

Lesson 9: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND PRAYER IN ACTS

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- CPMs are preceded by prayer movements
- Even if we do everything according to CPM principles, if the Lord doesn't work, we won't accomplish anything.
- We must both work hard AND pray earnestly, as Jesus did. With prayer, we work with God. Without prayer, we work alone.
- Wherever there is a Church Planting Movement today, it is accompanied by extraordinary prayer. In fact, in India, where a huge CPM has occurred among the Bhojpuri, church-planters normally spend 2+ hours/day in personal prayer, more time each day in corporate prayer plus 1-2 days a week in fasting.

1) Review Lesson 8 in pairs

- **Review** memory verse & Top 3 lessons learned
- Ask participants how they **obeyed** the Scripture from the last lesson.
- Then, be sure everyone has memorized the 7-Question Discovery Group (DG) format. Do this by putting people in small groups and asking them to list the 7-Questions and then discuss what is the key DNA behind each question.

Continue Review as a large group.

- Discuss key lessons
- Discuss the key DNA behind the 7 questions
- Ask who they asked to be in a DG over this past week. Discuss what obstacles they faced
- Pray for each other to be bold, and for the people they're inviting to study God's Word.

2) Bible Study: Break the group into two, or into several groups of an even number. Have half the groups study the Role of the Holy Spirit and the other half study the Role of Prayer.

a. The Role of the Holy Spirit

Study the verses below and make a list about the role of the Holy Spirit in the birth and multiplication of the early church.

Acts 1:6-8 / 2:4 / 2:33 / 4:8 / 4:31 / 6:3 / 6:10 / 7:55 / 8:29 / 8:39 / 9:31 / 10:44 / 11:24 / 11:28 / 13:2 / 13:4 / 16:6 / 16:7 / 20:23 / 20:28 / 21:4 and John 16:8-13 / 1 Cor 12:3

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts? What does he do?
(Samples from above verses.)

- Gives power and boldness for evangelization
- Enables cross-cultural communication of the gospel
- Gives the power which brings spiritual awakening

Key Questions (if not already discussed):

- a) Having considered the role of the Holy Spirit in Acts, what's your response to a summary statement that the Holy Spirit is the *Spirit of Mission*?
- b) Who does the Holy Spirit equip for ministry? (Apostles, elders, leaders, "normal" people?)
- c) How do you understand the Spirit's ability to use the words and actions of believers to bring about faith in the hearts of those he is calling?

b. The Role and Activity of Prayer

Study the verses listed below to determine the role and importance of prayer in the growth of the church in Acts. Make a list of the key truths we see.

Acts: 1:14 / 1:24 / 2:42 / 4:23-31 / 6:6 / 8:15 / 9:11 / 9:40 / 10:2 / 10:9 / 10:30 / 11:5 / 12:5 / 12:12 / 13:3 / 14:23 / 16:16 / 16:25 / 20:36 / 21:5 / 22:17 / 27:29 / 28:8

Application questions:

- Are there some ways your understanding of prayer has been increased through this lesson?
- How convinced are you that it's worthwhile for you to "sacrifice" significant time in prayer for DMM? How committed are you to doing this? What hindrances will need to be overcome for you to do this?
- What specific steps will you take to make prayer (both personal and in groups) a more intentional and important part of your ministry?

3) Present findings from group discussions on "a" and "b" to the large group. Discuss.

4) Prayer: Spend time praying for the trainees. Among other things, ask the Father for commitment to act (Phil 2:13), spiritual protection (Eph 6:18), his enablement to understand and change as necessary (Eph 1:17), for our ability to follow where he leads (Mat 11:28-30), & for more laborers (Luke 10:2).

Transition – the following practice and exercise is to prepare people for their fieldwork this week.

5) Practice: Practice this "dream" fieldwork with a partner.

Ask the question, "**Have you ever had a dream you believe came from God?**" If not, ask if they know someone who has. Often there will be some way to continue the discussion relating their dream to God.

For a Muslim context, if you find someone who has had such a dream, explain that in the last days, Jesus (the prophet Isa Al Masih) is appearing to many Muslims to make known that he himself is the *siratol mustaqqim* or Straight Path (as in John 14:6 & Qur'an 43:61-64).

Some work until the next training session:

Fieldwork: Ask some people to join you in a day of prayer and fasting for Persons of Peace to be found in the community.

Memorize: Acts 1:8

Hand Gesture: Ask how could you summarize the main teaching of this lesson with a body movement or hand gesture? Have all participants stand up and do the gesture together. (Example for Lesson 9 – Folding hands or raising arms as if praying and then link your hands and flutter your fingers to show the Holy Spirit descending.) Now do all the gestures in order for all the lessons so far starting with lesson 1.