is given to Jesus from the Father. Though we are governed by earthly rulers, the true authority lies with our heavenly Father and Savior.

**What hope does it give you knowing that the Father has all authority?**

Knowing that all authority rests with the Father should give us great hope because we know that He works on our behalf. As James 1:17 tells us, every good and perfect gift comes from the Father above.

1. Acts 1:7: God the Father has all authority and knows all things.

# WE ARE EMPOWERED TO BE WITNESSES TO THE END OF THE EARTH

## BIG IDEA #2: THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US POWER TO WITNESS.<sup>2</sup>

### [ THIS ]

In this world, when someone has authority, it is often used for their benefit. They do not share it or allow others to join them in what they are doing. The Father gives His authority to His people to empower them and equip them to witness for Him on the earth. He does this by giving His Spirit to them. In Acts 1:1-11, Luke shares the story of Jesus' ascension into heaven. Prior to Jesus' departure into heaven, He promises the coming of the Holy Spirit. The promise of the Holy Spirit meant that God's people would not be alone in this world. Though Jesus was ascended into heaven and would no longer walk the earth, God's Spirit was coming to indwell God's people always. The Spirit's purpose is to seal His people and to give them power and authority to tell others about Jesus in this life. This power is the power of God inside of us giving us the words to speak and the boldness to say them in any and every situation.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Read Acts 1:1-11. What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit indwelling His people?**

The Holy Spirit comes to live inside of His people to empower them to live for Him and to speak for Him. He gives them boldness and serves as a seal upon them that they are redeemed by God. His presence inside of them shows the world that they are indeed children of God. Ephesians 1 and Romans 8 teaches us that God's Spirit indwells His people to give them power to witness for Him.

### [ THIS ]

The power of the Holy Spirit inside of His people isn't just so we can live good lives or moral lives. We are given the Holy Spirit to live bold lives that witness to others in radical ways that Jesus is the Savior of the world. The Spirit is the One who enables us to do hard things, to overcome challenges, and to face persecution and trials in this life. God created us to glorify Him and the way we bring Him glory is by sharing with others who He is and what He has done. He doesn't leave us to ourselves to figure out how to do this. He gives us His authority and power by giving us His Spirit to help us accomplish His will for our lives. Having God's Spirit inside of us gives us great power because we are able to resist temptation, speak boldly, understand Scripture, and persevere in times of great trial. This power enables us to show the world through our words and actions that Christ is indeed the Savior of the world.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**What is significant about the Spirit of God living inside of His people? How does this give His people great power?**

Romans 8:26, Isaiah 11:2, and John 14:15-17 teach us of the power and significance of the Spirit of God living inside of us. This Spirit is great and powerful and dwells in us. There is no power greater and the truth that He lives in us gives us power over this world.

**Who can you witness to today knowing that you have the power of the Holy Spirit inside of you?**

Acts 1:8 tells us that the Spirit gives us the power to witness about Jesus to the world. Because we have this power, there is no reason for us not to tell others about Him. John 15:26 reminds us that the Spirit helps us bear truth about Him. The Spirit helps us understand truths about Jesus so that we can tell others. He gives us boldness to speak truth.

2. Acts 1:8: God gives His Spirit to empower us to be His witnesses in all the world.

# WE ARE EMPOWERED TO BE WITNESSES TO THE END OF THE EARTH

## BIG IDEA #3: OUR WITNESS PROCLAIMS JESUS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.<sup>3</sup>

### [ THIS ]

In Acts 1:1-11, Jesus ascends into heaven, ending His earthly ministry. The end of His earthly ministry ushers in the beginning of the proclamation of the gospel to the ends of the earth. Jesus' earthly ministry took place in a concentrated area of the world, but when He left this earth, He commissioned and sent out His followers into all the world. Often, the removal of something results in the growth of other things. While Jesus, Immanuel, left the earth, He did not leave His people alone. Sending the Spirit was the better and greater thing because the Spirit resides inside of God's people and is always present. Having the Spirit empowers us to witness to the ends of the earth for Jesus. The Spirit connects us to other believers all over the world. Because of this connection, when they rejoice, we rejoice. When they suffer, we suffer. This involves us in the global church of Jesus. Because of this, we desire to see the gospel proclaimed in all the earth.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**How have you felt a connection to believers in other countries because of the Holy Spirit?**

Ephesians 2:18 reminds us that we are joined together by the Spirit and connected as one body. As a body, we work together to accomplish God's purpose for His people. This connection surpasses all boundaries. We can feel connected to someone who doesn't even speak the same language because we share the same Spirit.

### [ THIS ]

Proclaiming Jesus to the ends of the earth is the duty of the church. God has called and equipped His body to carry His truth into the world. His Spirit is the power by which His people serve, obey, and proclaim truth everywhere. In Acts 1:8, Jesus says that His people will witness for Him all over the world. John 3:16 tells us that God sent Jesus for the world and that means that the witness of Jesus must go out to all of the world, not just parts of it. God's people stand with no excuse for not taking the gospel to every inch of the globe because they have the power of God inside of them through His Spirit. Jesus promised this Spirit to His people before He left the earth, and the Spirit came and lives inside of every believer now. We can use this power to tell others through our words and deeds that Jesus died for the sin of mankind and rose on the third day.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**How often does fear keep you from being a witness for Jesus?**

Psalm 34:4 and 56:3 show us that God is our source of boldness and helps when we are afraid. When we fear sharing truth about Him, we can remember that we have His Spirit inside of us. Deuteronomy 31:6 also reminds us that we have this power in us that fights for us and goes before us to prepare our way.

**What would it look like for you to proclaim Jesus to the ends of the earth?**

Matthew 5:16 and Mark 16:15-16 teach us that proclaiming Jesus in all the world is what we are called and equipped to do. We can be His witnesses wherever we are. We are empowered to do this, and we can live obediently to Him in our daily lives and be obedient to go wherever He sends us to go.

3. Acts 1:8: We are commanded to witness for Jesus in all of the world.