

Community Group Discussion Guide

Acts 1:1–5 — The Spirit-Empowered Life

Read the Passage: Read Acts 1:1–5 aloud together.

Jesus Is Alive and Still at Work

“Christianity is not just about what Jesus did, it’s about what Jesus is doing.”

The book of Acts shows us that Jesus is alive, reigning, and continuing His work of building His church, bringing His Kingdom through the Holy Spirit. The question for us to consider are we living **dependent on the Spirit or relying on ourselves?**

Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you about Jesus and His teaching/instruction in this passage?
- The Christian life is about living dependent on the Spirit. How does this challenge a view of the Christian life that is mostly about your effort or performance?

Spirit-Empowered vs. Self-Empowered

“Self-empowered living says, ‘I’ve got this.’ Spirit-empowered living says, ‘Lord, I need You.’”

Jesus tells the disciples to wait for the Spirit highlighting the reality that the Christian life is not powered by our strength, but by growing dependence on the Spirit.

Discussion Questions:

- Where in your life right now are you most relying on your own strength?
- Which do you most relate to right now: control, anxiety, hiding, resentment, or surrender and trust? Why?
- What would it look like this week to move from striving to dependence in that area?

Waiting, Hope, and Assurance

“Waiting is not inactivity, it is humble dependence on God.”

But waiting does something to us: it exposes our hearts. It reveals whether we trust God or trust ourselves. The hope we have in waiting is that God’s promise of the Spirit means we are not alone (He is with us), real change is possible (He is renewing us), and He is still at work (He is using us).

Discussion Questions:

- Why is waiting on God difficult for you?
- Where do you need renewed hope that God is still working in your life?
- How does it encourage you to remember that you are secure in Christ, that He is with you, renewing you and wants to use you?
- In light of this Gospel hope, what might “waiting on the Lord” look like in this season?

Gospel Reflection (Practicing the Three Rs)

“All of life is, and must be, Spirit-empowered.”

Take a few minutes to reflect and share:

- **Reveal:** Where am I relying on myself instead of the Spirit?#
- **Repent:** What do I need to surrender or release to God?#
- **Rejoice:** What truth about Jesus gives me hope right now?#

Closing Scripture & Reflection

Take up Prayer requests & close with the following:

Leader: “As we close, we want to anchor ourselves in this truth and hope: as we wait on the Lord, He is with us, He is renewing us, and He is working in us and through us. So let’s take a moment to hear the words of Psalm 40 spoken over us, and then I will close us in prayer”

Read Psalm 40:1–5:

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie! You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.