

Small Group Discussion Outline



PART FIVE IN OUR "LIVING IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD" SERIES

At the beginning of this series we looked at two kingdoms: the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Darkness. Each Kingdom has a purpose; in essence, the purpose of God's Kingdom is abundant life for Christians while the purpose of the Kingdom of Darkness is destruction and death. (John 10:10)

Each kingdom also has a mission; the mission is the overall plan for achieving the purpose.



Read: Acts 1:1-11



- 1. Who is Jesus speaking to in Acts 1:8?**
- 2. Who does that apply to today?**
- 3. What does it mean to receive "power"?**
- 4. What does it mean to be Jesus' "witness"?**

Jesus is speaking to His followers, His disciples. These are people who have chosen to learn from Jesus, allow themselves to be instructed in His ways and who aim to become like Him in the things He said and did. A disciple is one whose goal is to become like their teacher.

This is the goal of Christians today.

To receive "power" means to be filled with the Holy Spirit who supernaturally empowers us to be effective witnesses for Jesus. This empowerment, or enabling can be displayed in several ways through the many special gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-11), and because the Holy Spirit is the inner strength we need in order to live Godly lives - which are themselves a witness to others of the change Jesus brings in our lives.

There are several examples of this empowerment in the Bible.



Read: Exodus 4:12; Acts 6:1-10; Acts 10:37-48

The rate at which the Early Church (recorded in Acts) grew was because these followers of Jesus obeyed His command to share the Good News with others. They did not go in their own strength, but with the enabling of the Holy Spirit, however, this enabling was only evident and effective because they did step out in obedience.



Read Matthew 28:18-20

The Mission of The Kingdom

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5. Who is this command given to?

6. Is any follower of Jesus exempt from this command?

An unfortunate misconception has arisen in the church, especially in the Western World, where this task of sharing our relationship with Jesus with those around us has been delegated to “Evangelist Teams”, or “Leaders” or people who are charismatic and confident.

The New Testament church clearly reveals a community of believers who, despite a lack of theological understanding or formal training, simply knew that their relationship with Jesus was the only thing that could change their lives and the lives of those around them and chose to obey the command of Jesus to tell others.

Every single Christian is a minister. The primary responsibility of every follower of Jesus is to share the Good News that God loves us and desires a relationship with us and has made a way - through Jesus - that we can enjoy a relationship with Him.

Christians are minister’s for Jesus because they have been called by Jesus, have accepted the call, and have been given a mission.

Every Christian is given a mission by Jesus to be His minister in their work place, school, sports club, child’s kindergarten, circle of friends, and family.

If you are a follower of Jesus then you have been called by Jesus, have accepted that call (asked for forgiveness from God and accepted Jesus into your heart) and have been commanded by Jesus to represent Him to those around you and to share of your relationship with Him.



7. What does it mean to be a “minister” in the situations God has placed you?

8. What are some ideas for doing this?

9. Does knowing that all Christians are ministers change some of the ways you view the church and your place in it?



Read Acts 1:8 again

As you read through the New Testament and, in fact, the whole Bible, you will see that God calls people and gives them tasks to do, not because of their natural ability or their social status, but because of their heart attitude of loving God and desiring to please Him.

When God gives you a mission (as He has!) you can draw comfort from the fact that God will also give the enabling for you to fulfil that mission. Of course, the choice to use that enabling is always yours!

All followers of Jesus have been given a mission which can only be fulfilled with the power that the Holy Spirit brings. To fulfil the Kingdom Mission we need Kingdom Power - this is the Holy Spirit.



10. Discuss with your group any times when you have experienced the Holy Spirit.

11. (Optional) Pray for one another to receive and experience the power of the Holy Spirit in your lives, either for the first time or in a new way.

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