

INTRO

So what's next after the 40 days? Indeed, is there life after the 40 days?! This question of what was next was something that Jesus addressed in His final encounter with the disciples, immediately prior to His ascension to heaven. Rather than this being the end, Jesus reassured the disciples that they are about to experience a new beginning, and He points the way to an event that was to take place ten days later, **the coming of the Holy Spirit**.

The Day of Pentecost is the main subject of Jesus' last encounter with the disciples in Jerusalem, recorded in slightly different ways at the end of Luke's Gospel and the first chapter of Acts (both written by Luke). Through these wonderful verses we can learn three things:

1. The Holy Spirit is **The Great Promise of the Father**
2. The Holy Spirit is **The Great Power of the Trinity**
3. The Holy Spirit is **Our Great Partner for the Mission**

BRING YOUR BIBLES

Read aloud **Acts 1:1–11** and **Luke 24:45–53**, encouraging everyone to follow along in their own Bibles. The more translations the better as each may highlight something different.

Now allow the whole group the opportunity to share what stood out anew to them and why.

QUESTIONS

1. *[If your church are running the 40 Days with Jesus sermons]* What particularly impacted you from Sunday's message?
2. *[If you are using the small group videos instead]* What particularly impacted you from this week's message?
3. In Acts 1:1–3, Luke provides us with a brief summary of the 40 days in which Jesus appeared to His disciples. As we approach the end of this 40-day series, which of the accounts that we have looked at has most struck you and changed you? Why have you chosen that specific account?

- *Note to leader: It would be good to dedicate a significant amount of time to this question so that the group can share openly about their journey over the last 5 weeks.*
- 4. Read Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:4. How does Jesus refer to the Holy Spirit? How are you encouraged knowing that we, as the Church of Jesus, are to receive the same Holy Spirit that clothed Jesus during His earthly ministry?
- 5. What three words or phrases does Jesus use to describe how we will receive the Holy Spirit? What strikes you about these words?
 - *Note to leader: we will be clothed (Luke 24:49), we will be baptised (Acts 1:5), we will receive power (Acts 1:8) ie be empowered.*
- 6. Throughout both Luke and Acts, Luke presents a picture of the Holy Spirit primarily as one who comes to empower His people for the purpose of the Great Commission and to bear witness (Acts 1:8 and Luke 24:47–48). What does it mean for you as an individual and us as a group that the primary purpose for the Spirit's coming is to be our great partner in carrying out the mission of God, empowering us to be witnesses for Jesus?

SHARE YOUR STORY

7. Share any significant past experiences you have had of the Holy Spirit at work in your life.
8. In what ways would you like to receive authority and power from the Holy Spirit?
9. In what areas of your life could you partner more with the Holy Spirit? What could this look like? What could it lead to?

PRAY TOGETHER

Take the time to invite the Holy Spirit. Perhaps begin with prayers of worship and thanksgiving, then you may choose to follow these suggestions for specific prayer:

You could pray:

- and thank Jesus for His promise of Luke 11:13, 'how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

- for a fresh empowering from God
- for individual callings and for the Great Commission – that we would be faithful and obedient and always seeking help from the Holy Spirit
- for all that we have learnt over the last few weeks, and that we will continue to know Jesus, more and more.