

# The Holy Spirit Is Our “How”

## Small Group Guide

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Who is one of the most helpful people you know? Explain.
2. What’s the biggest event you’ve ever attended?

**Read the following passage:** Luke 24:36-53.

In this passage, Luke records one of Jesus’s last interactions with his disciples before Jesus ascends into heaven. It is interesting to note the circumstances and content of this interaction: 1) Jesus has already been raised from the dead; 2) Jesus has helped the disciples understand how he has fulfilled the (Old Testament) Scriptures; 3) Jesus summarizes the Gospel message; 4) Jesus identifies the target audience for this message (the whole world); and 5) Jesus reiterates that the disciples are the ones who are to fulfill this mission. With all of these things in place, we might think that Jesus would conclude this interaction by officially releasing his disciples to fulfill the mission. Instead, he tells them to wait until they receive the promised Holy Spirit. This is a powerful reminder to us that it is not enough to know the “who,” the “what,” and the “where.” We need the “how.” The book of Acts makes it clear that the Holy Spirit is our “how.”

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Why is the resurrection such an important event for the Christian faith? Do you think the Christian faith would exist if Jesus had not been raised from the dead? Explain.
2. Jesus told his disciples that the (Old Testament) Scriptures spoke about him. What are some passages in the Old Testament that anticipate what Jesus would accomplish?
3. Do you think any of Jesus’s disciples, who were all Jewish, were surprised to hear that they were supposed to take the Gospel to “all nations?” Explain.
4. Although the Holy Spirit was not yet given to all of God’s people under the old covenant, we do have many examples of individuals being empowered with the Spirit of God in the Old Testament including Moses, Bezalel, Joshua, many of the judges (e.g. Othniel, Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson), Saul, David, Daniel, and the prophets all the way through John the Baptist. What are some things we can learn about the work of the Holy Spirit through the lives of these individuals?

5. What are some ways you would like to see the Holy Spirit work in and through you in your daily life?
6. Read John 14:12. How does Jesus's statement connect with the promise of the Holy Spirit?
7. Read Acts 2:1-21. Why do you think God waited until the day of Pentecost to pour out the Holy Spirit?
8. Do you think that this experience on the day of Pentecost was quiet and subdued? Explain.
9. What can we learn from the prophecy in Joel that Peter references as he begins addressing the crowd that gathered?
10. Why do we need the Holy Spirit in our lives?

**Pray**