



### Small Group Study Questions

As you reflect on the message from this week, was there anything you heard for the first time? Was there something said that challenged you or confused you?

#### Getting to Know You

1. You've probably begun to see signs that the season is changing. What is your favorite season of the year and why?

#### Digging Deeper

This week we examined Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit who would convict the world and guide Jesus' followers in the truth. **Joel 2:28–32** foretells a future work of the Spirit on the earth while **Acts 2:1–24, 36–41** describes the dramatic fulfillment of that prophecy. Read these passages prayerfully and carefully as you answer the following questions.

2. While the effects of God's work described in **Joel 2:28–32**<sup>1</sup> are dramatic and worldwide, what does verse 32 say about how the Spirit being "poured out" will affect people? What does this indicate about humanity's need for the Spirit?
3. **Acts 2:1–24** describes the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel and Jesus' promise to send the Spirit in John 16. What were some of your thoughts and impressions as you read about the Spirit's arrival? How did he affect the Apostles? What effects did this have on those who saw and heard the Apostles preaching? How would you have felt to witness all this?
4. Who preached the great sermon in Acts 2 (see verse 14)? Considering what we know about his past (see John 18:15–18, 25–27), what made the difference in his life so that he boldly acknowledged Jesus Christ so publicly?
5. Jesus promised his disciples in John 16:13 that he would send the Spirit who would guide them into "all the truth." How does knowing that the Spirit has been sent to guide Jesus' followers into all the truth encourage you when you share the gospel with others?

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<sup>1</sup> Though we don't know the exact date when the book of Joel was written, we do know he prophesied at least several hundred years before Jesus' words in John 16 and the events of Acts 2.

6. Read again the response of those who heard Peter's sermon in Acts 2:36–41. How do you think this response fulfills the prophecy of Joel 2:28–32 and Jesus' promise in John 16:5–15?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Acts 2:37 says the people were "pierced to the heart" as they heard Peter preach the word of God. This is the Holy Spirit's work to convict. Why do you think conviction of sin in one's heart is necessary for them to be saved?

### **Live It Out**

Jesus knew that his followers were tempted to give into fear because of his warnings that the world would hate them and that he was going away. However, he knew he was about to accomplish the hardest work on their behalf so that he could send the Spirit to guide them as his witnesses and to convict the world as they preached. Though they were feeling afraid, Jesus comforted them with his promise that **the Holy Spirit's work** would remove all their excuses of doubt and fear.

8. What kinds of excuses do we often give for why we don't share the gospel with those who need to hear it? How does the Spirit's presence to guide the speaker and convict the listener address our excuses for not sharing the good news?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Earlier this year our congregation each prayed for one person who needed to be rescued through the good news of Jesus ("Who's Your One?"). Take some time right now to pray for your "one" again that the Spirit would convict their hearts of their sin so they may repent and believe the gospel. Pray for the guidance of the Spirit so you would be bold and compassionate as you continue to speak the good news to the people in your life, including your "one."

### **Prayer Requests**

One of the most significant ways we grow spiritually together is to pray for one another each week. Use this section to write down the requests of those in your group so you can remember to pray for them throughout the week. Remember: *what is shared in your group should stay in your group.*

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