

## The Gift is for You 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. Do you have any hidden talents that most people don't know about?
2. What's one of the biggest transitions you have gone through in your life? How did it impact you?

**Read the following passage:** Acts 2:1-13

On the day of Pentecost, the defining characteristic of the people of God shifted from the Law of Moses to the presence of the Holy Spirit. It's hard for us to appreciate the significance of that shift. The people of Israel had lived according to the Law of Moses for over a thousand years. So what would life look like now? In many ways, we get a hint in the lives of people who were filled with the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament—people like Joseph, Moses, Bezalel, and Deborah.

So how do we experience the Holy Spirit like the church did on the day of Pentecost. The book of Acts gives us five different accounts of people receiving the Holy Spirit. From these different accounts, we learn a few important things: 1) Being empowered with the Holy Spirit is a promise connected with the Gospel, but it's not the same thing as responding to the Gospel or being baptized; 2) God often works through people to empower us with the Holy Spirit; and 3) Rather than comparing ourselves to others, we need to let our story be our story.

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

1. Why should we think of the Holy Spirit as a divine person rather than something more like an impersonal force? (See, for example, John 16:13-15).
2. When you think of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in and through our lives, what comes to mind for you?
3. Read Romans 7:1-6. Why did Paul think it was a good thing to die to the law and serve in the new way of the Spirit? Does this mean that, now, anything goes?
4. Read Exodus 31:1-5. What might it look like for the Holy Spirit to empower you for your work?
5. Read Joel 2:28-32. What is prophecy? How should we respond to this revelation that all of God's people have the potential to prophesy, dream dreams, and see visions? What does Paul say in 1 Corinthians 14:1?

6. Have you ever had someone lay hands on you and pray for you to be empowered with the Holy Spirit? Explain.
7. Are there any gifts of the Holy Spirit that you would like to see functioning in your life? Explain.
8. Are there any parts of your story of faith that you feel uncomfortable with? Explain.

**Pray**