



Discussion Guide Church — Part 3 LEADER GUIDE

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You were made for more than a comfortable, self-focused faith. You were made to be part of something bigger. In this series, we're rediscovering what the church was always meant to be: not a program to consume, but a Spirit-filled, Jesus-shaped community that's alive, vital, and still changing the world. We'll look at the stories competing for our hearts, and rediscover the one true story we were made for!

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

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"O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams."
[Saint Augustine]

LEADER RESOURCES || **Leader Note** *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well.*

- **Passage Summary**
 - *At the appointed day of Pentecost, the disciples of Jesus were all together in one place. God sends a sound of wind and tongues of fire to rest on the disciples. They were filled with the Holy Spirit, and He gave them the ability to speak in other tongues. He drew together devout men from every nation to Jerusalem, and they all heard the disciples speaking in their own languages. Some ask questions, others mockingly suggest the disciples are drunk. Peter stands up and lifts his voice to address the crowd, quoting Joel and proclaiming the day of the Lord.*

ENGAGE & CONNECT || **Leader Note** *The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another's hearts and building joy together.*

When you picture the tongues of fire on people's heads at Pentecost, what do they look like?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || **Leader Note** *Begin your time together thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, taking a posture of humility and dependence!*

Spirit of God, we ask for guidance today as we talk about You. Help us get to know You as a person more. We want You to be present with us. Amen.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE || **Leader Note** *Help your group memorize the new verses together by having each person read them aloud. The goal is to enjoy hiding God's word in our hearts together.*

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

[Hebrews 10:24-5, ESV]

BIG IDEA || **Leader Note** *Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today's reading and discussion.*

The Holy Spirit's authority is greater than our ability, beyond our comprehension, and challenging our ways.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they're for guidance!

Have someone read aloud Acts 2:1-21 in the ESV.

1. How were the disciples prepared for the Spirit to come? *They were devoted to prayer in the last chapter. They gathered together in this chapter. Both were in obedience to Christ's command.*
2. What did God do to send people to the ends of the earth with His gospel? *He brought them from everywhere to the central point where He would begin everything. It's also incredible to see that even the Roman occupation made a lot of this possible—the globalization, technology of paved roads, and the Pax Romana all contributed to the perfect situation for the kingdom of Jesus to go from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth rapidly.*
3. What changes about the disciples once the Spirit of God is upon them? What has the Spirit of God changed about you? *Peter has words to speak. They all can communicate with people of many languages (reversal of Tower of Babel). He changes things with His presence—we should be able to tell a difference.*
4. Do you have a life anointed by the Holy Spirit? *If the Spirit seems uninvolved or distant, why?*
5. What does the Holy Spirit have authority to do? *Ideas are welcome here—spend a few minutes looking through verses about the Holy Spirit and what He does throughout scripture.*
6. Does the Spirit make you feel uncomfortable? *The answer should be yes. The Spirit often makes us all uncomfortable. Matt particularly mentioned the compartmentalized Christian, the people pleaser, and anyone who is ego-driven.*
7. How is your reverence for the Lord lately? *When we revere the Lord, not only are we going be obedient to His word, we'll see worship, praise, and joy coming out of us naturally.*
8. How is your intimacy with God? Do you feel like you know Him and He knows you? *Our closeness with the Lord is the best part of life in Christ—but we have to spend time together with His Spirit to draw close to Him.*
9. Has your connection with the Spirit of God changed your morality? *We should be growing in purity as well as generosity, love for the poor, care for His people, and all the virtues that come as fruit of His Spirit.*

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.

The Holy Spirit is a person and He is just as much God as the Father and the Son.

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) How can you cooperate with what the Spirit is doing? 2) How can you obey God in reverence to Him?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 2 or 3 for this question, so each person has others praying with them for the needs they're taking before the throne.

PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes to pray together. Try the prayer activity below or pray for one another's personal requests!

"Lord, prepare us for more of Your presence. We want to be emptied of worthless things and filled with You instead. We want to obey the truth of Jesus' teachings. We need You to do this. Amen."