

EMPOWERED

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS

Empowered Part 2 – Empowered for Participation Pastor Dave Patterson 8.21.2022

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

The empowerment is for a purpose: that you might live out your calling, develop your gifting, and do something before Jesus returns for His Church.

Multiplication REQUIRES, FAITH, SACRIFICE, and CONTINUAL GROWTH

[ACTS 2:36-41, NLT]

³⁶“So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!” ³⁷Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” ⁴⁰Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!” ⁴¹Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

The empowerment produced fruit, which is a lifestyle that expanded the Kingdom of God and multiplied the church in the first century.

[Acts 2:42-47, NIV]

⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.

⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.

⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

New Testament Christianity is a life that has been changed by Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and devoted to building HIS CHURCH!

Devoted / proskartereō

To persevere and not faint / to be constant, attentive and unremitting / to be devoted and stay committed.

“They devoted themselves to:...”

- 1. The apostle's teaching = a lifetime commitment to hearing the Word and living your life according to scripture**
- 2. Fellowship = community, doing life with other believers, and committing to the pain and process of building and sustaining relationships**

Life happens best in groups, and we are better together.

- 3. Radical Generosity = sharing their homes, their meals, and liquidating assets to provide for those who were in need**

[Acts 4:34-35, NLT]

³⁴ There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them ³⁵ and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

4. Sharing the Lord's Supper = keeping Jesus and the cross at the center of it all

[Acts 2:47, NLT]

... "And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved"

[Acts 3:1-2, NLT]

¹ Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. ² As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in....

Devotion is where you find the download from heaven!

Spiritual disciplines sustain us over the long haul and cause us to live the best version of our lives.

"They devoted themselves to:..."

- 1. The apostle's teaching = a lifetime commitment to hearing the Word and living your life according to scripture**
- 2. Fellowship = community, doing life with other believers, and committing to the pain and process of building and sustaining relationships**
- 3. Radical Generosity = sharing their homes, their meals, and liquidating assets to provide for those who were in need**
- 4. Sharing the Lord's Supper = keeping Jesus and the cross at the center of it all**

FOR MONDAY—

1. Keep seeking the empowerment: fresh filling, and a lifestyle of refreshing from the Holy Spirit.
2. Step out of your comfort zone this week and intentionally strike up a conversation with someone different than you.
3. If you're not in a Small Group, find one or start one! (TFH.org/Groups)

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What does true community look like?
2. Pastor Dave asked in his message, "What are you devoted to? How do your conversation, finances, and time commitments reflect this?"
3. What are the by-products of being changed by Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and committed to building His Church?

4. What happens when the Word of God conflicts with one's lifestyle? How does one resolve this? Who have you invited to speak into your life with authority?
5. What is radical generosity? How have you experienced radical generosity?
6. Why is communion such a significant foundation for all that we do as a church? Why is this important?
7. What do we do when empowerment "wears off" or the passion level begins to wane?