“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

— Acts 1:8
An iPad may be the coolest gadget ever invented, but it won’t do you a speck of good if its battery isn’t charged.

STEP 1
SHARE
a high and a low of the day
An electric car can have all the latest engineering and equipment waiting under its hood, but if its cables aren’t attached, it won’t leave the garage. The latest video game system may be loaded with all the most popular games, wired to a 70” TV and hooked up to surround sound speakers with enough power to knock the plaster off your grandma’s walls, but if you don’t plug it in and flip the switch, it is just a pile of plastic potential.

All of these amazing inventions need one thing or they don’t do you any good. Power.

Guess what? You are no different. The Bible says humans were a lifeless lump of mud until God breathed into them the Holy Spirit’s power. Jesus said we still need that power today. He promised it to his friends. That’s you!

The Holy Spirit Comes

Shortly before returning to heaven, Jesus told his friends to go to Jerusalem and wait for a special power to come to them. Dr. Luke, the author of the Gospel bearing his name, tells what happened next in his second book, called The Acts of the Apostles. Fifty days after Christ’s ascension on the day we call Pentecost (pente = fifty), the disciples were praying together in a locked room. Suddenly, the earth began to quake. A terrific wind blew upon them. Flames like tongues of fire appeared on their heads. Christ’s followers were gripped with a power the world had never seen before. It filled them with boldness, infused them with unexplainable gifts, and propelled them out to turn the world upside down.

People who were once afraid to talk about Jesus were suddenly witnessing to everyone they met. Uneducated fishermen instantly became convincing debaters and Bible scholars. Country folks who had never studied a foreign language before somehow knew how to witness in a dozen languages. Peter, the coward who had denied Christ and abandoned his friend to die, rose and preached such a convincing sermon that 3000 people were cut to the heart. They repented, believed in Jesus, and responded by being baptized that very day. The Christian church was born!

The Sacred Weapon

This small ragtag band of Christian rebels were unlikely candidates to change the world. Yet, these gutsy fishermen, tax collectors, housekeepers and reformed prostitutes attacked the empire with a powerful secret weapon—love. The empire struck back and tried to stop them, but couldn’t win. Once they plugged into the Holy Spirit’s power, nothing could stop them. Nothing.
STEP 3

TALK about how today’s verse relates to your highs & lows. Then discuss one or more of the following...

The Power of Love

Slaves and masters, men and women, rich and poor started treating one another with kindness and respect. Wealthy Christians sold everything they had and shared the proceeds with the whole community. Everywhere they went, followers of Jesus boldly proclaimed the risen Christ. Miracles happened in Jesus’ name. People were healed. Demons were sent running. When ordered to shut up, these crazy Christians kept witnessing. When beaten and imprisoned, they sang, praised God and prayed. One follower named Stephen became the first Christian martyr. He died forgiving the people who were stoning him.

How do you stop that kind of power? You don’t. You can’t. Even enemies of the church threw their hands up in frustration, exclaiming, “See how these Christians love one another!” You can fight an army. You can fight an insurrection. You can fight a philosophy. But you can’t fight love. It just doesn’t work. What kind of life-changing, world-arranging power do you need today? Courage power? Wisdom power? Love power? Healing power? Joy power? Peace power? Witnessing power? God has got those powers waiting for you and more! Further, God wants to give them to you. Jesus says ask. Seek. Knock. The gifts are waiting for you. What are you waiting for?

Bible Time

Read and highlight Acts 1:8 in your Bible, writing “Power!” in the margin.

Role Play

1. A friend is feeling down and depressed. She doesn’t think she has any gifts or talents. Read Galatians 5:22-23, then talk to her about God’s gifts waiting for her.

2. A friend who once belonged to your church is now attending another church he describes as a “Spirit-filled” church. He tells you, “Unless you can speak in angelic tongues, you don’t really have the Holy Spirit and you aren’t a real Christian.” Read I Corinthians 12:27 to 13:1, then respond.

Questions to Ponder

1. What is the most exciting event you ever witnessed? Did you tell anyone about it? Why or why not?

2. When was the last time you felt especially close to God? What part did Christian friends or family play in it? What part did the Holy Spirit play in this moment?

3. Have you ever prayed for the Holy Spirit to fill you? Why would you? Why wouldn’t you?
**STEP 4**

PRAY

for your highs & lows, for your family and friends, and for the world

**STEP 5**

BLESS

one another with a sign of the cross and these words:

(NAME), child of God, may the power of the Holy Spirit charge you up and get you moving today!

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**Quiz Bowl**

**What book follows the four Gospels in the New Testament?**

A) “The Thoughts of the Apostles”  
B) “The Theology of the Apostles”  
C) “The Ax of the Apostles”  


A) The Apostles  
B) Peter and Paul  
C) Paul and Silas  
D) Dr. Luke

**The “Acts of the Apostles” was written to someone named:**

A) Theophilus (Lover of God)  
B) Theodora (Gift of God)  
C) Theophobias (Feared of God)  
D) Theodogas (Dog of God with gas problem)

---

**The “Acts of the Apostles” is about the actions of:**

A) Jesus  
B) Luke, the author  
C) The Apostles of Jesus between the time he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven  
D) The Apostles of Jesus between the time he rose from the dead and the time Paul went to Rome in chains

---

**At the beginning of Acts, Jesus tells the disciples, “You will...”:**

A) “...all deny me”  
B) “...receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you”  
C) “...receive power when you join a bigger, better church”  
D) “...receive power when you win the lottery”

---

**Pentecost is:**

A) The 50th anniversary of the birthday of the Pope  
B) Fifty days after the resurrection of Christ and the day of the Hebrew “Feast of Weeks”  
C) The birthday of the church because it is the day the Holy Spirit came to empower the disciples to be Jesus’ witnesses  
D) Both B and C

---

**The Holy Spirit is...:**

A) A scary ghost  
B) A drink made with gin, tonic and crème de menthe  
C) A spirit God that came into being on that first Pentecost  
D) God’s Spirit that first called creation into being and now helps us know Jesus

---

**Jesus told his disciples they were to be his witnesses to:**

A) Just the Jews  
B) Just the Jews and Samaritans  
C) The Jews, the Samaritans, and to all the ends of the earth  
D) One another and not get too excited about telling anyone else or they might lose their parking spaces

---

**Acts 1:8 says, “You will receive power when...”**

A) “...the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses...”  
B) “...the Holy Spirit comes on you and teaches you how to speak in tongues but no one will understand a single word you are saying except the chosen”  
C) “...the Holy Spirit comes and you will be my silent partner”  
D) “...the Holy Spirit teaches you how to hold poison snakes”
Gather tonight with those you love. Journal your thoughts and prayers.

**DATE //**

**Acts 1:1-2**

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

**DATE //**

**Acts 1:3**

After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

**DATE //**

**Acts 1:5**

John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.
Gather tonight with those you love. Journal your thoughts and prayers.

**HOME HUDDLE™**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>My High</th>
<th>My Low</th>
<th>My Bible Verse</th>
<th>My High/Low/Verse Connection</th>
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**Acts 1:6-7**

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.”

**Acts 1:8**

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

**Acts 1:9**

When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.
Looking back on the week, my highest **HIGH** was...

My lowest **LOW** was...

My favorite Bible **READING** was...

My favorite **TALKING** time was...

One way God answered my **PRAYERS** was...

One way God might use me to be a **BLESSING** to my friends and family next week is...

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The sense of this word “Enthusiasm” among the Greeks affords the noblest definition of it; enthusiasm signifies “God in us.”

*Mme. De Stael*