



HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERED

Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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MARCH 4, 2018

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT:

Sharing your faith with friends and family can be intimidating. “What if they don’t believe me? What if they think I’m crazy? What if I totally mess up the message?” On our own, it would be impossible to fulfill God’s vision to reach people who need Him. The good news is, we’re not on our own - the Holy Spirit is with us!

2. DISCUSSION

The Holy Spirit will give us boldness to share the message.

Acts 1:8 [ESV]

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

Being filled with the Spirit is not just about speaking in unknown languages - He works in us to give us courage to speak up, and the right words to say. Even if you’re naturally timid and soft-spoken, He will help you to share with the people in your life who need to hear it.

Q. What’s something in life you’d love to do, but are too scared/nervous to try?

Q. Trusting the Holy Spirit to give you courage in the moment you need it, what possibly-intimidating interactions with friends and family could you initiate this week?

3. CHALLENGE

The Holy Spirit will give weight to our words.

John 6:44 [NLT] *“For no one can come to me (Jesus) unless the Father who sent me draws them to me...”*



The Holy Spirit not only gives you the confidence to share, but when you do, it’s His influence that causes your words to ring true in the hearts of the people who hear.

Q. Can you remember a time when you heard something at church or from another believer, and you felt like it was speaking “directly to you?” How did that change the way you responded to what was said?

Q. Trusting the Holy Spirit to cause the words to resonate with those who hear, what would you say to your friends & family who don’t know God?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family: thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to help you accomplish His mission. Ask Him for boldness to share your faith this week with the people in your life who need Him.



“DON'T JUDGE OTHERS”

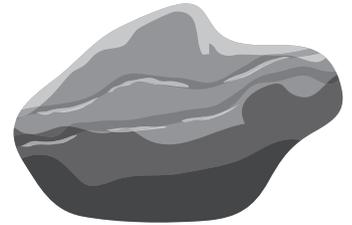
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MARCH 4, 2018

1. POWER VERSE: *“Do not judge, or you too will be judged.” Matthew 7:1* Watts Up: **“God Is The Judge, And I AM NOT!”**

This week, we continue the series called, “Ouch!”
This week, we learn not to be a “rock thrower”
judging others, but to be a “grace giver” instead.



2. BIBLE VERSE:

John 8:1-11 “But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives... All the people gathered around him there. He sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman... They said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught sleeping with a man who was not her husband. In the Law, Moses commanded us to kill such women by throwing stones at them. Now what do you say?’ They were trying to trap Jesus with that question.... So he stood up and said to them, ‘Has any one of you not sinned? Then you be the first to throw a stone at her.’ He bent down again and wrote on the ground. Those who heard what he had said began to go away. They left one at a time, the older ones first. Soon only Jesus was left. The woman was still standing there. Jesus stood up and asked her, ‘Woman, where are they? Hasn’t anyone found you guilty?’ ‘No one, sir,’ she said. ‘Then I don’t find you guilty either,’ Jesus said. ‘Go now and leave your life of sin.’”

3. DISCUSSION:

Q. Who brought the woman to Jesus & why?

Q. What was Jesus’ response?

Were the Pharisees innocent?

Have you ever known someone that was SO BAD that you thought, “They could NEVER become a Christian!”

OR have you ever known someone who had done so many sinful things that you thought, “That person sure does deserve some punishment!” Well, that’s exactly what the Pharisees thought when they brought the woman to Jesus in today’s Bible Story. This woman had been caught sinning. She had a bad reputation and everyone seemed to know that she was guilty of sin. The Pharisees brought her before Jesus, and they planned to “stone” her.



Q. Have you ever been a “rock thrower” instead of a “grace giver”?

Q. What do you think you could do instead of judging others?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for your children if they have been guilty of judging others and “throwing rocks” at others. Pray that they will remember that they are sinners too. Pray they will receive forgiveness for their sins (including for judging others) and choose to be a “Grace Giver” like Jesus.