



STUDY GUIDE

EMPOWERED 01.24.2016

[set up]

In the message, we learned about two groups of people: One group is kind of pessimistic about the future and the other group is fiercely optimistic. The pessimistic group could be made up of people who often don't like to plan. They have kind of a fatalistic approach about the future: "Whatever is going to happen is going to happen." So, they busy themselves with a variety of activities hoping that something good might happen but believing in their hearts that probably nothing good will. They tend to "rush around." The other group is made up of those type A, obsessive-compulsive planners. They believe, "If it's to be, it's up to me." So they make strategies. They create to do lists. They are determined to make something happen. They tend to "rush ahead." Which one are you most like? Why?

How did it go for you last week as you prayed, "Lord, help me live empowered by Your Holy Spirit. Amen." Were you able to remember to pray that regularly? Did anything unusual happen this past week? Do you have something to celebrate? Were there any challenges?

Break up into groups of 2-3. Take some time to review Acts 1:8, the verse that Pastor Chad asked us to memorize in Week 1 of the Empowered series. Don't worry about making mistakes. Have some fun asking each person to quote the verse to one another.

[digging deeper]

As a group, read Acts 1:12-26.

When it comes to the idea of waiting on God for the promise of power, what words or phrases stood out to you from this passage? Why?

What are some obstacles in Acts 1 that could have kept the early followers of Jesus from waiting on God? What are some obstacles that we face in our culture that keep us from waiting on God?

What might have happened in Acts 1 if God's people had failed to wait on God? What happens today when God's people fail to wait on God?

Look up the following passages on waiting on God. Assign a passage per LifeGroup member. After each person reads the verse, ask the group to pull out a principle (a life lesson) that the verse teaches about waiting on God.

Psalm 25:4-5

Psalm 33:20

Psalm 27:13-14

Psalm 37:7, 34

Psalm 123:2

Psalm 130:5-6

Isaiah 30:18

Isaiah 40:31

Isaiah 51:5

Isaiah 64:4

Lamentations 3:25

Micah 7:7

What adjustments might you need to make in your life to better follow the pattern of waiting that we see in these passages?

In the message, you heard the following statement: "If you wait on God, you get what God can do. If you rush around or rush ahead, you'll get what you can do. You choose." In light of that statement and in light of this past week's message, what challenged your thinking the most? What strength did this affirm in you?

What growth areas do the truths in Acts 1:12-26 reveal for you personally?

[living it out]

With the following statement, rate yourself on a scale of 1-10 (10 being highest). ***The amount of power for living that I receive from the Holy Spirit attracts my family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to Jesus.*** What rating do you give yourself? Why?

In the message you were challenged to pick one word that describes the change the Lord wants you most to make in your life: Hear, Heed, Love, Pray, Read, Plan, Hope. Which word did you pick? Why?

In the message, you were also encouraged to identify 2-3 practices/disciplines/relationships that you will implement over the next 7 days in order to make this change. What did you identify? How can this LifeGroup help you implement those practices/disciplines/relationships?

Encourage one another to continue to pray: *Lord, help me live empowered by Your Holy Spirit. Amen* And to memorize and meditate on Acts 1:8.

Close in prayer thanking God that His power is available to us, asking for help to be missionaries cleverly disguised... If time allows, you can sing "Holy Spirit, You are Welcome Here" to close your time together. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SS5S8Unvm48>