

Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of August 14 - 20, 2022

Main Thought and Scriptures:

Jesus commanded His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the power of the Holy Spirit to be able to fulfill their mission of leading the first revival and awakening that would shake the world. Like them, we too need the Spirit's power in our lives to prepare us for the revival ahead.

“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; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’

*⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’ ⁷He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’ ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.”
(Acts 1:4-9 ESV)*

“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4 ESV)

How do we respond?

1. Pray for His power.

- The disciples waited for ten days in the upper room praying for the power of God and for revival and awakening.
- We need to create “upper room” moments in our lives to pray consistently for the Spirit to fill us and for revival and renewal to break out.

2. Purify our hearts from sin.

- Fire from heaven that looked like tongues of fire rested on each of them. Fire in the Bible usually represents God's presence that brings purification and holiness.
- We need to seek the Lord for holiness and purity.
- Repentance and revival must happen in the Church first before God brings an awakening to the community.

3. Proclaim the gospel.

- The result was that the disciples, full of the Spirit, boldly proclaimed the Gospel to the community around them and the first great spiritual awakening broke out.
- Full of the Spirit, we need to actively look for opportunities to proclaim the Gospel to others.

Discussion Questions:

- As you reflect on the weekend sermon, the main thought, and scriptures above, what is the Lord highlighting to you and why?
- How can you create "upper room" moments of prayer in your life? When and where can you commit to seeking the Lord in prayer?
- How is the Lord challenging you to purify your heart from sin? Explain.

Prayer:

- Take a moment to quiet yourselves before the Lord to repent of any known sins. You can each pray silently in your own hearts.
- Then, take turns praying for
 1. Revival in the Church: that Christians will live passionately and obediently for Christ, and
 2. For awakening in the broader society: that people in our communities, leaders, and influencers would come to faith in Jesus.