

ACTS

GROUP GUIDE: WEEK 1

CONVERSATION STARTER

If your life story were turned into a movie, which public figure or celebrity would you pick to represent you in the film and why?

THE POWER OF PENTECOST

Acts 2

In the days of Jesus, people experienced God's presence by visiting the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple is where God dwelt with His people; it's where they could find forgiveness and be in community with one another. Long ago, when the Temple was built and dedicated for the first time by King Solomon, we're told fire came down from heaven as a sign of God's glory, filling the place ([2 Chronicles 7:1](#)).

At Pentecost, fire once again falls from heaven to fill a new Temple. Only this time, tongues of fire don't fall on a building but on a group of individuals huddled together in a room in Jerusalem. In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul reminds the church of this truth: they are little temples where God's Spirit dwells. No longer do those who seek God's presence have to travel far and wide to the Temple in Jerusalem. Instead, we carry God's life-giving Spirit within us, which means we act as God's representatives on earth. We are little temples through which God's love, mercy, forgiveness, and grace are mediated out to the rest of the world. In other words, the new Temple dedicated during Pentecost is the Church!

Spend a few moments discussing this idea in your group. You are a place where God dwells on earth. How does that change your self-image? What does it practically look like to represent God to the rest of the world? And how can we be people who reveal God's love and mercy through every aspect of our lives?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you about the reading from this week? Was there a verse or idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?
2. How comfortable are you talking about or interacting with the Holy Spirit? What is your understanding of the role the Spirit plays in our lives?
3. Re-read Acts 2:42-47. What stands out to you? How do you think this passage should guide us as we seek to live in community together?
4. Peter and John stop and give attention to the lame beggar on their way to the Temple. How can you stop and give attention to those in need this week? How might you as a group call one another to live with the kind of radical generosity as the early believers?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Read Acts 2:42-47. This famous passage is often referred to as *The Fellowship of Believers*. It's a beautiful and powerful example of how the early followers of Jesus lived in light of the Gospel. These first Christians, and the early Church they belonged to, were marked by the spiritual habits or practices of Jesus. These included things like studying Scripture together, living in community, eating together, praying, worship, radical generosity, and hospitality.

As we seek to live like Jesus and grow in our love for God and others, we, too, are called to adopt these same habits in our own rhythm of life. Not because we believe *doing* these things will somehow earn us God's love or favor, but because these **spiritual practices are the vehicle through which we invite God to speak into our lives, rewire our hearts, and refocus our desires**. Spiritual practices allow us to experience God more deeply and invite the Holy Spirit to do its good work inside of us, transforming us from the inside out through the endless grace of God. This doesn't happen overnight but rather through a lifetime of reorganizing your habits and creating new routines.

This week, choose just one of the following habits to build into your rhythm: Prayer, worship, eating with someone else, generosity, or hospitality. Start small and be reasonable. Don't commit to praying for an hour every day. Try 10 minutes. Turn on worship music during your commute or invite someone to join you for coffee or lunch. Consider how you might make this practice a regular part of your routine moving forward.