

# The Power of the Holy Spirit

## 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. What do you consider to be one of your greatest achievements?
2. If you were going to being a participant on the show *The Amazing Race*, whom would you choose to be your teammate?

**Read the following passage:** Acts 1:3-8.

In this passage Jesus describes both the mission he is giving to the apostles (and, by extension, to all of his followers) and the means to accomplish that mission. Jesus' disciples are to be witnesses to his life and ministry, and are to extend Jesus' ministry to all peoples on earth. To accomplish this mission, God will empower them (and us!) with his Holy Spirit.

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

1. The good news that Jesus announced was the arrival of the kingdom of God. (See Mark 1:14-15.) What are some ways Jesus' view of the kingdom differed from his contemporaries' view of the kingdom? What are some ways things might change if the will of God were to be broadly embraced by people in a particular city, state, or nation?
2. Jesus' teaching and actions indicate that he associated the following with the arrival of God's kingdom.
  - Forgiveness of sins - Luke 5:17-26
  - Healing of bodies - Luke 7:21-23
  - Deliverance from evil spirits - Matthew 12:22-28
  - Good news for the poor - Luke 6:20-23
  - The word of God going to the nations - Acts 1:7-8
  - True holiness expressed in love - Luke 7:36-50
  - Reconciliation of peoples - Matthew 5:21-24
  - The presence of God with his people - John 14:6-10

How might we embrace some of these aspects of the kingdom of God in our own lives and work?

3. Why is forgiveness so important (spiritually, emotionally, physically, and relationally)? What might hinder us from receiving forgiveness or extending forgiveness to others? Are there any unresolved areas in your life in which you need forgiveness from God or others? Are there any people to whom you need to extend forgiveness? Explain.

4. What are some ways the work of the Holy Spirit after the day of Pentecost is different from what we see among the people of Israel under the old covenant? (See, for example, Acts 2:1-21.)
5. Do you feel empowered by God's Spirit to continue the mission of Jesus in your context? Explain.
6. What are some ways you would like to see the Holy Spirit work in and through your life? How do you think the Holy Spirit might help you in your workplace, in your family, or in your other relationships?
7. What can we do to experience more of the Holy Spirit's presence and power in our lives?

**Pray**