
GOD IS POWERFUL

SERIES: NO FEAR

Join us throughout the end of May and the month of June as we learn stories that show us examples of being a fearless follower of Christ. We will be going through the books of Luke and Acts.

REMEMBER VERSE

ISAIAH 41:10—So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

SCHEDULE

All Services

0:00—0:10	Welcome/Check-In
0:10—0:15	Transition to Large Group
0:15—0:30	Large Group (B Playground)
0:30—0:35	Transition to Small Group
0:35—1:05	Small Group (Lesson/Activity/Respond)
1:05—1:15	Dismiss

NOTES

LEADER RESOURCES

SERIES OVERVIEW

CURRENT WEEK: God Is Powerful
Ascension

WEEK 2: God's Spirit Unifies, Part 1
Philip

WEEK 3: God's Spirit Unifies, Part 2
Peter and Cornelius

WEEK 4: God Answers Prayer
Peter Delivered from Prison

WEEK 5: God Speaks
Lydia and Philippi

WEEK 6: Remember & Celebrate
ZONK!

EQUIP

As Jesus ascended into the clouds before their eyes (Acts 1:9), the disciples must have had many questions—but, surely, any lingering doubts about His deity would have dissipated at the unbelievable sight. Jesus was both fully man and fully God (Colossians 2:9)—and He remains this way today (Hebrews 1:3). Our God is powerful enough to forge such a union and to encompass all the power of an omnipotent, omnipresent God forever within the frame of a man.

The theological term for God becoming man is incarnation, which literally means "taking on flesh." God the Son, the second person of the Trinity, came to earth and was born as a human (Philippians 2:6-8). He did not, and could not, cease to be God. He simply added a second nature, a human nature, to His divine nature. He was now the "God-man," a being with two natures. How these two natures relate is referred to as the "hypostatic union."

Jesus is fully God and fully man. His two natures are distinct but united in one person with one personality. When Jesus ascended on high from the Mount of Olives and returned to be with His Father, He did not cease to be a man. He is forever now the "God-man." It's amazing to contemplate that today, there is a man standing at the right hand of the throne of God—interceding on our behalf (1 Timothy 2:5).

We may never fully comprehend the enormous price it cost Jesus to humble Himself and condescend to forever exist in the physical form of a man. Only the power of God could make this happen. And true power is seen in humility. God is powerful.

ENCOURAGE

Sometimes we think we have to do everything in our own power and strength. Whatever the reasons (stubborn pride, the feeling we shouldn't have to ask for help, or just plain forgetfulness), we don't take the time to daily go before the Lord—the all-powerful One—and ask for His strength to do His work. We must rely on His power. We must acknowledge how desperately we need Him every moment of every day.

This week, get out a pen and paper and make a list. Title it "Things I'm Trying to Do in My Own Strength." Maybe you're trying to resist temptation, to have more patience, or to be a good friend on your own. Give God your list, surrendering each item to Him. Pray this prayer: "Father, I'm tired of striving on my own. Please help me to yield my will to your Spirit. Fill me with Your power."

WELCOME

Some fun ideas to welcome kids as they check-in to your room at the beginning of service.

Invite the kids to color on the provided coloring page or work on the provided activity page.

As kids arrive, feel free to ask them this week's Connect Question. Feel free to write the question on the board and encourage some fun dialogue before you start your lesson.

QUESTION: Who is the strongest person you know? What makes this person strong?

RESPOND

A chance for kids to respond to what God is putting on their hearts through creative expression.

God is powerful! And the most amazing part is that God gave us His Holy Spirit so that His power could live inside of us. The Holy Spirit gives us power to do things that we could never do on our own.

INSTRUCTIONS: Divide children into two teams and invite them to line up in two lines behind the pieces of masking tape. Explain that when you say, "Go, the first person from each team will run down and bring back a puzzle piece. Once she gets back, the next person on the team can go bring back another puzzle piece. Once a team has all of their pieces back, they can put the pieces together to form a puzzle. The first team to complete their puzzle wins.

Draw children's attention to the completed puzzle that reads "God is Powerful." Discuss together: How can remembering that God is powerful help you this week? Who in your life needs to know about God's power?

SUPPLIES:

- Two—God is Powerful Puzzle (Already cut up and in a resealable bag)
- Masking Tape

REFLECT

A chance to reflect on what kids have just learned about The Big God Story.

God is powerful! And the most amazing part is that God gave us His Holy Spirit so that His power could live inside of us. The Holy Spirit gives us power to do things that we could never do on our own.

- What does it mean that God is powerful?
- Whom did Jesus send to give His disciples power? *Acts 1:8*
- What happened when the Holy Spirit came? *Acts 2:1-4*
- What did the Holy Spirit help the disciples do? *Acts 2:4-6, 43-47*
- How have you seen the Holy Spirit's power in your own life?

BLESS

A powerful way to bless the kids and parents by sending them off with a benediction.

INSTRUCTIONS: Invite the parents into your room at the end of the service to say one last prayer together with the whole family. Instruct them to find their child and sit/stand by their side. Explain what their child learned today and read the verse below. Pray together and then dismiss.

ACTS 1:8 – But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses.

BLESSING: May your lives overflow with the power of the Holy Spirit. May God's amazing power fill you with joy, comfort, and guidance as you share Him with the world.

NOTES

This script serves as an outline of what your storytelling might sound like. Items written in italics are cues for the storyteller and are not meant to be read out loud. You are fully encouraged to make it your own and add a personal touch.

The script serves as an example, however if you would like to teach based on the script and are in need of any supplies mentioned, we would be happy to supply those for you! Storytelling images mentioned will always be provided in your basket each week, but if you need any other supplies for your lesson, contact a Grove KIDS Staff member beforehand so we can supply it for you! You are also welcome to bring in your own props if you would like!

RESOURCES PROVIDED

- None

STORYTELLING

Have you ever been given a task that seemed hard or overwhelming? How did you feel? *Invite answers.* Before Jesus went to heaven, He told His disciples that they would be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. What a task! He knew the disciples would need help, so He sent His Spirit to give them power. Before we hear more, let's ask God to teach us. *Lead the children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.*

What happened after Jesus rose from the grave? *Pause for answers.* Yes, He appeared to many of His disciples. Jesus spent 40 days on earth after He rose from the dead. During this time, He allowed His disciples to touch His scars and proved that He is alive. *Invite children to turn in their Bibles to Acts 1:4-5 and follow along as you read.* So what was the special gift that the Father had promised? *Invite answers.* Yes, the Holy Spirit! Jesus' disciples gathered around Him, and Jesus told them something very special. *Read Acts 1:8.* What do you think it means that they would receive power? *Pause for responses.* We'll find out exactly what this means in a little bit.

Invite children to follow along as you read Acts 1:9-10. Wow. Right before the disciples' eyes, Jesus ascended into heaven. Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem with great joy (Luke 24:52). It must have been so amazing for them to know that Jesus had truly risen from the grave, that He is Lord, and that He was sending them the Holy Spirit. They stayed continually in the temple, praising God (Luke 24:53).

A week later, the disciples were all together in one place when suddenly something amazing happened. *Invite children to turn to Acts 2:2 and follow along as you read.* A sound like the blowing of a violent wind came and filled the house! But that wasn't all. *Read Acts 2:3-4.* What seemed like tongues of fire came to rest on the disciples' heads. And they began to speak in other languages! *Invite kids to practice saying "Hola" (Spanish) and "Bonjour" (French) or any other greetings they know to each other.* The disciples didn't know these languages on their own, but they were speaking using God's power.

Invite a volunteer to read Acts 2:5-8. The people in Jerusalem were amazed! They heard the disciples, who were from an area called Galilee, speaking in languages that they could never have known. People who had come from faraway nations understood what they were saying. They turned to one another and asked, "What does this mean?"

Peter stood up and explained the situation. Remember how Peter had denied Jesus three times but Jesus had redeemed him? Well, this time, Peter began speaking by the power of God. *Read Acts 2:14-18.* Peter explained what had just happened—the Holy Spirit had come, just like God had promised! Peter gave a long speech to the people, explaining The Big God Story. He told them how David had prophesied about Jesus. He explained how Jesus had been crucified and buried and how God raised Him to life again and made Him Lord and Messiah.

Invite children to follow along as you read Acts 2:37. Invite children to turn to one another and ask, "What shall we do?" Then, invite them to follow along as you read Acts 2:38-41. Did you hear that? About three thousand people became followers of Jesus that day! Isn't that amazing? God's display of power caused many people to follow Jesus.

The Holy Spirit gave the people following Jesus the ability to do some more amazing things. They shared everything they had! Who thinks that would be hard to do? *Encourage children to raise their hands.* Sharing everything we have isn't something we always want to do on our own. But the Holy Spirit gave them power to do this. The Bible says that people sold their homes and land to give to others who were in need. The disciples also did many wonders and signs. *Invite a volunteer to read Acts 2:46-47.* Sounds like the Holy Spirit gave them a lot of joy in their hearts too, doesn't it? God showed His power to create this new, beautiful kind of community.

Just like Jesus gave the disciples the Holy Spirit, Jesus wants to fill us with the Holy Spirit too! This story isn't just for a long time ago. The Holy Spirit is alive today, and He wants to fill your heart with joy, help you share the things you have, and help you share about Jesus with others. God's Spirit gives us power. *Close by sharing a story of a time when you saw the Holy Spirit's power in your own life.*