

TEACHING GUIDE

Wind & Fire

The Power of the Sprit in ACTS

Sample

OUTREACH

SERIES OUTLINE

Title: Wind and Fire: The Power of the Spirit in Acts

Week 1: The Promise of Power

Scripture: Acts 1:1-11 // Luke 24:49

Write Up: The series opens with the promise of the Holy Spirit. Jesus, before His ascension, assures His disciples that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them. This week focuses on how the promise of the Spirit sets the foundation for the church's mission. We'll discuss the importance of waiting on God's timing and being open to receiving the Holy Spirit to be equipped for God's purposes.

Week 2: God Speaks

Scripture: Acts 2:1-13 // Joel 2:28-32

Write Up: Pentecost marks the dramatic arrival of the Holy Spirit. In this sermon, we explore the significance of the Spirit descending on the apostles, resulting in boldness, prophecy, and the birth of the early church. The focus will be on the unity that the Holy Spirit brings, empowering diverse believers to proclaim the gospel in ways that reach every nation and people group.

Week 3: Bold Witnesses

Scripture: Acts 4:23-31 // Acts 1:8

Write Up: After Peter and John face opposition from religious leaders, they pray for boldness—and the Holy Spirit fills them, empowering them to speak God's word with boldness. This week, we'll explore how the Holy Spirit gives us courage in the face of challenges, turning fear into boldness and opposition into opportunities for witness. We'll also look at the power of prayer in receiving the Spirit's strength.

CHALLENGE: Share your faith boldly this week

Week 4: Spirit Of Service

Scripture: Acts 6:1-7 // Acts 8:26-40

Write Up: The Holy Spirit doesn't just empower us for preaching; He leads us into service and directs our steps. He empowers us to live in the power of the Spirit of every day. This sermon will highlight how the Spirit led the early church to appoint leaders like Stephen to serve and share the gospel in new ways. We'll see how the Holy Spirit guides believers to serve in practical and spiritual roles, meeting needs and spreading the gospel.

Week 5: The Spirit Breaks Barriers

Scripture: Acts 10:34-48 // Acts 11:15-18

Write Up: The Spirit's power breaks down all barriers—ethnic, cultural, and social. When Peter preaches to Cornelius' household, the Holy Spirit falls on Gentiles, showing that God's grace is for all. This week focuses on the Spirit's work in breaking down walls of division and inviting all people to experience the fullness of God. We will explore how the Spirit empowers us to cross boundaries and share the gospel with those outside of our normal circles.

Week 6: The Spirit's Call

Scripture: Acts 13:1-4 // Acts 16:6-10

Write Up: As the church in Antioch fasted and prayed, the Holy Spirit called Paul and Barnabas to mission. This sermon will look at how the Holy Spirit guides the church's mission, directing where believers should go and empowering them for the work. We'll discuss how the Spirit continues to guide us today, sending us out into the world to spread the message of Jesus. This week serves as a call to live Spirit-empowered lives for the mission of God.

CHALLENGE/IDEA: Have a mission fair for your church - Mission Service opportunities in the church for people to serve. Maybe a focus on local mission but also larger mission opportunities.

SERMONWEEK 1

Wind And Fire: The Power of the Spirit in Acts

Week 1: The Promise of Power

Scripture: Acts 1:1-11 // Acts 2:1-4

Write Up: The series opens with the promise of the Holy Spirit. Jesus, before His ascension, assures His disciples that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them. This week focuses on how the promise of the Spirit sets the foundation for the church's mission. We'll discuss the importance of waiting on God's timing and being open to receiving the Holy Spirit to be equipped for God's purposes.

Think: Understand that the Spirit's power is not about our abilities but about surrendering to God's will.

Feel: Be inspired and encouraged by the truth that the same Holy Spirit that empowered the early Church is alive and at work in us today.

Do: Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower you and ignite your passion for the mission of God in your everyday life.

Sermon:

Good morning, church! What a gift it is to worship together this morning. One of the most beautiful truths about being part of the Church is that Jesus promised in the book of Matthew that where two or more are gathered in His name, He is present among them. That means we are not just here to sing, pray, and fellowship, we are here to encounter the living God. Today, we begin a brand-new sermon series called "Wind and Fire: The Power of the Spirit in the Book of Acts."

The book of Acts is the exciting, true story of how a small group of ordinary men and women, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, changed the world forever. These were not scholars, rulers, or warriors. They were fishermen, tax collectors, and everyday people like you and me. But when the Holy Spirit came upon them,

they became bold witnesses, performing miracles, preaching the gospel, and turning the world upside down. And here's the best part, that same Spirit is alive and moving today. Just as He empowered the first believers, He wants to work in and through us now. So, as we dive into this series, let's open our hearts, expectant and ready, for what God wants to do in our midst.

Story: Have you ever felt like you were being asked to do something far beyond your ability? I know I have... more times than I can count. One of the greatest examples of this comes from the classic novel *The Lord of the Rings*. Frodo Baggins, a simple, comfort-loving hobbit, never saw himself as a hero. So, when the wise old wizard Gandalf presents him with a dangerous mission, to carry the One Ring and destroy it, Frodo is reluctant. "I'm just a hobbit," he says, feeling unqualified and unprepared. Yet, despite his fears, he takes the first step. As the journey unfolds, Frodo discovers courage, resilience, and strength he never knew he had. Against all odds, he becomes the key to the mission's success, playing a pivotal role in the defeat of Sauron.

Just like Frodo, I can only imagine how the early followers of Jesus must have felt when they were entrusted with the monumental task of carrying the Gospel forward. Fear, uncertainty, and a deep sense of inadequacy must have weighed heavily on them. The Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts, both written by Luke, a physician and devoted disciple, tell this incredible story. Luke's writings form a two-part narrative. First, the Gospel of Luke, which details Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection; and then Acts, which follows the disciples as they step out in faith and continue the mission Jesus began. What started as a small group of hesitant believers became a movement that changed the world.

After Jesus' resurrection, we are told that he appeared to many people and gave them instructions as to what was supposed to happen next. Jesus tells his followers to wait for an important gift that was going to be necessary for them to be successful.

READ Acts 1:1-4, 8

Luke writes that the appearances that Jesus makes over a forty-day period, after He was resurrected, are proof of the coming Kingdom of God. In verse 4 Jesus gives a clear message for those who had gathered. He tells them that there is a very important role they are going to play in this Kingdom movement, BUT they

must be patient. They cannot accomplish what needs to be done in their own strength. They would need God's Spirit.

The Spirit would provide power, Jesus tells them. In fact, the word *power* in the Greek is *dynamis*. It means a supernatural strength and ability. It is where we get our English word dynamite. (The word "dynamite" was coined by combining the Greek word "dunamis" (power) with the Swedish suffix "-it" (which is used to form the names of rocks, minerals, commercial products, and other substances - American Heritage Dictionary). This is not human effort or skill, but divine empowerment that is beyond human ability. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead would now equip the disciples for their mission.

POINT #1 – WE NEED POWER TO BE A WITNESS

So, what were they being called to that was so important that they would not be able to do it of their own will? They were called to be witnesses. The word witness is the Greek word *martys*, where we get the word martyr because so many early believers gave their lives for the Gospel, they were martyrs. To witness is more than just sharing information or to tell a story, it is to live out in action and testify to the reality of Jesus with both words and activity. For this, they need the power of God to compel them. To live out this high calling from Jesus, the disciples would have to surrender to God and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit when it came.

STORY: When J. Wilbur Chapman was in London, he had an opportunity to meet General Booth, who at that time was past eighty years of age. Dr. Chapman listened reverently as the old general spoke of the trials and the conflicts and the victories. Then the American evangelist asked the general if he would disclose his secret for success. "He hesitated a second," Dr. Chapman said, "and I saw the tears come into his eyes and steal down his cheeks, and then he said, 'I will tell you the secret. God has had all there was of me. There have been men with greater brains than I, men with greater opportunities; but from the day I got the poor of London on my heart, and a vision of what Jesus Christ could do with the poor of London, I made up my mind that God would have all of William Booth there was. And if there is anything of power in the Salvation Army today, it is because God has all the adoration of my heart, all the power of my will, and all the influence of my life.'" Dr. Chapman said he went away from that meeting with General Booth knowing that "the greatness of a man's power is the measure of surrender." (*ministry127.com*)

The call of a disciple has never changed from that time until now. You, me, we are meant to be witnesses for Christ as well. We may not lose our physical lives for our commitment to Jesus, but it will most certainly cost us something. We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and surrendered fully to God. Jesus' plan from the beginning is for the good news of the Gospel to reach others. Jesus speaks to this as well.

READ Acts 1:8

From Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth, that was where they were to go with their message. This description may not make a lot of sense to us, but it would have made perfect sense to them. This progression would have been from areas very close to them to places very far from them. They were to speak about the coming Kingdom to people they encountered, and they were to demonstrate the coming kingdom by healing, delivering, and serving people around them.

POINT #2 – FROM HERE TO EVERYWHERE

The order that Jesus lays out for the expectations for His witnesses is significant. It is both a geographical and spiritual road map for expanding the Gospel of Christ. First, Jesus mentions Jerusalem. Jerusalem was their immediate context and the heart of Jewish worship. Judea was the surrounding region, still primarily Jewish but with some cultural distinctions. Samaria was a place of deep racial and religious tension where Jews and Samaritans were historically divided. The ends of the earth represented the global mission to reach Gentiles and people of every nation. From here to everywhere.

The question is, what is our equivalent in our culture? Today, our "Jerusalem" might be our family, friends, and local community. Our "Judea" might be the broader circle we influence, workplaces, and social circles. "Samaria" represents those who are different from us, people we may struggle to love or relate to. And the "ends of the earth" are the nations, the global call to share Jesus. The mission remains the same. God calls us to be His witnesses, empowered by the Spirit, to bring His love, truth, and power from here to everywhere. This is no easy task, but God promises us power to play our part. You could think about our intended impact like this.

STORY: *(Have a large, clear bowl of water and a few stones)* I have this stone in my hand, and I am going to drop it in this calm pool of water. Watch what happens. See how the ripples spread? They start right where the stone lands,