

GETTING READY FOR THE

HOLY SPIRIT

Week 1 - Introduction - “Wait Until You Receive the Holy Spirit”

week one

Luke 24:45-59 & Acts 1:1-10

September 23, 2018

Read Luke 24:45-49 and Acts 1:1-10

It is quite remarkable that, at the end of Luke and the beginning of Acts, the author (who wrote both of these books of the Bible) makes it very clear that the disciples of Jesus are not to do anything until they have received the Holy Spirit.

Icebreakers (Pick one or do them both!)

1. Do you consider yourself a patient or impatient person? Tell of a time you struggled waiting for something.
2. Have you ever taken dance lessons, danced with another person, or followed an instructor/individual/video to learn a particular dance move? (Even following along with the “Hokey Pokey” or “Chicken Dance” may apply) Share about your experience learning to follow another’s guidance. What was it like to let someone else lead? If you were the leader, what was that like for you or your partner?



growing deeper

Small Group Questions:

1. In Luke 24:46-48 Jesus informs his disciples of next steps of what they will say and do. What difference would it make for them to wait for “being clothed with power from on High”? (v 49)
2. What might working hard for God without relying on His Spirit look like?
3. What might “cooperating with” or “being empowered” by the Holy Spirit look like? Make a list of your ideas.

Cooperating with the Holy Spirit has been described metaphorically as a Dance of Cooperation. The Holy Spirit takes “the lead” and the believer is “guided” in the flow of the dance. The dance involves much dynamic cooperation and describes how human and divine dimensions are intermingled, woven together under the direction of the Holy Spirit and the cooperation of God’s people. (see Galatians 5:25)

4. Describe a time when you were aware that you and the Lord (Holy Spirit) were working in partnership. What was different from when you were working from your own common sense and knowledge?

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5. What responsibility does Jesus give his followers in both the Luke 24 and Acts 1 passages?

6. What does a "witness" do? Can you tell of a time recently when you witnessed about Jesus? Is there a time when another person witnessed to you?

Praying Together:

7. Think of programs and ministries at River Rock. Please lift our programs in prayer. Pray for River Rock church to be a witness for Christ in our families, the community and in areas beyond. Pray for the Holy Spirit to be actively at work guiding and directing the ministries.

Closing prayer: Lord, it is so hard to wait for something. Jesus, we thank you for your plan that provides us with someone who can assist us, day to day, in following you. Thank you for the Holy Spirit and how we receive guidance in a special way that helps us stay in step with you. We wait eagerly, excited about cooperating with you, as we learn more about the Holy Spirit. Amen

A Step Further:

Cultivate a "Dance of Cooperation" mentality by asking the Holy Spirit for guidance about making a decision. Keep track of your result for a week or more. Share your results later with your group. (Use additional paper, as needed).

a) Decision/Situation:
"My reaction" before prayer:

"My response" after inviting cooperation with the Holy Spirit:

b) Decision/Situation:
"My reaction" before prayer:

"My response" after inviting cooperation with the Holy Spirit:



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