

## The Waiting Room

### South Jersey Small Group Guide

#### Warm-Up Questions

1. What is the longest you have ever waited for something — a table at a restaurant, a flight, a doctor's appointment — and how did you handle it?
2. When life gets hard or uncertain, what is your default reaction? Do you get busy, get controlling, go numb, or something else entirely?

**Key Passage:** Acts 1:12-14

#### Recap

In Acts 1, Luke gives us a snapshot of the ten days between Jesus's ascension and the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. In those ten days, the disciples didn't strategize, panic, or fill the silence with noise. They prayed. And the room they prayed in wasn't filled with spiritual champions — it was filled with people who had failed, doubted, fled, and misunderstood. Peter, who denied Jesus three times, was there. The disciples who scattered in the garden were there. The brothers of Jesus, who once thought he had lost his mind, were there. And yet this broken, unlikely group became the most unified community in the ancient world — not because they resolved all their differences first, but because they prayed their way into unity.

The big idea of this week's message is simple but worth sitting with: the waiting room is where God does His best work. Most of us treat prayer as a last resort — something we turn to after we've exhausted every other option. But the disciples show us a different way. They made prayer their first response. Not because they were experts — they literally had to ask Jesus to teach them how — but because they had watched Jesus long enough to know that everything flows from prayer. Whatever waiting room you find yourself in right now, God is not ignoring you. He is forming you. And whatever He is forming in you, it is worth the wait.

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

1. The sermon described prayer as something most of us treat as a "Hail Mary" rather than a first response. Do you relate to that? What does your honest relationship with prayer actually look like right now?
2. When you look at who was in the upper room — Peter, the disciples who ran, the brothers who didn't believe — what does it mean to you that God chose to fill that specific room with His Spirit?
3. Is there an area of your life right now where you've been trying to figure things out on your own before bringing it to God? What would it look like to bring it to Him first?
4. The sermon talked about the Greek word *homothumadon* — the idea of different instruments playing different parts but moving together in unity. What makes that kind of unity difficult in your relationships, your family, or your community?

5. Have you ever been in a season of waiting that felt like a delay but turned out to be preparation? What did God form in you during that time that you wouldn't have had otherwise?
6. The 1907 Korean revival started with one man standing up and telling the truth about his own sin. Is there something you've been carrying privately that might need to be brought into the light — before God, or before trusted people in your life?
7. The sermon was careful to say that praying together doesn't mean dismissing real pain, injustice, or disagreement. How do you hold onto both things — staying committed to truth and conviction while also fighting for unity through prayer?
8. If you're honest, what waiting room are you sitting in right now? What would it mean for you to stop trying to leave it early and instead commit to praying while you wait?

**Pray**