



Next Week's Life Group: TBD

Our Church's Definition of a Biblical Disciple of Jesus

A person who is committed to *following, being changed by,* and *on mission* with Jesus (taken from Matthew 4:19).

The Purpose of Life Groups

Life Groups are where we connect and grow with God and with others through relationships; growing in spiritual maturity as biblical disciples of Jesus. Life Groups are loving, safe and interactive; a place where people can be authentic and vulnerable as they explore, experience, and grow in relationship with Jesus, the Word, and others to inspire a culture of discipleship as we do life together. *Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11*



HOLY SPIRIT

MAY 19-20, WEEK 5

LIFE
GROUPS
GUIDE

Holy Spirit

“... for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now .” Acts 1:5

Getting Started: What are you looking forward to in the coming months?

Context: The opening paragraph of Acts 1 describes Jesus' final instructions to His disciples immediately prior to His ascension in to Heaven. *And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” Acts 1:1-5.*

Just 10 days later, at the celebration of Pentecost, the promised Holy Spirit arrived! Pentecost was a festival that was celebrated 50 days after Passover. It was originally the celebration of first-fruits of the grain harvest, but by the time of Jesus' resurrection it was also considered the anniversary of the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai. It was a time for annual renewal of the Mosaic Covenant. The timing of the miracle on Pentecost suggests that the arrival of the Spirit was in continuity with God's purposes in giving the Law. Jesus had come to fulfill, not abolish the law (Matt 5:17). After Pentecost, rather than Torah centered and Torah directed, the New Covenant would be Christ centered and Spirit directed. Before the amazing events recorded in Acts 2 the Spirit of God had worked in Creation, in Old Testament history, and through the inspired speaking and writing of the prophets. He was present in the life and ministry of Jesus and had empowered the disciples to heal the sick and cast out demons. With the exception of Jesus, prior to Pentecost the Holy Spirit came temporarily upon particular people(s) for special purposes. The one consistency in all the accounts is that the Spirit enabled individuals and nations to do things they were completely unable to do in their own power. The relationship of the Spirit to the members of the body of Christ became permanent and personal when He fulfilled Jesus' promise that “He who lives with you will be in you” (John 14:17).



Story/Passage: Acts 2:1-13

The Coming of The Holy Spirit

Head Level

These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.



- What were the believers doing during the 10 days they were waiting in Jerusalem? Who was gathered together?
- What did the Holy Spirit empower the followers of Christ to do for the international crowds who were gathered for Pentecost?

Heart Level

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.



- Picture yourself in a foreign place where you suddenly hear your native language, or even the mention of your home town. What is your reaction? How do you feel?
- Does the Holy Spirit do the same work in the life of every believer? Explain.

Hands Level

These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.



- What is something you have been trying to accomplish in your own skill and strength? What needs to change? How can our group be praying with you about this?
- What “mighty deeds of God” from your life need to be shared with someone within earshot? Practice now by sharing your story with the group.