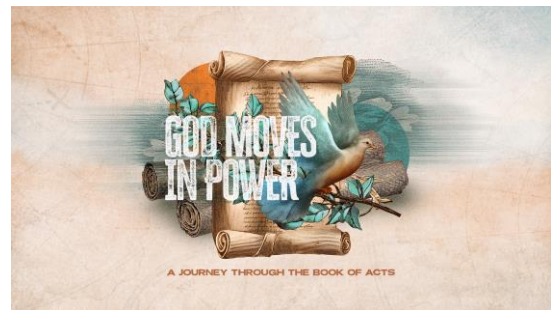




God Moves in Power: A Journey through the Book of Acts

Group Discussion Guide | August 2
God Moves in Power through Prayer

Series overview and leader instructions

Overview

Our current sermon series, “God Moves in Power,” is a journey through the book of Acts, where we witness the Holy Spirit at work through prayer, the gospel, the Church, and ordinary people. As we explore the story of the early church, we’ll discover that the same God who moved powerfully then is still moving today. This series will challenge and encourage us to live with bold faith, expectant prayer, and a willingness to join God’s ongoing mission in the world. The story of Acts is far from over and we’re invited to be a part of it.

Note: This series will be a thematic walk through the Book of Acts rather than a chapter by chapter or verse-by-verse study.

Bible Lab

Each week, in addition to sermon discussion questions, groups are invited to participate in “Bible Lab,” an interactive Scripture reading experience. Your group will read a different text each time you gather, but the questions you ask will be the same, inviting you to consider what you notice about God, humanity, and yourself in each passage. By providing the same questions each week, we hope to offer a Bible-reading strategy that puts the emphasis first on God and the church/others before drawing a personal application.

It could be tempting for your group to skip the Bible Lab, but we *strongly* encourage you to engage with it each week, allowing God’s Word to form your group and each person in it.

Reading Plan

We have created a reading plan to accompany this sermon series. You can find it here: [Acts Series Resources](#). You can download the reading plan or subscribe to receive the daily devotional guide each week, which contains the reading plan and reflection questions.

Consider committing to completing the reading plan as a group. Here are questions you can use (during your life group time, over a meal, or however you choose) to reflect on the reading plan each week:

- As you read, what resonated with you?
- What questions came up in your mind?
- What challenged you from God’s Word?

Opening reflection questions (10 minutes)

- Do you remember any misconceptions you had about prayer as a kid?
- Dan provided a definition of prayer in his sermon. How would *you* define prayer if someone asked you to?

Bible Lab (20 minutes)

All through the God Moves in Power series, we'll be spending time each week in what we're calling "Bible Lab." Bible Lab consists of three "movements." In the first movement, we will read the passage out loud, paying attention to what is happening in the passage. In the second movement, we'll read it out loud again, noticing what it teaches about God, people, and ourselves. In the third movement, we will silently read the passage and share what next step the passage has for us.

***Note:** See the last page of this document for a guide you can provide to your group members if desired. You could print one for each person, collect them after Bible Lab, and reuse the same guide each week.*

Movement 1

*Invite everyone to turn to **Acts 1:12-26**.*

The first time through, we want to get an overview. As we listen, ask yourself:

- What is going on in this passage?
- What caught your attention?
- What questions arise as you listen?

Read Acts 1:12-26 out loud or invite someone else to do so. When you are finished, discuss your group's answers to the questions above. Feel free to break into groups of 2-3.

Movement 2

The second time through, we want to consider what the passage reveals about God and His people. As we listen, ask yourself:

- What does this passage show you about God? The work of the Holy Spirit?
- What do these verses reveal to us about the body of Christ, the Church?

Read Acts 1:12-26 out loud or invite someone else to do so. When you are finished, discuss your group's answers to the questions above. Feel free to break into groups of 2-3.

Movement 3

Each of us will now take a few moments to read Acts 1:12-26 silently to ourselves. As you read, prayerfully consider this question:

- Lord, what are You inviting me to believe, receive, or do in response to this passage?

Allow time for everyone to read and reflect. Then invite anyone who would like to share a brief response.

*When the time of sharing is done, pray a short prayer. You may use these words based on James 1:22 or something similar: “**Lord, thank You for this time in Your Word. May we not merely listen to the word and so deceive ourselves. May we do what it says. And may we encourage each other in that pursuit. Amen.**”*

Discussion of the sermon (25 minutes)

Waiting in prayer

The disciples were waiting in Jerusalem just as Jesus had commanded (Acts 1:4). And while they waited, they prayed.

- On a scale of 1-10, how would you rank how well you do at “waiting in prayer” (1 = never give prayer a thought; 10 = I don’t make a move without praying about it first).
- How might this week’s sermon and/or Bible Lab passage shift that number closer to 10?
- Can you share a time when you waited on God (as Daniel did)? What was the outcome?

Unity in prayer

All the believers (not just the Eleven) gathered *together* to pray, in the same room, at the same time, with the same requests. They experienced *unity*. As Dan said, “Division persists in God’s family because prayer doesn’t.”

- What are some specific ways praying with someone else can bring unity to a relationship or group?
- What relationships or groups in your life could benefit from the unity that prayer brings? What is a step you could take toward including prayer there?
- What about our life group? How can we follow the example of the early believers to bring greater unity to our group through prayer? (*This is a great time to talk about the life group prayer experience!*)

Direction in prayer

The believers in Acts 1 faced a major decision: who to choose as Judas’ replacement. Although the disciples drew lots to choose the new member of the Twelve, they used wise criteria to evaluate

the candidates (Acts 1:21-22). They knew that both options they were pursuing met God's standards.

- Where and how does prayer factor in when you have big decisions to make? (Be honest!)
- Have you ever asked God to bless or give you wisdom about a choice or option you already *knew* was wrong?
- What are some basic biblical criteria we can apply to choices? (For example, God will never tell you to disobey His Word or sin against Him!)
- Take a moment to consider: is there a decision you are facing now that you need God's direction in? (*Your prayer time below asks you to spend time praying about this very thing.*)
- Is there anything else from this week's sermon or Bible Lab that you'd like to share?

Prayer and upcoming events (10 minutes)

Just as the believers in Acts 1 joined constantly in prayer, let's spend time in prayer together now. In this week's passage, we saw the believers seeking wisdom. Where in your life are you seeking wisdom now? We will spend time asking God for wisdom in specific areas of our life—and commit to waiting for His wisdom and obeying it!

You may wish to take prayer requests before you begin this time of prayer, during which you can pray for those requests and ask for wisdom. Or you can encourage people to "pray their requests," sharing them out loud in prayer rather than out loud in pre-prayer discussion.

Upcoming events

- **Life Group Prayer Experience:** Remember the prayer experience your group did in Rooted? Since church will be looking at how "God Moves in Power through Prayer" over the next few weeks, we've created another prayer experience for life groups to walk through together! *If you haven't already, designate a time and place for your prayer experience.*
- **August 20 Prayer Night:** You and your life group are invited to a church-wide Prayer Night on Thursday, August 20 from 5-8. (This prayer walk experience is similar in format to our Holy Week prayer experiences. You may arrive at any time in that window.)

Bible Lab Questions

The following may be used to guide each week's Bible Lab time.

Movement 1

The first time through this week's Scripture, we want to get an overview. As we listen, ask yourself:

- What is going on in this passage?
- What caught your attention?
- What questions arise as you listen?

Listen as the passage is read out loud then discuss your answers to the questions above.

Movement 2

The second time through, we want to consider what the passage reveals about God and His people. As we listen, ask yourself:

- What does this passage show you about God? The work of the Holy Spirit?
- What do these verses reveal to us about the body of Christ, the Church?

Listen as the passage is read out loud then discuss your answers to the questions above.

Movement 3

Each of us will now take a few moments to read the passage silently to ourselves. As you read, prayerfully consider this question:

- Lord, what are You inviting me to believe, receive, or do in response to this passage?

After a time of reflection, everyone will be given the opportunity to share their response.