

# Lake Merced Church

## Home Groups

### What Now? - Baptism of the Holy Spirit

#### Ice Breaker

Have you ever had to wait for something that you were so excited about and didn't want to wait for? What was that like? Conversely, have you have received a gift you didn't understand, but learned to appreciate later? What was that gift and what was special about it?

#### Opening Prayer

Begin by asking God's Holy Spirit to be present and to reveal God's Word to your group.

#### Discussion

Read Acts 1 together as a group and then discuss the following questions as the Holy Spirit leads.

1. In verses 4-5 before ascending into heaven, Jesus tells his Apostles to wait for a gift promised by the Father and that in a few days, they would be "baptized with the Holy Spirit." What does Jesus contrast this baptism with? Why do you think Jesus feels the need to distinguish between these baptisms?
2. Acts is written by Luke, the same guy who wrote the Gospel of Luke. Look at Luke 3:15-16 together. Why do you think it could be important that we have John's proclamation of a new baptism yet to come? How do you imagine the people who witnessed John's and Jesus' words might have understood what they were both saying?
3. For 40 days Jesus appeared to people speaking about the Kingdom of God. In verse 6, their final question to him was "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" What do you think Jesus was talking to them about and what do you think the people were *hoping* to hear? Discuss as a group what you think the Bible means when it mentions the Kingdom of Heaven or the Kingdom of God.
4. In verse 8, Jesus promises the Apostles there will be power when the Holy Spirit comes on them. What kind of power do you think Jesus was talking about? How does that power change things for them?
5. In his sermon, Josh discussed the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In 1 Corinthians 12:3, and 1 John 4:13-15; 5:6-7 we learn that it is the Holy Spirit in our lives that allows us to do what? Is it possible to fake this? Why or why not? How do you think we can begin to see where the Holy Spirit lives and where He doesn't?
6. The Bible says that the Holy Spirit is a "seal" or a "deposit." (2 Cor. 1 and Eph. 1) What does that language mean to you? Does it change how you live? How?

#### Closing Prayer

Discuss any prayer needs the group may have. Don't forget to discuss your praises, the blessings God has poured out. Consider beginning to journal your groups prayer time, so you can see a history of how God as worked in and through your group prayer.