

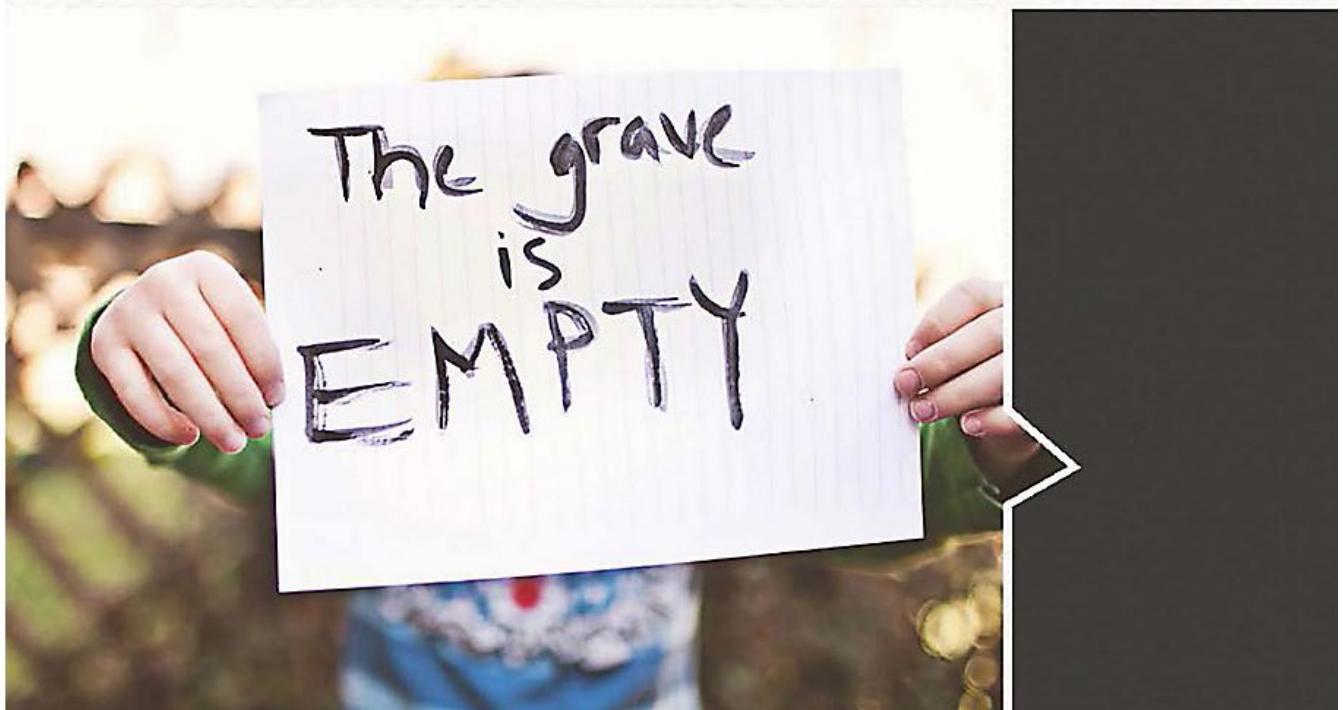
6-SESSION
BIBLE STUDY



SMALL GROUPS

Session 1 (Leader's Guide)

UNSTOPPABLE GOSPEL



GREGG MATTE



SESSION 1

UNSTOPPABLE MISSION

Ice Breaker: Get your members to focus on the idea of waiting.

QUESTION #2: *When has something definitely been worth the wait?*

THE POINT

The Holy Spirit empowers us to spread the gospel.

Passage: Acts 1:4–8, 12–14

Focus: Sometimes we use the wrong tools for the wrong mission. We forget to wait for God's direction or even miss His direction. The first step to mission is to know our mission purposes, in which is the Great Commandment. Yes, we often get that right. The second step is to wait for empowerment. The third step is to go and do our mission. We tend to miss the second step and when we move into our third step we would either feel afraid or we become too forceful towards others in bringing the gospel.

Whatever that was practice then, God forgives and it is our learning past. Help members not to feel guilty but build their faith for their mission.

LET'S RELATE

For several years, I was part of a four-man team that made an annual trek to Kenya to provide theological and pastoral training to pastors. Kenyans had an eagerness for the gospel, new churches were popping up, and men were

stepping up to preach and lead these churches. Schools were founded, and we were happy to support and train these eager men and women.

When I first arrived in Busia to teach, I was pleased to see they had a library with two key components:

1. **Books.** A retired church leader donated his entire library to the school, and it was significant.
2. **A computer.** Someone else had donated a PC. With this computer, students could have an electronic catalog of the library, as well as access to other electronic books and the Internet.



Only problem was the school had no electricity.

We love our computers and electronic gadgets. I imagine these Kenyan pastors would've happily taken advantage of all the computer could do for them, but

they would have to wait until power came to the school.

The early disciples faced a similar experience. After Jesus had ascended to heaven, 120 of His followers were ready—and waiting. They had followed Jesus—many of them from the very beginning. They had heard His teaching and message. Jesus had now turned that teaching and message over to them ([Matt. 28:18-20](#)), but they were lacking the one thing they needed.

Power.

So they waited. Jesus had told them:

“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:4-5).

The Holy Spirit did come, and this rag-tag group changed the world.



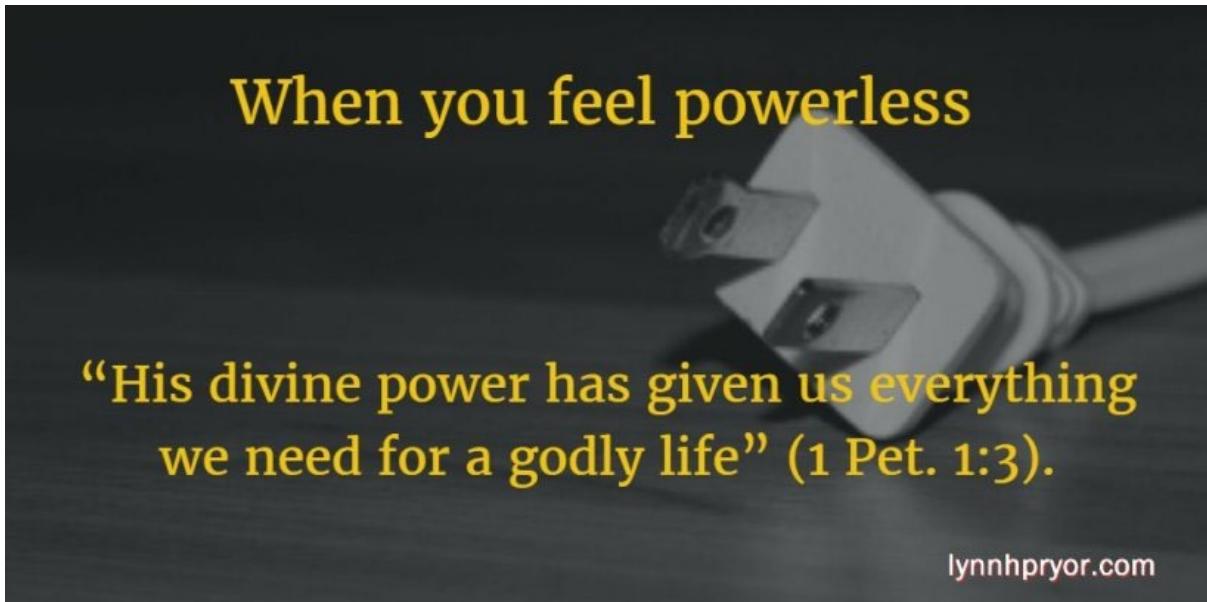
Today, we've got more churches than fast-food restaurants. Christianity can be found by channel surfing and cruising the Internet. I'm guessing that every three seconds, someone on Facebook posts some form of a Christian image or message with the obligatory "Share if you agree."

So why is the church not growing?

Maybe we need to stop. Wait. Let the Holy Spirit take over. **We've got all the right tools, but we're powerless to bring about change.** But when we surrender to the lordship of Christ and give His Spirit free reign in our lives ... wow.

"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life" ([1 Pet. 1:3](#)).

Focus: You can send this picture as an encouragement for the week to your members. You can find this in the Website > Small Group/unstoppable gospel/Session 1/encouragement.



REFLECTION TIME

- How does waiting make you feel?
- What emotions would you have experienced if you were in the disciples' shoes?
- What are some ways we still wait for God and the movement of His spirit?

LIVE IT OUT

Tools and empowerment of the Holy Spirit comes hand in hand. So let us challenge ourselves today.

1. Pray together as a small group for empowerment of the Holy Spirit