

## **Pray First Small Group Guide**

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. If you're waiting, say, in a doctor's office, what are you likely to do to pass the time? (If your answer is "Go on my phone," then be more specific.)
2. What movie have you watched more than any other?

**Read the following passages:** Acts 1:12-25

There were approximately 10 days between Jesus' ascension and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The disciples did not spend that time doing nothing; they prayed. Prayer was a critical part of the Christian community from the very beginning, and it is a critical part of our lives.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. In Acts 1, the disciples engage in what we might call Waiting Prayer. Jesus told them to wait for the gift the Father had promised. Rather than do nothing during that time of waiting, "They all joined together constantly in prayer" (Acts 1:14). Are there any areas in your life in which you feel like you are waiting? Explain. Can you think of anyone in the Scriptures who had to endure a long period of waiting before a promise was fulfilled? What do you think God wants you to pray about while you wait? Describe the role waiting can play in the following areas.
  - Getting clarity around our deepest desires
  - Creating space for preparation
  - Ensuring the right timing
2. Why do you think God waited until the Feast of Pentecost to pour out the Holy Spirit? What's a lesson we might learn from this?
3. Read Matthew 26:36-41. What kind of temptation were Peter, James, and John susceptible of falling into? What are some areas in your life in which you are experiencing significant pressure or a temptation of some kind? How can prayer help us navigate the pressure and temptations that we face?
4. What "promises" are the things that are tempting you making? How do we resist those misleading "promises"?
5. Read Acts 4:23-31. Why do you think the church began their prayer with a reflection on God's sovereignty over all created things?

6. What are some areas of our lives in which we may be prone to lose sight of the reality that God is in control?
7. What does it look like when you function out of anxiety rather than peace? How does functioning this way impact the people around you?
8. The church asked God to “enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.” What are some ways in which you need to become more bold?
9. What is the mission that God has given to the church? What are some ways we can practically pray for this mission?

**Pray**