Waterkloof Baptist Church
Life Group Study

“Raise the Sails”
SERIES: “Stretch Your Nets” – Acts
Acts 1:1-14
Rev. Paul Witter
PART 2

**Prepare**

View the sermon and complete the sermon notes.

Choose those questions that are pertinent to the group member’s needs and experiences.

**Open**

1. How do you feel about the fact that God wants to use YOU in 2021 in extraordinary ways?
2. Throughout Scripture we see that when God intervenes, it is a God- sized assignment, beyond our human resources. Moses, David, Gideon and many more all needed God’s help and intervention. In the New Testament we see how God miraculously used a small band of disciples to reach the world. Do you recognize that if God calls you to do something, it is often beyond your own ability?
3. Share a time when God used you in a way that stretched you.
What did you learn from this experience.
*(Examples: you shared your faith with someone and discovered
that God gave you the words; OR you prayed with someone and
discovered the faithfulness of God; you trusted God for something and saw how he came through)*
4. Share a verse, quote, teaching or principle that stood out for you in the sermon, or something that you don’t understand.

**Digging Deeper: Read Acts 1:1-14 FOCUS: v12-14**

1. The disciples had expectant hearts. How would you rate your expectancy when it comes to God using you in a special way:
[] Wow, God is going to use me [] Excited [] So-so
[] Don’t think God wants to use me [] Not sure

What will it take to stoke the fire?
2. The disciples met together to pray because they believed that the Holy Spirit was going to come upon them to empower them to be witnesses. Have you ever considered that the Holy Spirit can and will work through you? What is the point of receiving the Spirit’s power?

Acts 1:8

Acts 4:8,12,13, 19-20, 31
3. Does the story of R.A Torrey, the “tongue-tied” preacher, give you hope? What things do you need to overcome or grow in with the help of the Spirit? Read John 14:26.
4. Read James 5:16-18. What points do you think James was wanting to make in these three verses?
5. What makes for powerful and effective prayer? Review the 6 aspects listed in the sermon (devoted, united, focused, dependent, conquering prayer and surrendering oneself to God). Which of these is most striking to you and which ones do you need to work on?

1. John Bunyan said: “*You can do more than pray, after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.”*
What things do you need to change in order to be more effective in ‘God’s economy’ and to “walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16).
*(Example: I need to set aside time in the morning to seek God’s face and align my day to His plans and purposes)*

**Going forward**

1. List 3 ways you think God wants to “stretch you” in 2021?

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2. Pray with your prayer partner about ways God wants to stretch you, and commit yourself to God’s work in your life in 2021. If your group is using Zoom, consider using the breakout rooms to share.
3. Share and pray with your partner about **one** “take home” action point that you would like to implement.
4. Pray through Acts 1:8

**Close**

Read and commit to memory John 14:26