



## PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

AUGUST 27, 2017

### BIBLICAL EMPHASIS:

The church is a movement of God centered on Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit and will have no end until Jesus returns at the close of history.

### MAIN POINT:

Being a part of a movement is far more compelling than being a part of a meeting.

### INTRODUCTION

- 1 When you are working on a project, is it more important for you to know what you are doing, or why you are doing it? Explain.
- 2 How does knowing what you are doing help you accomplish your goal?
- 3 How does knowing why help you accomplish your goal?

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

> Read Acts 1:3-8.

<sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." <sup>6</sup> So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- If you had a message that you wanted many people to hear and believe, how would you go about helping people hear and believe that message?
- Does anything about the way Jesus chose to reach the world with the gospel surprise you? Explain.
- Verse 4 describes how Jesus began to focus in on His plans for His disciples. What does the question in verse 6 reveal about the disciples' misunderstanding of Jesus' plans?

- How did Jesus respond to their misunderstanding? What did He realize about the human heart?
- How have you misunderstood Jesus' direction in your life?
- What was the key ingredient Jesus promised to help turn this meeting of men into a movement of God? How do we underestimate Jesus' methods even still today?
- How can we make the Spirit of God a vital and integral part of our community together?

> Read John 16:12-15.

*<sup>12</sup> "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.*

- Why couldn't Jesus tell the disciples everything? What kept them from being ready to hear? How did Jesus' words here echo His words in Acts 1:7?
- How did Jesus describe the guidance of the Holy Spirit?
- How would you explain the way the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit work together, especially as it relates to our mission?
- What tools does the Holy Spirit use to guide us? How do we tap into His guidance as a community of faith?

## **APPLICATION**

- 1 What do we miss when we are content to do all the activities of church without seeking the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit? How will you seek Him this week?
- 2 How integral is your participation in this community to your understanding of what church is? Do you know anyone who may not want to go to church, but would come to a group like this? When will you invite them?

- 3 As we have talked about the power of community through small groups over the last month, what has God confirmed in your heart? How have you been challenged?

**THIS WEEK**

- Memorize Acts 1:7.
- Read Matthew 28:16-20 on Monday.
- Read John 20:19-23 on Tuesday.
- Read Acts 4:29-30 on Wednesday.
- Read Acts 5:27-42 on Thursday.
- Read Colossians 4:2-6 on Friday.
- Read Matthew 9:35-38 on Saturday.