

## Bible Verses

### Q1 and 2

Acts 1:4-8 ESV - 4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 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."

Matthew 4:19 ESV - 19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

### Q3

Romans 12:2 ESV - 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV - 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Matthew 25:34-40 ESV - 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

## "The Power to Become"

We Are Sent- week #1

### INTRODUCTION

How will you become the person that God wants you to be? It is not likely to happen in an instant. Rather it is the result of the decisions you make day by day as you travel the path God has placed before you. But God's concern is less about which choices you make along the way and more about what motivates you to make those choices. As He concluded His earthly ministry and returned to heaven, Jesus told the disciples that they would receive power to become His witnesses. Their journey as heralds of God's Kingdom and founders of the Church was just beginning. A long road lay ahead of them. But God's promised Holy Spirit would empower them to *become* who they needed to be, so that they could *do* what He had called them to do. We also need the power of the Holy Spirit if we are going to become who God wants us to be and do what God calls us to do.

### Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

How long would you say it took to become proficient at your job?

### STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

#### Q1. Read Acts 1:4-8; Matthew 4:19

The word "witness" is used both a noun and a verb. Which does Jesus use in Acts 1:8? Jesus told the disciplines he would make them fishers of men in Matt 4:19. What is the difference between someone who goes fishing and someone who is a fisherman and how does that difference relate to Jesus's statement to his disciples that they would be witnesses, not that they would bear witness?

Discuss with your group any commitments you have to God and the difference between "doing something" verses "being someone". For instance, what is the difference between singing worship songs and being a worshiper of God? Teaching a Bible study and being a teacher?

## Active Waiting

### Q2. Read Acts 1:4-5;8

Jesus' instructions in Acts 1: 4 and 5 were for the disciples to wait in Jerusalem and be baptized with the Holy Spirit. As you read their response, what appears to be their focus?

Have you ever experienced trying to do something for God without waiting for God's power and authority enabling you to do it? On the other hand, have you ever felt like God had fully prepared you for something you might not have expected?

God knows our future and when He asks us to wait for something, it doesn't mean we do nothing in the meantime. Look at the "big picture" Jesus shared in Acts 1:8. He gave them their "destination", but not the specifics of how to get there. Between being commissioned and being a witness to the ends of the earth, there was a lot of growth to take place in their lives. What do you think has the greatest impact on your effectiveness as a witness?

### How do we become a witness?

### Q3. Read Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Matthew 25:34-40

If you are a witness of Jesus, people will look at you and see the evidence of who He is. That evidence is not produced by cleverly developed arguments. The best witness of Jesus is living a life that reflects and reveals God's image. How are we to be transformed into the image of God according to Romans 12:2? What is the source of our transformation (2 Corinthians 3:18)?

Romans 12:2 contrasts two sources that can influence us. We are perfectly useless as Christ-exalting Christians if all we do is conform to the world around us. But if we are so focused on being transformed, and becoming more like Christ, then our hearts are so close to Jesus that the outpouring of our lives couldn't help but be aligned with the heart of God. What are some of those "God-honoring" deeds mentioned in Mat 25:34-40? What are some attitudes and habits that each of us can embrace that will allow God's spirit to significantly transform us into His image?

## WRAP-UP

God sends us out, but before we take the first step to do what he calls us to do, we must focus on becoming the person he wants us to become. Thankfully, God has provided His Holy Spirit to empower us to be transformed into His image. If we focus on allowing Him to change us, rather than focusing on doing good deeds, then God-honoring actions will naturally flow from our lives. And when the lives we live reflect God's love and character we are effective witnesses to the world.

## Memory Verse

*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."*  
- Acts 1:8 ESV

*Challenge- The Matthew 25 Challenge is a week-long challenge that will help you and your family step out of your comfort zones and engage in God's love for "the least of these brothers and sisters" who Jesus calls us to care for in Matthew 25:35-40. Sign up today at [worldvision.org/M25](http://worldvision.org/M25), and you'll get one email a day over the next week with your daily challenge, impactful stories, and ways to pray and talk about Matthew 25 with your family. You can also sign up to receive daily texts by texting M25 to 44888.*

## PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members' needs: (see back for more space)

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