

Unstoppable Gospel

Six Week Lesson Series

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We hope you are blessed by this new Bible Study Series.	1
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Note from Pastor Kermit:

We hope you are blessed by this new Bible Study Series.

- ❖ Be engaged
 - Take notes and do the homework
- ❖ Be in prayer
 - Allow God to be God in your life
- ❖ Invite a friend

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Lesson 1

Unstoppable Mission – Acts 1:4-8, 12-14

When has something in your life definitely been worth the wait?

Acts 1:4-5

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;

5 "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

Discussion Question #1

- What do you find difficult about waiting on the Lord?

Acts 1:6-8

6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Discussion Question #2

- What do these verses teach us about God's mission?

Acts 1:12-14

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.

13 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James.

14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

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Prayer is primary. For many of us, prayer is often a last resort. "When all else fails pray." But prayer was not the last resort for the early church. It was the main agenda.

Fear can be a great motivator. For all the disciples knew, the same people who crucified their Lord might come for them, as well. It was fear, not piety, that drove the early church to its knees. In times of anxiety and fear, remember this: *If you go to your knees in fear, you'll rise in Faith.*

Prayer unites us. The disciples "were continually united in prayer." They were single minded, joined together as one. Why? Because prayer unites us.

Discussion Question #3-4

- What are some of the benefits of praying together as a group?
- What common Mission can our church pray for together?

Live It Out

Acts 1:8 is our mandate. It's mine and it's yours. Therefore consider taking one or more of the following steps toward fulfilling that mandate in the days to come.

- **Accept the mission.** Recognize that Jesus has commanded you to be His witness wherever you go and wherever He sends you. Verbally commit yourself to His service.
- **Embrace the gift.** Begin each day by submitting to the Holy Spirit as your only source of strength and guidance. Pray that He would give you wisdom and power to accomplish God's mission in your life.
- **Pray together.** Gather an extra time as a group this week. Make prayer the sole focus and action of that gathering.

God's mission is Unstoppable and so is the Spirit that He's placed within you. Remember that you have a part in that mission and that it all begins with prayer.

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Lesson 2

Unstoppable Message – Acts 2:22-24, 32-33 & 36-38

What often gets you sidetracked during the day?

Acts 2:22-24

22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—

23 "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

24 "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

Discussion Question #1

- What can we learn from Peter's approach to sharing the gospel?

Acts 2:32-33, 36

32 "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

33 "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Discussion Question #2-3

- What are the personal implications of recognizing Jesus as Lord?
- What are the worldwide implications of Jesus' role as Lord?

Acts 2:37-38

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Question #4

- As we share the gospel, how can we work toward the goal of conviction rather than condemnation?

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Live it out

How will the Unstoppable Message of the gospel influence your life this week?

- **Praise Him.** Jesus is worthy of our worship; therefore, set aside a time this week to praise Him in a way that is meaningful to you.
- **Share.** The message of salvation is for all Christians to share. Pray for the opportunity to share the message of Jesus in your everyday conversations. Plan to tell someone this week about the difference Jesus has made in your life.
- **Invite others.** As you worship Jesus a. Share the truth of the gospel this week, invite others to join you. Find someone who needs a spiritually mature example and encourage him or her to join you in following Jesus.

Let's avoid the dangers of "Mission drift," both in our lives and in our churches. Let's not forget that the message of Jesus Christ and His salvation is the reason for everything we do.

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Lesson 3

Unstoppable Love – Acts 2:41-47

What are some employee benefits that would get you excited?

Acts 2:41-42

41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Discussion Question#1-2

- What aspects of church life have been especially meaningful to you?
- When have you seen the transformational power of prayer?

Acts 2:43-45

43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

Discussion Question #3

- How would you describe a healthy balance between giving and keeping in today's world?

Acts 2:46-47

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Discussion Question #4

- Loving others involves praying, caring, and sharing. In which of these area would you like to grow?

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Live It Out

How will you actively and intentionally show love to people this week?

- **Pray.** Take a prayer walk through your neighborhood. Pray for the spiritual, emotional, and financial needs of each household and pray especially for their salvation.
- **Care.** Actively look for someone in need this week. Determine to give sacrificially, whether your time, money, or other resources to help that person in the name of Jesus.
- **Share.** Think of someone you've prayed for or helped in practical ways but never talked to about Jesus. Bring Jesus into your conversation with that person.

As members of the church, we have an opportunity to create a culture that's way more attractive than anything a corporation could produce. But it starts with you. Choose to pray, care, and share a witness of Christ.

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Lesson 4

Unstoppable Opportunities – Acts 3:1-10

When has a "chance" encounter changed your life?

Acts 3:1-4

1 Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. **2** And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; **3** who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. **4** And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."

Discussion Question #1

- How can we get better at noticing the opportunities God gives us to love others?

Acts 3:5-8

5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. **6** Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.

Discussion Question #2

- When have you seen Jesus make a dramatic difference in someone's life?

Acts 3:9-10

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

10 Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Discussion Question #3-4

- How have you been affected personally by others obedience to Christ?
- How can we make room now so we can say yes to future Opportunities to serve?

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Live It Out

How will you make the most of the intersections and opportunities that come your way this week?

- **Look.** Search for opportunities. Allow your schedule to be interrupted in order to minister by listening, offering encouragement, praying with someone, or meeting a need.
- **Go for it.** Take the steps of obedience that you've been putting off recently. Take a leap of faith and do what you know God has been calling you to do.
- **Sign up.** You don't have to wait for opportunities to fall out n your lap through the regular intersections of life. Consider. Ask if there are any ministry opportunities at your church that match your gifts.

To follow Jesus is to serve a sovereign God, a God familiar with every nuance of your life and the lives of others.

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Lesson 5

Unstoppable Courage – Acts 4:1-3, 8-12 & 19-20

What's the most courageous act you've ever seen?

Acts 4:1-3

1 Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them,

2 being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.

Discussion Question #1

- What are the risks we face when we proclaim the gospel?

Acts 4:8-12

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:

9 "If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well,

10 "let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.

11 "This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.'

12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Discussion Question #2-3

- In a culture that values tolerance above all, how do we boldly and lovingly communicate the message of verse 12?
- How would you describe the role of the Holy Spirit in sharing the gospel?

Acts 4:19-20

19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.

20 "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

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Discussion Question #4

- Where is God directing you to demonstrate a greater level of courage?

Live It Out

How will you demonstrate courage this week as you follow Christ?

- **Please God.** At the end of each day, evaluate your actions and attitudes by answering this question: "Whom did I live to please today?" Practice becoming a God pleaser rather than a people pleaser.
- **Read up.** Information is a great complement to courage.
- **Take action.** Do some research and find places in your community or state where the gospel is being silenced.

Christians in America and other Western cultures are fortunate that we don't often find ourselves prohibited from sharing the gospel nor do we find ourselves kneeling on a beach with guns pointed at us. Yet we can still demonstrate the Unstoppable courage that has defined so many believers for so long. Will you?

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Lesson 6

Unstoppable Impact – Acts 17:16-18, 22-23 & 30-31

What do you enjoy most about different cultures?

Acts 17:16-18

16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.

17 Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.

18 Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.

Epicurean: believed the purpose of life was in finding pleasure and eliminating pain. They thought that God, if He existed at all, was not involved in our lives. Furthermore, they did not believe in life after death.

Stoic: were pantheist, believing in an ultimate divine principle that exists throughout the universe and nature, including human beings. They believed the way to realize your fullest potential was to live by reason. The Stoics believed they could eliminate suffering through intellectual perfection.

Discussion Question #1

- What are the cultures and subcultures in your community?

Acts 17:22-23

22 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious;

23 "for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:

Discussion Question #2

- What principles and practices can we gain from Paul's approach to sharing the gospel?

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Acts 17:30-31

30 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

31 "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Discussion Question #3-4

- Why are so many Christian's comfortable with remaining silent?
- How can our group engage one or more of the cultures in our community?

Live It Out

We have an imperative to take the gospel to the world, but the nations have also come to us.

- **Get educated.** Learn about the different cultures of the people in your community. Ask about their customs, heritage, and beliefs. Become a student of different cultures in an effort to start discussions.
- **Get spiritual.** Follow Paul's example by attending a worship service within a different culture. Seek out common ground in order to build bridges between that culture and Christ.

Yes, things are different in other countries and in other cultures. Those differences are neither bad nor good, yet they present a wonderful opportunity to share the good news about Jesus.