

INFECTIOUS

3. Empowered

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Acts 1.4-8

8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'*

- Jesus described God's promised gift as a baptism, but a baptism with the Holy Spirit, instead of water. What does the picture of baptism tell us about this experience? Have you had experiences of the Holy Spirit at all, and if yes, what were they like?
- When the disciples asked Jesus about 'dates and time' he told them it wasn't for them to worry about – it's not about you! Do Christians today still focus on minor details, instead of the main and plain mission to share the good news of Jesus with the world?
- v8. '*you will receive power... and you will be my witnesses*'. Why do we need power to be witnesses for Jesus? Surely the only thing a witness needs is the words to tell their story? Why does Jesus place such a huge emphasis on being empowered by the Spirit, and what might that look like?
- v8. '*to the ends of the earth*'. The vision that Jesus has for his witnesses is enormous in scope and boldly ambitious. When it comes to sharing our faith, do we tend to think small when Jesus is thinking big? Is it wrong for us to want the church to keep growing?
- If the Holy Spirit is given to us to empower us as witnesses, what two or three things would you most want from him, in order to be effective?

Big Idea: 'The Holy Spirit empowers us to be like Jesus in our actions and character.'

Pray together for a fresh touch of the Holy Spirit on every one in the group that's open to it. Present yourselves humbly to Jesus and then ask him to come by his Spirit. Lay hands on each other in turn and pray for boldness, power and spiritual gifts, so that we can be effective in sharing the good news.

Pray for a new Pentecost as God pours out His spirit on us. Commission one another to go in to work places, and networks of relationships, as powered up witnesses to the love of Jesus.