

BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 6:8-15; 7

LIFE POINT

The Holy Spirit helps Christians tell about Jesus, even when it is difficult.

CHRIST FOCUS

The Holy Spirit helps Christians tell others about Jesus.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

The Holy Spirit helps Christians tell others about Jesus and God's plan.

SUGGESTED USE DATE: August 13

BIBLE VERSE

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (CSB)

Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8 (KJV)

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (NIV)

"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." Acts 1:8 (ESV)

"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." Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

SCHEDULE AND PROPS**Huddle Ups (optional)**

Supplies (for each small group):

- "Tell Me About It"—sheets of paper (1 per child), pencils (1 per child)
- "Talking Self-Portraits"—sheets of paper (1 per child), scissors, markers, marker board or large sheet of paper

Countdown Video (3 minutes)

Props: none

Worship Song (3 minutes)

Props: none

Welcome and Prayer (5 minutes)

Props: none

True2Life Drama (or Mooseberry video) (3-5 minutes)

Props: 2 backpacks

Connection Point Game

(10 minutes)

Props: timer, 6 index cards, marker

Worship Song (3 minutes)

Props: none

Bible Story (10 minutes)

Props: Bible, 3 sheets of paper

Worship Song and Offering (3 minutes)

Props: none

Connection Point Bible Verse (5-8 minutes)

Props: inflatable globe, 2 bed sheets or parachutes

Connection Point Missions (5-8 minutes)

Props: none

Real Life Connections (3-5 minutes)

Props: none

MUSIC AND MEDIA

- **Countdown:**
Countdown video
- **Worship Song:**
"Holy God (Holy, Holy, Holy)"
- **Welcome and Prayer:**
Life Point and *Bible Verse* slides
- **True2Life Drama:**
Mooseberry Life Application video (optional)
- **Connection Point Game:**
Connection Point Game slide
- **Worship Song:**
"Amazing Power"
- **Bible Story:**
Bible Story and *Christ Focus* slides; *Notebook Bible Story* video (optional)
- **Worship Song and Offering:**
Worship song of your choice
- **Connection Point Bible Verse:**
Connection Point Bible Verse and *Bible Verse* slides
- **Connection Point Missions:**
Connection Point Missions and *Connect to Missions* slides
- **Real Life Connections:**
Real Life Connections, *Real Life Questions*, and *Life Point* slides

HUDDLE UPS (OPTIONAL)

Huddle Ups are for churches that have a drop-off time before the session begins or a pick-up time as parents arrive at the end of the session. It's a great time for interaction with a small group leader through games, conversations, or review questions. Play the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups and the beginning of the session.

- ➔ Estimated time: varies according to schedule
- ➔ Tech: none
- ➔ People: Small Group Leaders
- ➔ Supplies (for each small group):
 - “Tell Me About It”—sheets of paper (1 per child), pencils (1 per child)
 - “Talking Self-Portraits”—sheets of paper (1 per child), scissors, markers, marker board or large sheet of paper

HUDDLE UP: PRE-SESSION

“TELL ME ABOUT IT”

Prep: On a sheet of paper write Tell us something you know about Jesus.

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each child.
- Lead kids to complete this sentence: “Tell us something you know about ____.” Instruct each child to write one answer, such as *your family, your pets, or your favorite thing to eat.*
- Lead kids to crumple their papers and toss them in the center of the circle.
- Crumple the “Tell us something you know about Jesus” paper you wrote and add it to the other paper balls.
- Lead each child to choose a paper ball, open it, read the statement, and tell the group the answer.
- After each child reads and answers a prompt, guide kids to crumple the papers and toss them back into the center of the circle.
- Mix the paper balls.
- Lead each child to choose another paper and play again as time allows.

- Explain that God wants people to tell others about Jesus. Mention that the Holy Spirit helps Christians tell others about Jesus and God’s plan.
- Watch for the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups. Guide your small group to join the others to begin worship.

HUDDLE UP: POST-SESSION

“TALKING SELF-PORTRAITS”

Prep: Approximately 2/3 of the way down each sheet of paper, cut out a 4-by-3-inch oval shape (for the child’s mouth).

- Review the Life Point: **The Holy Spirit helps Christians tell about Jesus, even when it is difficult.**
- Explain that people can tell what they know about Jesus.
- Lead kids to name specific things about Jesus, such as aspects of Jesus’ life, things He did, and His characteristics.
- List the facts that kids name on a large sheet of paper.
- Distribute a prepared sheet of paper to each child.
- Explain that the hole is the mouth piece.
- Lead kids to draw self-portraits on their papers.
- Lead each child to hold up his self-portrait, put his mouth in the opening, and share one thing that he knows about Jesus.
- Guide kids to say today’s Bible verse with their self-portraits.
- Encourage kids that the Holy Spirit will help them tell about Jesus and God’s plan, even when it is difficult.

COUNTDOWN VIDEO

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Countdown Video*
- ➔ People: none
- ➔ Props: none

(Play the Countdown video to signal the beginning of worship time. Kids will count aloud as they join the large group.)

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: “Holy God (*Holy, Holy, Holy*)” (*lead sheet available on DVD-ROM*) or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Good morning (*afternoon/evening*)! Are you ready to sing praises to God? (*Allow for responses.*) I am, too! Let’s stand and sing about our holy God.

(Show the music video.)

(Kids stand to sing.)

WELCOME AND PRAYER

- ➔ Estimated time: 5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Life Point* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

Hi, kids! It’s great to see you at church! I hope you’ve had a good week.

I didn’t want to wake up this morning. My bed felt so comfortable! Do you ever have that problem? (*Allow kids to respond.*) Sometimes getting up in the morning is hard! What are some other things that you think are difficult? (*Allow for responses.*)

Life isn’t always easy. Thankfully, God sent us a Helper—the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps Christians know how to live in ways that honor God, tell others about Jesus, and follow God’s plan.

(Show Life Point slide.)

The Holy Spirit helps Christians tell about Jesus, even when it is difficult. Say that with me: **“The Holy Spirit helps Christians tell about Jesus, even when it is difficult.”**

Jesus commanded His followers to tell others about Him. He expects us to tell others the good news,

even when it is difficult. All of us need to tell about Jesus so that people everywhere can know that He is the Savior! Today’s Bible verse says that the Holy Spirit will help us tell about Jesus in every part of the world! Read with me Acts 1:8.

(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)

(Lead kids to read your preferred version.)

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (*CSB*)
- Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8 (*KJV*)
- “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (*NIV*)
- “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.” Acts 1:8 (*ESV*)
- “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.” Acts 1:8 (*NKJV*)

The Holy Spirit helps us tell about Jesus! Let’s pray and thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to be our Helper. After we pray, we will check in with the True2Life team (*or the Mooseberry kids*).

God, thank You for sending the Holy Spirit. Thank You that He helps us tell about Jesus, even when it is difficult. Please make us bold in telling others the good news of Your salvation plan. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

TRUE2LIFE DRAMA

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Mooseberry Life Application* video (optional)
- ➔ People:
 - Lucy: a preteen Christian
 - Ava: Lucy’s little sister
- ➔ Props: 2 backpacks

Lucy and Ava both wear backpacks and are walking home from school. Lucy is upset.

Ava: Lucy, are you OK? Did something happen at school today?

Lucy: I thought this year would be different. I was hoping and praying that Jared wouldn’t be in my class, but he is. I want to quit school.

Ava: School just started. You can’t quit. What’s wrong with Jared?

Lucy: Jared is mean. He has made fun of me every single year in school. I had decided to not let him bother me this year, but man, he made me so angry today.

Ava: What happened?

Lucy: I was praying before I ate my lunch. I always pray before I eat, but he must have been waiting for me to do it today. As soon as I closed my eyes, he came out of nowhere, stood right over me, and said: “Oh God, help me not be so dreadful to everyone around me.” I looked up really fast, and everyone was laughing!

Ava: *(Looks horrified.)* No, he didn’t!

Lucy: Oh, he did. I was so embarrassed ... and angry. Why would he do that?

Ava: I’m sorry, Lucy. What did you do?

Lucy: I ran out of the cafeteria and went to the nurse. I told her I felt sick.

Ava: Did that help?

Lucy: Not really. I should have just stayed in the room and held my head up, but I didn’t.

Ava: What will you do tomorrow?

Lucy: I don’t know. Maybe I won’t pray before I eat.

Ava: That doesn’t sound like the right thing to do, and ... it’s definitely not a “Lucy” answer.

Lucy: I know it’s not. What do you think I should do?

Ava: I know what you would tell me to do. You would say that I need to pray even longer tomorrow. Then you’d say that I need to tell Jared that I thanked God for my food and for him.

Lucy: *(Sighing)* You’re right. It will be hard though.

Ava: It probably will be REALLY hard, but I know the Holy Spirit will help you.

Lucy: How did you get so smart?

Ava: I guess I’ve listened to you TOO MANY TIMES.

Lucy: *(laughing)* Well, you are becoming very wise. How was your day?

(Both continue chatting, cross the stage, and exit.)

(END SCENE)

CONNECTION POINT GAME

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Game* slide
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, 6 kids
- ➔ Props: timer, 6 index cards, marker

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

- *On each card write the name of an object such as, Bible, church, notebook, pizza, and so on.*
- *Choose 6 kids.*
- *Form 2 teams.*
- *Enlist a “talker” from Team 1 and give him a card.*
- *Explain that the talker may say 1, 2, or 3 words to describe the item on the card. For example, if the word is pizza, he might say: “Pepperoni, cheese, slices.”*
- *Guide the team to decide how many words they need to guess the item on the card.*
- *Lead the talker to provide the number of words decided upon by the team.*

- If the team correctly guesses the item, award points as follows: 5 points for 1 word, 3 points for 2 words, 1 point for 3 words.
- Keep a point tally.
- Alternate turns between teams and play as time allows.

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Game slide.)

Are you ready for a game? Who would like to play? (Choose six kids. Form two teams.)

Players, today you must talk about what you know! The first team will choose one player to be the “talker.” I will give the talker a card with a word on it, and his team must guess the word.

The team will decide if it needs the talker to say one, two, or three words to describe what’s on the card. If your team can guess with just one word, you’ll earn five points. If the talker says two words, you’ll earn three points. If the talker gives you three words, you’ll earn one point.

Let’s pretend that the word on my card is *pizza*. The talker might say: “Pepperoni, cheese, and slices,” to help your team guess the word *pizza*.

We will keep a point tally and play until each team has the opportunity to guess three words. The team with the most points will be the winner.

Do all of you understand how to play? (Answer any questions and play the game.)

Great job, everyone! In this game, the more words that the talker said, the easier it was to guess. We want it to be easy for people to know about Jesus and God’s plan. That’s why we need to speak up and talk about what we know!

Telling about Jesus won’t always be easy. In fact, sometimes it can be really difficult! After we sing, we’ll hear a Bible story about a man who faced a very difficult situation because He chose to tell about Jesus. Even though it was hard, the Holy Spirit was with him and helped him.

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights (optional)
- ➔ Music: “Amazing Power” (lead sheet available on DVD-ROM) or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

John 15:26 says that the Holy Spirit is our Helper and will tell about Jesus! There is no situation so difficult that the Holy Spirit cannot help us. Let’s sing and praise God for sending us a Helper—the Holy Spirit.

(Show the music video.)

(Lead kids to sit as song ends.)

BIBLE STORY

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Christ Focus and Bible Story* slides; *Notebook Bible Story* video (optional)
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader, 3 kids
- ➔ Props: Bible, 3 sheets of paper

Option 1: Use the suggested props and tell the following Bible story.

Option 2: Play the *Notebook Bible Story* video.

Option 3: Tell the Optional Bible Story available on the DVD-ROM. This session’s optional Bible story: “Peter Was Arrested, Acts 12:1-19.”

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

(Show Bible Story slide.)

Let’s have a battle of strength! I need three strong kids to join me. (Choose three kids. Give each child a sheet of paper.)

OK, I want to see your super strength! Can you tear your sheet of paper in half? (Lead kids to tear the paper.) Was that easy or difficult? (Allow for responses.) Let’s try again. Stack your two pieces of paper and try to tear them in half again. (Lead kids to tear the paper. Ask each time if the task was easy

or difficult. Continue stacking and tearing the papers until it is too difficult to tear. Kids will not be able to tear the paper after six or seven times.) Thank you, kids! Let's give our friends a big round of applause!

At first, our friends said that tearing the paper was easy. Eventually, it became impossible to tear the paper, even though they tried very hard!

Most of the time it is easy to do what's right and tell about Jesus. We talk to our friends about Jesus and invite them to church with no problem. Other times, making right choices and telling what we know about Jesus can be very difficult, even though we try our very best. Today's Bible story is about a man who chose to tell about Jesus, even when it was difficult.

(Open Bible to Acts 6.)

Stephen was a good man who loved God. He preached about Jesus, and God's Holy Spirit gave Stephen power to do amazing things.

One day some men began to argue with Stephen. God's Spirit helped Stephen speak with great wisdom. Stephen's words were so wise that the men could not continue arguing!

(Read Acts 6:11-12.)

Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We heard him speaking [disrespectful] words against Moses and God." They stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; so they came, seized him, and took him to the Sanhedrin.

When the men realized that they could not argue with Stephen, they told lies about him. They said that Stephen taught bad things about God, and they brought Stephen before the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was a court made up of leaders from each city in Israel. The men told the Sanhedrin even more lies about Stephen!

The high priest asked Stephen if the charges against him were true. Stephen spoke boldly to the people. He said that God had made Israel into a great nation, and he reminded them of God's promise to Abraham. He explained how God used Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Stephen said that even though God did such great things for Israel, the people continued to turn away from Him. Stephen said those who sat in the court had turned away from

God, too! These words made the members of the Sanhedrin furious!

(Read Acts 7:54-56.)

When they heard these things, they were enraged and gnashed their teeth at him. Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven. He saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. He said, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

The people covered their ears, so they could not hear Stephen's words. They dragged Stephen out of the city and threw stones at him. Stephen prayed for God to forgive the people for their sin. Then Stephen died.

(Close Bible.)

(Show Christ Focus slide.)

The Holy Spirit helps Christians tell others about Jesus. Stephen faced difficulties because he was a follower of Jesus, but He was not alone. Jesus was crucified, and He told His followers that they would be persecuted—hated, hurt, or even killed—for loving Him. Jesus also said that those who suffer for Him would be blessed. *(Matthew 5:11)* We can face difficult times because Jesus suffered first. He died, rose again, and is waiting for believers in heaven.

Christians are called to share the gospel with all people. Sometimes Christians face hard times in telling about Jesus, but the Holy Spirit is there to help! God wants us to tell everyone, both friends and enemies. It won't always be easy to tell about Jesus, but it is always right.

WORSHIP SONG AND OFFERING

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: Use a favorite song or download a worship song of your choice.
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

You may not be killed or arrested for telling about Jesus, but it can still be difficult sometimes. It's isn't easy to be made fun of or rejected by your friends.

Even when it is hard, the Holy Spirit is there to help you do what is right. He will give you the words to say at just the right moment. Let's pray and ask for the Holy Spirit to help us tell about Jesus.

God, sometimes it's difficult to tell others about Jesus. Please give us courage to speak the truth. Thank You that the Holy Spirit is there to guide us and teach us what to say. Help us share the gospel with our friends and our enemies. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Optional Giving Segment:

It's time to give an offering. Some of the money people give at church helps missionaries go to difficult places and tell about Jesus. If you would like to give an offering today, ...

(Give your own directions for how the kids can give their offerings. After collecting the offering, guide kids to stand for the worship song.)

CONNECTION POINT BIBLE VERSE

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Bible Verse* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, all kids
- ➔ Props: inflatable globe, 2 bed sheets or parachutes

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Select your preferred version of the Bible verse.*
- *Say the verse and lead kids to repeat it after you.*
- *Divide the verse into shorter phrases.*
(For example, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you / and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, / in all Judea and Samaria, / and to the ends of the earth." / Acts 1:8)
- *Spread 2 bed sheets or parachutes on the floor.*
- *Form 2 large groups.*
- *Lead each group to stand around a bed sheet, pick up the edges, and hold it at waist height.*
- *Toss an inflatable globe onto 1 of the sheets.*
- *Guide the group to say the first phrase of the Bible verse and toss the globe to the other group.*

- *Lead the new group to say the next Bible verse phrase and toss the globe back.*
- *Continue as your time allows.*

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (CSB)
- Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8 (KJV)
- "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (NIV)
- "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." Acts 1:8 (ESV)
- "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." Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

Today's Bible verse is a promise and a challenge! Read with me Acts 1:8.

(Show Bible Verse slide—your preferred version.)

(Lead kids to read your preferred version.)

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come, and He would give believers power to tell about Him. Jesus challenged His followers to tell about Him in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth! We should tell about Jesus in the same way. We can tell about Jesus in *(name of your city)*, in *(name of your state)*, in *(name of your country)*, and all around the world!

(Lead the activity.)

CONNECTION POINT MISSIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Missions* and *Connect to Missions* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader
- ➔ Props: none

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Missions slide.)

Anne and William “Buck” Bagby felt a call to international missions. The two married in 1881, and the Foreign Mission Board (*now the International Mission Board*) appointed them as missionaries to Brazil.

Anne and her husband helped start a school in São Paulo in 1901. The name of the school was Colégio Batista Brasileiro (*Brazilian Baptist School*). The school included a boarding school for girls (*facility where kids live on the school campus*).

(Show Connect to Missions slide.)

Throughout the 1880s and continuing into the 20th century, Anne, Buck, and their children and grandchildren started Baptist churches and schools across the southern United States, in Brazil, and in Argentina.

Buck died in 1939, and Anne died in 1942. By the year of Buck’s death, Brazil had 778 churches with over 68,000 members!

The Bagbys were the first permanent Baptist missionaries in Brazil. Their work in Brazil is one of the longest terms of service of a couple serving as full-time missionaries in Southern Baptist missions. The Bagbys served as missionaries for 56 years and continued to live and work in Brazil until their deaths.

Let’s thank God for people like the Bagbys who started churches and schools to help many people in Brazil learn about Jesus. Also, pray for the missions work that continues in Brazil and around the world.

(Invite a child to lead the group to pray. If no one volunteers, voice a prayer yourself.)

God, thank You for the many people in Brazil who heard the gospel because of Anne and Buck Bagby and their family. We thank You for missionaries who

serve You around the world and pray that their ministries would be successful. Although missionary life can be hard sometimes, we know that Your Holy Spirit will help them do the work You’ve sent them to do. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

REAL LIFE CONNECTIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Real Life Connections*, *Real Life Questions*, and *Life Point* slides; microphone to take to individuals in group (*optional*)
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

Lead a conversation with your kids about today’s Bible story and Life Point. Show the Real Life Questions slides and discuss each question.

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

(Show Real Life Questions slides.)

Life isn’t always easy, but God is with us! He sent the Holy Spirit to be our Helper. Let’s talk about difficult times and what we can do when we face hard situations.

- How has God helped you during a difficult time?
- Who in the Bible faced difficult times?
- Why do you think that speaking about Jesus is sometimes unpopular?
- What is something you can do if you are in a difficult situation?

(Show Life Point slide.)

The Holy Spirit helps Christians tell about Jesus, even when it is difficult. Say that with me: **“The Holy Spirit helps Christians tell about Jesus, even when it is difficult.”**

You do not need to worry or be afraid to speak up and tell what you know about Jesus! The Holy Spirit is with you and will help you!

Thanks for coming to worship. When you leave today, remember to tell the world about Jesus!

Leader note: *If you plan to utilize the post-session Huddle Up, dismiss kids to their small groups.*