

Week Beginning: 30th July, 2017

Worship Series: #10 in series **THE
POWER IN
THE MOMENT**

living sharing growing



lifegroups
live life abundantly

Theme Verse

"He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!"

Acts 28:31

Remember This Week

Every time you are tempted to put a full stop, to close a chapter, to end a situation, the power of God can add a semicolon.

Every time life inserts a period, closes a door, leads you down a dead end, the power of God can change it to a semicolon.

For God is not done yet. The same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead fills your life with power in the moment to continue the unfinished work of his story that ripples into eternity.



**As we have heard, so we have seen
in the city of the Lord Almighty, in the city of our God:
God makes her secure forever.**

**Within your temple, O God, we meditate on your unfailing love.
Like your name, O God, your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with righteousness.**

Psalms 48:8-10

God of all power and might, you have unfinished business in this world and you invite us to participate in that work. As we gather together, fill us with the power of your Holy Spirit that your power may continue to flow through our life. Help us continue the story of your grace and love in this world that your praise may reach the ends of the earth. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



1. *Highs and lows for the week.*
2. *Accountability time. How did you go with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *Who is your favourite storyteller or author and why?*
4. *If you ended up in jail, like Paul, what three items would you most want to take with you (no files or keys permitted!)?*

It's a simple yet powerful tool at the hands of every writer - the semicolon. It is used to signal that the author has unfinished business; there is still more to write, still more to say. As we come to the end of this series "Power in the moment" Luke finishes the book of Acts, not with a full stop but a semicolon. It's not time to shut the book yet. There is still more to write, more to accomplish, more mighty acts of God to be witnessed. Luke hands you the pen and says, "Your turn. You write the next chapter of God's power in the moment, the story of his resurrection power at work in your life." For there is still so much more to be added to God's story; more hope to share, more grace to give, more joy to unleash, more hearts to transform, more lives to be saved, more names to be recorded. God's power continues...in you...through you. So start writing.

Read Acts 28:1-31



5. *What is something in your life that you stopped that you wished you had continued doing?*
6. *What in this text resonated with you or challenged you?*



The NASB translation of Acts 28:1 tells us that “when they had been brought through . . .” It accurately conveys the meaning that they had not escaped, but rather that God had brought them safely through. The island was called Malta, meaning place of “refuge.” It was an appropriate name for the culmination of a divine deliverance. Once on dry land, the natives warmly welcomed them!

7. *As the natives built a warm fire, what happened to Paul? What did the natives think of him because of it? v. 4*
8. *Once they all watched for a while and no harm came to him, what did they think? v. 6*
9. *During Paul's stay, what was he able to do for his gracious host?*
10. *What further blessing came to the people of this island that had become a refuge for Paul and his men?*
11. *What are the things today that seem to hinder the Gospel in society today?*
12. *In finishing the book of Acts, it is as if Luke is handing us the pen and saying 'Your turn...you write the next chapter...and then you pass the pen on too.' How willingly do you pick up the pen to continue the story, or what stops you from doing it?*
13. *Where in your life have you experienced personally or witnessed that 'God is not finished yet?'*

Paul was limited physically by his chains, but the reach of his ministry was not bound. At times, you too, will find yourselves restricted by time, ability, opportunity, and personal means. The question: will you allow yourself to put a full stop and be mastered by your limitations or will you allow God to use your circumstances to transform you and others by His power and for His glory? The one unique, universal distinctive of the gospel, that is foolishness to Greeks and a stumbling block to Jews, and is offered nowhere else in the world - is found in no other faith system in the world -but actually saves, is Jesus Christ and his resurrection. Paul locks onto the resurrection of Jesus, for it is this one event alone that drives everything about his life and gives him confidence and certainty to keep writing the story of Jesus in the world. It's the resurrection of Jesus that gives the power to continue no matter how tough things get...for it tells you, God is not finished yet.

“Sooner or later, everyone should be arrested and imprisoned for a good cause. Or if not arrested and imprisoned, put in a position of suffering and sacrifice. Or if not that, at least be criticized or inconvenienced a little. Because if we're co-conspirators with the Spirit of God to bring blessing to our world, sooner or later it's going to cost us something and get us in trouble.” (–from Brian McLaren, *We Make the Road by Walking*)

14. *How does that quote make you feel and to what extent have you experienced it in your own life?*
15. *How has being a living witness, part of the movement of Jesus, impacted you or challenged you in your life?*



Your story, your life will be given to something....all of us give our lives to something. We attach our energy, our time, our resources and our money to things that either cause our lives to end with us or cause our story to continue the ripple effects into eternity.

16. *As you reflect on your life, will the things you are investing your life in right now end with you when you die or continue to ripple into eternity? What needs to change to turn the full stop of your life into a semicolon?*
17. *What would it look like in your life for you personally to walk boldly and unhindered as a living witness of Jesus Christ?*



- Praise God for continuing his story in the world through us. Thank Jesus for giving us a story which has an eternal ending. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you lock onto the promise of the resurrection that his power may continue to write a story of grace in the world.
- For Christ's resurrection power to be so evident in our lives that many more names may be added to the Book of Life.
- * That God would continue to give us a 'Have a Go' spirit to find new ways to advance the kingdom and continue God's story in our communities.
- For boldness to add the semi colon of grace to people who have put a full stop in their life. match theirs.



Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:
Name, may Jesus' story be heard through you. Amen.