

Community Groups are the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering. It is through the interaction that takes place in each of these groups around our area that will enable people to begin to move from being drawn to God to a life that is being deepened by God. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

Consider...

Use the summary and questions to consider this week's message and its implications in your life:

Message Summary

In Acts 2:1-11, we run into a passage of Scripture that can mean a lot of different things to a lot of different churches (and sometimes, different means "very weird"), but for our purposes this week, Pastor Paul helped us focus on the one main event: the early church received the gift of the Holy Spirit. No matter what happened after that, the bottom line is that they were given a gift, and there are 3 things we need to know about that event:

1. **The reason for the gift:** Just like a photographer points to a model, the Holy Spirit points people to Jesus, and the gift of the Holy Spirit gives believers the power we need in order to do that effectively.
2. **The result of the gift:** Without ignoring the oddities of what happened when the Holy Spirit was given to the early church, it's good to "bottom line" the event: people from many different countries heard the wonders of God, and that's what the Holy Spirit does. He ensures that the church points people to Jesus.
3. **The reaction to the gift:** The believers got even more involved (and so would you if you were suddenly speaking in a language you hadn't learned!). But the unbelievers were at first put off before they started investigating what had happened a little more. We've got to be willing to be misunderstood if we are to be carriers of God's power, but eventually, the ones who reject us will seek to understand our Savior and us.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
- Have you ever been without power where you live? What was that experience like?
- The early church needed the power of the Holy Spirit so they could spread the word about Jesus. Do you think it was easier for them to see their need for power than it is for us? Discuss your answers.
- The power in the early church was misunderstood (Acts 2:7 literally means "put off" or "displaced") before it was effective. How do you respond to being misunderstood? How did Jesus respond (see Matthew 27:14)?
- What are some of the pros and cons to the power of the Holy Spirit making us stand out?

Commit...

Think and pray through your answers to the following questions in order to commit your life to living out what you've learned this week:

- What are some of the main truths/passages that God wants you to know from this message?
- Based on that truth/passage, what is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?