

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

This week, we took a more in-depth look at what took place when the Holy Spirit was given to the early church in the Second chapter of Acts. There's no doubt that it is the account of the early church being given power, but as Pastor Paul taught us, in order to have power, we have to pay the power bill. In other words, there is a cost involved in having the power of God, and there are three areas where we'll have to pay the price:

1. **In our resources:** The disciples paid the price through their time, their money and their energy. Just like them, we'll find ourselves paying the price in the things that we have at our disposal.
2. **In our reputation:** For most of us, the one question we ask about this passage of scripture is, "Why tongues?" The answer may surprise us. God's plan was designed to attack two deadly enemies: your tongue (James 3:6) and your pride (Proverbs 16:5). He could have picked any sign, but He chose the one sign that has a price tag, and the cost of the Holy Spirit's power is our pride.
3. **In our routine:** A quick look at the end of Acts 2 reveals a church whose routine has changed. Instead of sitting back and living on the achievements of one day, they started meeting regularly – actually EVERYDAY! We can't expect to have the power they had when we try to make one service last the entire week. Having – and keeping – the power of God will probably require more than that.

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.
- Of the 3 areas where we must "pay the power bill," which one is the most difficult for you? Resources, reputation (pride), or routine?
- How does it feel to know that God's motivation is to invite us to have more power rather than force us through might? How does knowing we can trust God as a good Father make paying the power bill easier?
- If you could ask God one question about what happened in Acts 2:1-13, what would it be?

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?