THE TANGIBLE PEACE, PRESENCE SPOWER OF JESUS STUDY GUIDE



PREFACE

The Church isn't a building, it is people—the people of God. What does that mean? How can we be the Church as we exist in the workplace, in the community, in relationships, etc.?

As we say often here at Salem Alliance, we, as believers, take the peace, presence, and power of Jesus wherever we go. This is how we can accomplish our vision of a City at Peace with God. This is how the Kingdom of God advances here on earth. This is how we can be the Church in a tangible way.

We can be the tangible peace, presence, and power of Jesus to those around us because He has given us His very own peace, presence, and power. Through Holy Spirit, He empowers us so we can then embody Him to others. One of the greatest gifts Jesus gave us was to humble Himself and become human in order to show us what it means to live out the Kingdom of God in the world. The incarnation of Jesus lets us be incarnational.

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Information and Resources

Group Devotional Reading

Devotional reading is a great way to experience God's Word together. Before you begin your group discussion time, read the passage for that week out loud. As someone slowly reads it, have each member listen for a word or phrase that God highlights for them. Consider having one or two people share what God is highlighting. Spend a few minutes in prayerful thanksgiving.

Story

Each lesson will have a story from someone in our church family to help flesh out each of these topics. Stories help clarify concepts, help us enter other people's shoes, help us understand different perspectives, and help our faith rise. There will also be a place to write your own story. You may want to consider sharing these stories during your group time.

Live it Out

Each week we will end the lesson with a list of ways we can live out what we have been learning. The prompt each week is to "pick one or add your own to the list and carve out time to practice it this week." We encourage you to prayerfully consider how to live it out and get creative with your own answers as well. Sharing ideas with your group helps us as we take the peace, presence, and power of Jesus everywhere we go.

Resources

As we learn to manifest the peace, presence, and power of Jesus to others, there may be some healing work or spiritual growth that we need to engage with in our own lives first. Below are some resources that may be helpful for you moving forward.

- Peacemakers Training (Next Steps Weekend, February 2-3, 2024)
- Healing Prayer (healingprayer@salemalliance.org)
- Soul Care Intensives (starting September 11, register at salemalliance.org)
- Recognizing God's Voice (Next Steps Weekend, October 6-7, 2023)

At the end of the study, if you would like information about opportunities to live out the peace, presence, and power of Jesus to our church and city, please reach out to nextsteps@salemalliance.org.

Tangible Peace Lesson 1

Big Idea

Scripture reminds us that biblical peace is not merely the absence of turmoil, strife, or conflict; it involves wholeness, well-being, righteousness, security, and the restoration of brokenness. Peace is one of the ways the Kingdom of God is expressed and experienced on earth. This is why our vision at Salem Alliance is a City at Peace with God.¹

Jesus actively pursued peace by teaching and demonstrating the principles of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation. He engaged with people from all walks of life, including those who were marginalized, oppressed, and considered outcasts by society.

We, like Jesus, are called to actively bring peace. We can do this by engaging with the people around us, understanding their dreams and aspirations, as well as their needs and struggles. This engagement can manifest in many different ways, but ultimately we are called to use our God-given skills and resources to promote peace and well-being. By bringing the tangible peace of God we can invite others to experience His peace as well.

Group Devotional Reading

Before you begin your group discussion time, read the passage below out loud. As someone slowly reads it, have each member listen for a word or phrase that God highlights for them. Consider having one or two people share what God is highlighting. Then, spend a few minutes in prayerful thanksgiving.

Read Romans 12:1-18

¹ And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

³ Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. ⁴ Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

⁶ In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷ If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸ If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

⁹ Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. ¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. ¹³ When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. ¹⁵ Be happy

3

¹ In October we will begin a study in Ephesians all about peace.

with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

¹⁷Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. ¹⁸ Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

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Qι	uestions
1.	As you read Romans 12 , what do you notice about the ways we are supposed to treat other people? (It may be helpful to underline what you notice as you read over the passage.)
	a. What parts seem easier for you? Why?
	b. Which are hard for you? Why?
	c. How can these principles bring peace?

2.	Romans 12:1 says, "give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him." What does offering your body (every aspect of yourself) as a living sacrifice ² tangibly mean to you?
	a. What does living as a sacrifice look like in your daily life?
	b. How is this concept of sacrificial living connected to peace?
3.	Where does peace come from? (John 14:27; 16:33; Philippians 4:7; Galatians 5:22)
4.	From the following verses, underline and note how peace is connected to justice, righteousness, love, and forgiveness. a. James 3:18 18 And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.
	b. 1 Peter 3:11 ¹¹ Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it.

² "Paul encourages us to look at our entire Christian lives as acts of worship. It is not just what is done on Sunday in a church building that 'ascribes worth' to God, but what God and the world see in us every day and every moment of the week." *New Bible Commentary*. Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship, Leicester, England, 1953, 1954, 1970, 1994. Bible Gateway Plus

c. **Psalm 34:13-15**

- ¹³ Then keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies!
- ¹⁴ Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it.
- ¹⁵ The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right; his ears are open to their cries for help.

d. Romans 5:1-2

¹Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. ² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

e. Isaiah 32:16-17

- ¹⁶ Justice will rule in the wilderness and righteousness in the fertile field. ¹⁷ And this righteousness will bring peace.

Yes, it will bring quietness and confidence forever.

f. Ephesians 4:2-3

² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

5. How do you experience the tangible peace of God, both now and in the past?

6.	Because we can experience the tangible peace of God, we can then bring that peace to those
	around us. Imagine peace manifested in your home, your school, your neighborhood, your
	workplace, etc. What would change? Who would change? How would the culture of your
	community look different?

7. God declares that the feet of those who bring peace are beautiful (Isaiah 52:7). And that the peacemakers are called "Children of God" (Matthew 5:9). What motivates you to be the tangible peace of God to those around you?

Story

Stories help clarify concepts, help us enter other people's shoes, help us understand different perspectives, and help our faith rise.

Take some time to read over the following story about the tangible peace of God.

"Seven years ago, I lost everything that was most important to me. This journey of great loss has been like none other. Deep sorrow, feelings of betrayal, and questioning my worth has consumed me. However, I never questioned that God was with me in the midst of it all. In fact, I have grown even closer to Him. I am amazed that in the face of such loss, that I have gained so much.

God continues to comfort and strengthen me with His precious peace by reminding me that I, along with everyone else, live in an imperfect world as an imperfect person. I can't always change or fix things. Life here on earth is not the way it was meant to be, but for now, it is what it is. So, I am choosing to more fully make Jesus the focus of my life, and to more fully release and surrender all things to Him. He assures me that He will always be with me, and He has brought loving people from His Church to encourage me and speak His truths into my life. He continues to develop me into the person He has always desired me to be. Yet, He has always loved me just the way I am, and He reminds me who I am in Him. God is so good. He can mold and shape anything that's been taken, destroyed, or crushed to make beauty from the ashes. That brings me such peace."

~Korrine, a partner at Salem Alliance Church

We all have stories. Take some time to think through your experiences and write a short testimony about how you have seen the tangible peace of God in your life or the lives of those around you. Consider sharing with your group.	

Live it Out

We are called to be the tangible peace of God through the power of Holy Spirit. As our Prince of Peace, He can empower us to absorb the chaos, create calm, and release hope.

There are multiple ways we can bring the tangible peace of God to those around us. Some are listed below. Pick one or add your own to the list and carve out time to practice it this week. Make note of how God shows up and what responses you notice in yourself and others.

- Live as a peacemaker: We are called to actively promote peace in our communities, workplaces, relationships, etc. This involves being agents of reconciliation, seeking to resolve conflicts, and bridging divides.³
- Share the Gospel of Peace: We are commissioned to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, which includes the message of reconciliation with God and with one another. By sharing the transformative power of the Gospel, we can help bring about inner peace and restoration in individuals, which can then impact the wider community.
- Pursue justice and righteousness: God calls us to uphold justice and advocate for the oppressed as we work towards societal transformation and the elimination of systemic injustice. By engaging in acts of mercy, advocating for the vulnerable, and seeking to address societal issues, believers contribute to the establishment of peace.
- Cultivate a culture of love and forgiveness: Love and forgiveness are essential components of peace. Jesus exhorts us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to forgive others as Christ has

³ If you would like resources on peacemaking, please visit our website at https://www.salemalliance.org/peacemakers/

forgiven us.⁴ By practicing forgiveness, extending grace, and demonstrating unconditional love, we can contribute to the healing and reconciliation of relationships.⁵

Promote peace through prayer: We get to pray for peace in our communities and the world.
 Prayer aligns believers with God's purposes and invites His intervention in bringing about peace and transformation.⁶

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⁴ When extending forgiveness to others, there may be some situations where we need to hold safe and healthy boundaries relationally. However, forgiveness can still take place.

⁵ Part of our call to be radically different from the world and to live in peace is the ability to forgive and love ourselves.

⁶ 1 Timothy 2:1

PRAYER REQUESTS

SERMON NOTES

Tangible Presence Lesson 2

Big Idea

As followers of Christ, we are called to be His tangible presence in the lives of others. We must recognize that sometimes the most powerful way to minister to someone is simply by being there, listening attentively, showing empathy, and offering a caring and non-judgmental presence.

The ministry of presence⁷ is based on the understanding that human connection and compassionate companionship can bring healing, comfort, and a sense of belonging to those who are hurting or struggling. By embodying Christ's love and grace through our presence, we can offer a tangible expression of God's care and help bring hope to others.

Group Devotional Reading

Before you begin your group discussion time, read the passage below out loud. As someone slowly reads it, have each member listen for a word or phrase that God highlights for them. Consider having one or two people share what God is highlighting. Then, spend a few minutes in prayerful thanksgiving.

Read John 4:1-30, 39-42

¹ Jesus knew the Pharisees had heard that he was baptizing and making more disciples than John ² (though Jesus himself didn't baptize them—his disciples did). ³ So he left Judea and returned to Galilee.

⁴ He had to go through Samaria on the way. ⁵ Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. ⁷ Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." ⁸ He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

⁹ The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

¹⁰ Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."

¹¹ "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? ¹² And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?"

¹³ Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. ¹⁴ But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."

¹⁵ "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water."

¹⁶ "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her.

¹⁷ "I don't have a husband," the woman replied.

Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband— 18 for you have had five husbands, and you

⁷ The ministry of presence is the power of showing up, listening, grieving with others, fighting loneliness and isolation. This could involve visiting the sick or the lonely or those on hospice, sitting with someone in grief, being a supportive presence in times of chaos and crisis, or offering companionship to those who feel isolated. It may also involve actively seeking out marginalized or vulnerable individuals and communities and standing alongside them in solidarity.

aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!"

¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet. ²⁰ So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?"

²¹ Jesus replied, "Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. ²³ But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. ²⁴ For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

²⁵ The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶ Then Jesus told her, "I AM the Messiah!"

²⁷ Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, "What do you want with her?" or "Why are you talking to her?" ²⁸ The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" ³⁰ So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

³⁹ Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!" ⁴⁰ When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, ⁴¹ long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. ⁴² Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world."

Questions

1. In this story, how did Jesus make it clear that He knew the woman at the well?

What do you think this knowledge revealed to the woman?

2.		nsidering the woman's situation, ⁸ how do you imagine she might have felt about Jesus defying sial norms by taking the time to engage with her, hear her, and just BE with her? ⁹
	a.	Jesus' presence with the woman, the village outcast, would have spoken volumes to the people who disregarded her. Put yourself in their place, how might you have reacted to Jesus' presence with her?
	b.	What was the result of Jesus' presence with the woman at the well? (4:27–30, 39–42)
	c.	How can being present with someone help them (and potentially others) encounter God?
3.	the	us didn't change the women at the well's life circumstances, but He did change her life. What is difference between being present and taking action (problem solving, advocacy, advice, ovision, etc.)?

⁸ "Historically, water-drawing took place either in the early morning or at dusk in order to avoid the Mediterranean heat. While mid-afternoon work like this was not unknown, the scene reminds us of this woman's social isolation. She draws water when other women are absent. Later, of course, we learn the reason for her isolation (**4:18**): She has doomed her reputation and broken the morals of her community. This makes Jesus' overture and conversation all the more remarkable. He is crossing many boundaries." *NIV Application Commentary*. Copyright © 2000 Gary M. Burge. Bible Gateway Plus ⁹ It is important and interesting to note that He actually revealed His true identity as the Messiah to this woman at the well, which was the first time He publicly did this.

	a. Why is this difference significant?
	b. How does that impact your view of what it means to be present with someone?
4.	How have you experienced God's tangible presence in your life?
5.	Because we have experienced God's tangible presence in our lives, we can be His presence to those around us. What does it look like to be the tangible presence of God to others?

Story

Stories help clarify concepts, help us enter other people's shoes, help us understand different perspectives, and help our faith rise.

Take some time to read over the following story about the tangible presence of God.

"At one of our Feed Salem distributions, an older woman named Joyce¹⁰ came in looking for food assistance. We were able to provide her with a box of food, but noticed that she still seemed pretty agitated. When we asked her if she needed anything else or if we could assist her in any other way, she shared that she was struggling to make her monthly house payments and she feared losing her home which would not only impact her but her two beloved cats. We invited her to tell us her story and we sat with her as she shared all about herself, about her fears around being an older person without much income, and about her love for her two cats. We offered to pray for her, gave her some additional resources and said we hoped she would visit us in two weeks so we could check in.

Joyce is now a staple at our Feed Salem distributions, and we check-in on how things are going each time. Although we aren't able to fix her situation, we can ask her about her beloved cats, we can listen to how she is feeling and what she fears and hopes for. We can be present, pray, and offer dignity and kindness in tough times. Joyce knows that when she comes to us, we can't fix her problems but her consistency tells us that, in her opinion, our willingness to simply be present in her suffering is a balm to her wounds and is, in some ways, enough."

We all have stories. Take some time to think through your experiences and write a short testimony

~Ashley, a pastor at Salem Alliance Church

about how you have seen the tangible presence of God in your life or the lives of those around you Consider sharing with your group.	

16

¹⁰ Name changed.

Live it Out

We are called to be the tangible presence of God to those around us—whether that is being a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on, or simply being with someone.

There are multiple ways we can be the tangible presence of God to those around us. Some are listed below. Pick one or add your own to the list and carve out time to practice it this week. Make note of how God shows up and what responses you notice in yourself and others.

- Love your neighbors: Jesus emphasized the importance of loving our neighbors¹¹ as ourselves. Take the time to get to know your neighbors, show genuine care and concern for them, and be ready to learn their stories.
- Serve others: Look for opportunities to serve those around you. Volunteer at local charities, food banks, or shelters. Offer your skills and abilities to help meet the needs of others. Acts of service demonstrate the love of Christ and provide practical assistance to those who are struggling.
- Practice forgiveness: Forgiveness is a powerful way to reflect the character of Jesus. Be willing to forgive those who have wronged you and extend grace to others. By doing so, you demonstrate the transformative power of Christ's love and contribute to a more harmonious community.
- Share your faith: Be willing to share your faith when appropriate. Engage in respectful conversations about your beliefs, answer questions, and offer a listening ear to those who are seeking spiritual guidance. Be a living example of Christ's teachings and allow your actions to speak volumes about your faith.
- Offer encouragement and support: Take the time to encourage and support others in your community. Offer words of affirmation, lend a listening ear, and be a source of comfort to those who are going through difficult times. Show empathy and compassion, just as Jesus did during His ministry.
- Pray for your community: Lift up your community in prayer. Pray for the needs of individuals, local institutions, and leaders. Ask God to bring healing, transformation, and spiritual renewal to your community. Prayer is a powerful way to invoke the presence and guidance of Jesus in the lives of those around you.

¹¹ "Neighbors" does not only include all those who are in your spheres of influence, but also anyone you come into contact with.

PRAYER REQUESTS

SERMON NOTES

Tangible Power Lesson 3

Big Idea

Just before Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised His followers that they would receive power when Holy Spirit came on them and they would be witnesses for Christ to the whole world (**Acts 1:8**). Then, on the day of Pentecost, Holy Spirit did come on God's followers and many people came to know the Lord (**Acts 2**). Since that time, Scripture makes it clear that those who follow Christ are not alone; Holy Spirit lives in each one of us.¹² Through Holy Spirit, we have access to the power Jesus was talking about, the same power that raised Him from the dead.¹³ That power allows us to live for Christ in this broken world: in our homes, neighborhoods, schools, jobs, grocery stores, gyms, parks, etc. This is the way the Kingdom of God takes ground. As followers of Christ, we are called to rely on Holy Spirit to live, move, exist,¹⁴ and to share God's power with the world around us.

Group Devotional Reading

Before you begin your group discussion time, read the passage below out loud. As someone slowly reads it, have each member listen for a word or phrase that God highlights for them. Consider having one or two people share what God is highlighting. Then, spend a few minutes in prayerful thanksgiving.

Read Acts 17:16-34

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city. ¹⁷ He went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and he spoke daily in the public square to all who happened to be there.

¹⁸ He also had a debate with some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. When he told them about Jesus and his resurrection, they said, "What's this babbler trying to say with these strange ideas he's picked up?" Others said, "He seems to be preaching about some foreign gods."

¹⁹ Then they took him to the high council of the city. "Come and tell us about this new teaching," they said. ²⁰ "You are saying some rather strange things, and we want to know what it's all about." ²¹ (It should be explained that all the Athenians as well as the foreigners in Athens seemed to spend all their time discussing the latest ideas.)

²² So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: "Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, ²³ for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: 'To an Unknown God.' This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I'm telling you about.

²⁴ "He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples, ²⁵ and human hands can't serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. ²⁶ From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.

²⁷ "His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' ²⁹ And since this is true, we shouldn't think of God as

20

^{12 1} Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13-14; Galatians 4:6; Acts 2:38

¹³ Ephesians 1:19–20

¹⁴ Acts 17:28

an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone.

³⁰ "God overlooked people's ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him. ³¹ For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead."

³² When they heard Paul speak about the resurrection of the dead, some laughed in contempt, but others said, "We want to hear more about this later." ³³ That ended Paul's discussion with them, ³⁴ but some joined him and became believers. Among them were Dionysius, a member of the council, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Questions

- 1. Much like on the day of Pentecost—the Spirit showed up and gave Paul the words to say in response to the questions of the high council (Acts 17:19–31). This was a moment of power which fulfilled the words of Jesus in Luke 12:11–12, when He said, "And when you are brought to trial in the synagogues and before rulers and authorities, don't worry about how to defend yourself or what to say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what needs to be said."
 - a. This passage records a common, everyday situation for Paul. He was often going to new places and preaching the Gospel; this wasn't an out of the ordinary experience. However, God showed up in this everyday moment and turned it into one of power. As you read over this passage, how is God's power demonstrated?

b. What were the implications of this moment of power? (17:32–34)

2. In **verse 28**, as Paul is explaining who God is, he said that in God, "we live and move and exist." It is only through His power that we live day to day. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is inside of us. What does living in that power everyday mean to you?

	How does living your everyday life in power bring glory to God?
3.	God's power can show up in big moments; moments of physical healing, relational healing, and miracles, etc. Have you seen God show up in a big moment of power, either in your own life or in the life of someone you know? If so, how?
4.	God's power can also show up in seemingly smaller moments. There is power in forgiveness, humility, trust and doing things not in our own strength. Have you seen God show up in a "small" moment of power? If so, how?
5.	If you feel you haven't personally had one of these experiences, how would you like God to meet you in this place and show you His power?

6.	One way we access God's power is by noticing the promptings of Holy Spirit in our lives. How do you typically recognize and respond to the nudges of Holy Spirit?
	What are some of the ways you could grow in this aspect of your relationship with Holy Spirit?
7.	Ultimately, Paul's moment of power led to other people coming to know God, it allowed him to have a powerful witness. What could it look like to use God's power in you as a witness to those who don't yet know God, both by demonstration and declaration?
Sto	Ory ories help clarify concepts, help us enter other people's shoes, help us understand different respectives, and help our faith rise.
Tak	se some time to read over the following story about the tangible power of God.

"For two years I had been living with severe bilateral hip pain caused by a work injury. I was 27

years old and unable to stand or walk for more than ten minutes without being brought to tears. To make things worse, there was no medical treatment available to fix what had been broken. I was looking at a future of constant pain when God made his presence and power tangibly known to me.

God directed me to attend a First Thursday Young Adult Worship Night. Social anxiety had kept me from these events in the past, but I obeyed God, finding comfort in the shadows of the back pews. After a few songs, God told me to go to the front of the stage, bow, and kneel down next to the front pew. My anxiety kept me frozen in place, but God kept telling me to do it. After some time, I obeyed. I walked to the stage, bowed, and knelt down, my body shaking in fear. As I knelt, my lower body became completely numb. After a couple songs, God told me to get up and sit in the pew beside me. With my body then resting on the seat and blood flowing to my legs once more, a fierce tingle-like buzz began to awaken my numb body. It worked its way from my toes, up through the rest of my body. It was then that I felt the weight of God's hands resting on my shoulders, cloaking me with warmth. God was healing my body; answering a prayer I had been too timid to ask. From that night on, I was no longer in pain. I could walk, stand, and dance; all things I had come to accept I would never do again. God healed my body in that moment, tangibly making his power known, and changing my life forever."

~Kasey, an RTI student

We all have stories. Take some time to think through your experiences and write a short testimony about how you have seen the tangible power of God in your life or the lives of those around you. Consider sharing with your group.						

Live it Out

In today's world, people may not resonate with the message that they are sinners in need of a Savior but are often more receptive to the message that we are all broken and in need of a powerful Healer. By sharing God's desire to be that healer (spiritually, physically, mentally etc.) we can present them with a God of love and care who desires a personal relationship with each one of us. God's power in us can help us as we share our powerful God with others.

There are multiple ways we can bring the tangible power of God to those around us. Some are listed below. Pick one or add your own to the list and carve out time to practice it this week. Make note of how God shows up and what responses you notice in yourself and others.

- Boldly proclaim the Gospel: Like the disciples, who were previously timid and fearful, we too
 can be filled with courage and boldness to speak about Jesus and His teachings. We can
 fearlessly preach the message of salvation and the Kingdom of God, even in the face of ridicule,
 opposition, and persecution.
- Perform miraculous signs and wonders: Holy Spirit enables us to perform miracles, such as
 praying for healing and casting out demons, etc. These miraculous acts serve as a
 demonstration of God's power and confirm the truth of God's message.
- Live out the Fruits of the Spirit: The power of Holy Spirit brings about a radical transformation in the lives of believers. We are to be filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. Our lives can be a testimony to the powerful, transformative work of Jesus Christ.
- Use your spiritual gift(s): Each member of the body of Christ has been given a spiritual gift (Romans 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Corinthians 12). By using our spiritual gifts we can demonstrate God's power to those around us and point to His great love for the church and for those who don't yet know Him. If you are not sure what spiritual gifts you have, consider taking our GPS assessment by using this QR code:



PRAYER REQUESTS

SERMON NOTES