

HOMework

Share the gospel with someone this week. If you need help doing so, talk with your community group leader(s) or one of the church staff members about how to share the truth of God's revelation.

RAISE THE QUESTION

Mother Teresa was invited to speak at the National Prayer Breakfast in 1994. All speakers at these bi-partisan events are instructed to avoid making any comments that might cause "controversy." Well, Mother Teresa did not get that memo. In front of an audience that included many of the heavy hitters in Washington, she boldly declared:

"I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself...The mother who is thinking of abortion, should be helped to love, that is, to give until it hurts her plans, or her free time, to respect the life of her child. The father of that child, whoever he is, must also give until it hurts..."

—<http://md4jc.blogspot.com/2008/06/mother-teresa-bill-clinton.html>

Describe a time when you saw someone small do something very powerful.

This week, we continue looking at the Spirit-filled life. So far, we have discussed a life full of the spirit as being hope-full, truth-full, help-full, and peace-full. Now, we will look at the Spirit-filled life as one full of power given for God's purpose.

SEEK THE ANSWER

Read Acts 1:1–12

The power of the Holy Spirit is often misunderstood, and one of the key elements that is commonly missing is the purpose for such power. Acts 1:8 helps to fill in this gap. Jesus tells His disciples that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them. This power would enable them to be His witnesses "to the farthest parts of the earth." The purpose of the power of the Spirit is God's glory—not man's glory. **In what ways does this understanding of purpose critique modern-day misuses of the power of the Spirit.**

Another truth that we see in Acts 1:1–12 is that God's power is conveyed through God's people. He did not choose rocks, grass, or trees; He chose His disciples. **How should the presence of the Holy Spirit's power within us influence how we go about our daily tasks?**

LIVE THE TRUTH

Read 2 Corinthians 12:8–10

One of the most amazing things about the power of the Holy Spirit is that it is manifest through suffering. The Spirit's power is "made perfect in weakness." **Discuss how the Spirit's power in the presence of weakness helps you to glorify God.**

God's power is very different from how Western society views power. Our culture views power as flashy, with the purpose of pointing to self, while God's power is often subtle, pointing back to God. Worldly power is often a result of pride, while God's power is given to the humble. **Given the abundance of resources in our society, and their temptations, how can believers pursue humility?**

Prayer is how we as Christians have access to the power of the Spirit. **As a group, pray for the power of the Spirit to indwell each of you for the Glory of God's Kingdom.**