

# 6

## Group Guide

# Presence of Prayer

*February 9, 2025*

**Main Passage: Acts 1:1-11**

## Theological Theme

Jesus's final words to His followers instructed them to wait for the Father's promise that they would receive power through the Holy Spirit.

## Introduction

- ? Where are you prone to rely on your own strength over God's strength?
- ? What happens when we don't trust God's strength over our own?

## 1. Last Moments (Acts 1:1-3)

Luke wrote Acts as a follow up to his account of Jesus's ministry in the gospel of Luke. This ministry continued into the early church and continues in the church today. While Acts doesn't cover all the events of the early church, it does give much detail about how the gospel grew from Jerusalem to Rome. One of the main themes of this book is the power the church received through the Holy Spirit. The coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 ushered in a new era for the early believers. We are just as needy for this power today, and we can look to this account of the early church as we call on the Lord to use us as He used the church in Acts.

- ? What are some ways Jesus showed His reliance on the Holy Spirit throughout His life?
- ? Look back at Jesus's words in John 14:15-26; 16:1-15 regarding the Holy Spirit. How would the ministry of the Spirit change the lives of Jesus's followers?
- ? Application: Where do you need to trust the Holy Spirit's power instead of your own strength right now?

## 2. Wait for the Promise (Acts 1:4)

Jesus concluded His final instructions with the reminder to wait for the Father's promise. Following this instruction may have been more difficult than we perceive. These Christ followers were in the place where Jesus had been killed, and they were supposed to stay there and wait.

- ❓ What are some ways waiting often feels like a “waste”? How can we be sure that our moments of waiting are never a waste?
- ❓ Where is it hardest for you to wait on God right now? How can you seek to trust Him as you do?
- ❓ Application: How might God be using your current waiting to prepare you for something to come?

### 3. The Power (Acts 1:5-11)

Jesus told His followers they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Consider what you know about baptism. It is the immersion of a person in water symbolizing new life in Christ. To be baptized in the Spirit means we need to be completely immersed in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not to be an add on in our lives but our guide for all of life.

- ❓ What threatens to take your focus off seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit?
- ❓ How might knowing lies ahead actually hinder our reliance on God and His timing?
- ❓ Application: How might you seek to point others to Jesus through the Holy Spirit’s work in your life?

### Conclusion

- ❓ What are some ways you can wait with intention this week?
- ❓ How can we encourage one another to rely on the Holy Spirit and not ourselves each day?
- ❓ Who is the Spirit leading you to pursue in gospel conversation? How will you move toward this?