



THE BOOK OF

# ACTS

## GROUP DISCUSSION | Week 2: Power Surge

### SERIES OVERVIEW

In this series, we examine the remarkable spread of the Gospel and the Kingdom of God from Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Despite challenges from outside and within, the Kingdom of God continued to advance. The same is true today.

### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

Think of this discussion guide as a springboard. Use what's helpful to your group and lean into discussion that's sparked from the insight and input of your group.

### CONNECTION

We opened up talking about how Acts 2 is a turning point moment in history. Take a second, consider, and share a "turning point" moment in your life. (What happened? When? What changed?)

### TRUTH

Monte started off by stating that "the church had its ministry energized by the power of the Holy Spirit." He used the illustration of a lamp; how a lamp can only accomplish its purpose when plugged into a power source. The same is true for us as the church. Let's read about that power together - read Acts 2:1-4.

From this account, 3 astonishing signs happened when the Holy Spirit arrived:

1. The sound of a rushing wind
2. Tongues of fire
3. The believers praised God in various languages

Try to imagine what that was like; what would be your reaction? Why?

Peter goes on to explain what was going on. Read Acts 2:14-21 — What sticks out from Peter's explanation? Peter and the other disciples continued to warn the crowds of the consequences of sin and plead with them to follow Jesus. Do you feel an urgency to share the Gospel? Would you feel comfortable sharing the Bridge Illustration?

Continue reading Acts 2:22-32. Peter quickly shifts the explanation to Jesus and even uses Old Testament prophecy to connect with his audience and point to the promised Messiah. Of the claims Peter makes, which do you imagine would have been most shocking or audacious to his audience? Why?

### APPLICATION

The book of Acts tells us that **our purpose is to be a witness for Jesus**. How effective are you when it comes to witnessing? What helps you to be an effective witness? What keeps you from being a more effective witness? Are you confident? Afraid? What would help you be more confident or less afraid?

Monte said that the Holy Spirit descending upon the disciples moved the disciples from huddling inside, afraid and alone, to going out into the world to tell others about Jesus. Do you feel empowered by the Holy Spirit? How do you experience His power?

Does the resurrection prove that Jesus was the Messiah? How does the fact that all of the apostles, with the exception of John, died as martyrs impact your faith?

### PRAYER

Share prayer requests with one another and then take time to pray together; specifically for seizing opportunities to being witnesses for Jesus.