

Small Group Guide: The Spirit is Coming!

Based on the May 17, 2026 sermon from Luke 24:44-53 and Acts 1

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and open hearts and minds to what God wants to teach the group.

Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Question: Share about a time when you had to wait for something important. What was that experience like for you? What made the waiting difficult or meaningful?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. The Holy Spirit enables our waiting - God's good things take God's good time, and the Spirit empowers us to wait with worship, praise, and joy rather than impatience or fear.
 2. The Holy Spirit illuminates God's Word - Reading Scripture isn't just an intellectual exercise; the Spirit opens our minds to understand and apply God's truth to our lives.
 3. The Holy Spirit propels God's work forward - God is actively working in our seasons of waiting to prepare us for what He has next.
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text (15 minutes)

1. Read Luke 24:44-53 together. What stands out to you about the disciples' response after Jesus ascends to heaven? Why do you think they responded with joy rather than sadness or fear?
2. The sermon mentioned that Jesus "opened their minds" to understand the Scriptures. What do you think changed for the disciples in that moment? Have you ever experienced Scripture coming alive in a new way?
3. Jesus told the disciples to "wait" in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. Why do you think waiting was necessary? What might God have been doing during that waiting period?

Personal Reflection (20 minutes)

1. On patience and waiting: The sermon noted that our culture's ability to wait is decreasing. How have you noticed this in your own life? What areas do you struggle with impatience?
2. On personal paradigms: The disciples had their own ideas about what the Messiah should do (overthrow Rome, establish earthly power). What expectations or "personal paradigms" might you be holding onto that don't align with God's kingdom values?
3. The sermon described different types of waiting: Feeling stuck in a rut, Frozen by fear, Rushing ahead impatiently. Which of these best describes your current season? What might God be trying to do in this waiting period?
4. On Scripture reading: How consistent is your practice of reading God's Word? What obstacles keep you from engaging with Scripture regularly? What might help you grow in this area?

Application (15 minutes)

1. The disciples waited with "worship, praise, and joy" even though their circumstances were uncertain and dangerous. What would it look like for you to adopt this posture in your current season of waiting?
2. The sermon mentioned that the Holy Spirit convicts us of things not aligned with God's will. Is there anything the Spirit is highlighting in your life right now that you need to lay down or confess?
3. Practical commitment: The sermon introduced devotional resources in the Redwood app designed to help us read Scripture together as a community. Would you be willing to commit to using these resources this week? How can the group support each other in this?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose at least one of the following to practice this week:

Daily Practice:

- Use the Redwood app devotionals for 5 days this week
- Each day, ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate God's Word as you read
- Journal about what God is showing you during your waiting season

Worship & Prayer:

- Spend time in worship and praise, even in the midst of uncertainty
- Pray specifically: "Holy Spirit, reveal anything in my life that's not aligned with You"
- Consider fasting one meal or one day this week to focus on prayer

Community:

- Share with one person this week about what you're waiting on God for
- Plan to attend the Pentecost worship and prayer night (if applicable)
- Text or call one group member to encourage them in their waiting

Closing Reflection (10 minutes)

Read together: Joel 2:28-29

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."

Discussion: What would it look like for God to pour out His Spirit on our group, our church, and our city? What are you hoping God will do through a fresh infilling of the Spirit?

Prayer Time (15 minutes)

Break into pairs or smaller groups and pray for:

- Confession: Areas where we're holding onto our own plans instead of God's
- Empowerment: For the Holy Spirit to enable our waiting with joy and worship
- Illumination: That God's Word would come alive to us this week
- Fresh infilling: For Pentecost Sunday and a renewed outpouring of the Spirit
- Specific needs: Individual prayer requests related to seasons of waiting

Before Next Week

- Complete the daily devotionals in the Redwood app
- Prepare to share one insight from your reading with the group
- Pray for Pentecost Sunday and the worship/prayer gathering
- Reflect on how your posture in waiting has changed (or needs to change)

Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to group members who may be in difficult waiting seasons (job loss, illness, relationship struggles)
- Encourage vulnerability but don't force sharing
- Model confession and openness about your own struggles with waiting
- Consider having someone demonstrate how to access the devotionals in the Redwood app
- Follow up with group members during the week about their commitment to daily Scripture reading