**EMPOWERED WITH PURPOSE**

**Acts 1:1-11**

**THE LORD EMPHASIZED THAT HIS KINGDOM AGENDA WAS NOT FINISHED WHEN JESUS ASCENDED**

* **The work of atonement was completed on the cross, but the Kingdom message of salvation through Christ is ongoing.**
* *“I wrote the first narrative, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach 2 until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After he had suffered, he also presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.”* (Acts 1:1-3)
* **Jesus laid the foundation for the Church to take the Good News of the Gospel to world, but the work is not done.**
* *“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. 14 How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him? And how can they hear without a preacher? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.”* (Romans 10:13-15)
* **Our responsibility is to continue what Jesus “began to do and teach” so that our city and the world can know the saving power of Jesus.**

**THE LORD EMPOWERS HIS PEOPLE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT TO ACCOMPLISH HIS KINGDOM AGENDA**

* *“While he was with them, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father’s promise. ‘Which,’ he said, ‘you have heard me speak about; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days.’ 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?’ 7 He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’”* (Acts 1:4-8)
* **We are empowered with the Holy Spirit to be “Truth-tellers” for Jesus to all people groups in our city and around the world.**
* **God’s Kingdom agenda is built on tearing down walls that divide people and reconciling a beautiful multi-colored people to Himself through Christ!** (See Ephesians 2:11-22)
* **Believers are empowered with God’s Holy Spirit to be on mission, not to present ourselves as spiritually superior.**

**THE LORD EXPECTS HIS PEOPLE TO BE ON MISSION UNTIL HE RETURNS**

* **The Lord does not give any certificates of exemption for His followers when it comes to sharing the Gospel.**
* *“After he had said this, he was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. 11 They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him going into heaven.’” (Acts 1:9-11)*
* **If we are not careful, we will spend all our time focused on what has happened, rather than what God desires to happen through His Church today.**
* **Jesus is coming back one day in glorious fashion, and the question we must ask ourselves is, “Will we be found fulfilling God’s Kingdom agenda?”**

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Ice-Breaker: How did you first get introduced to Church and what was your first impression? (The first church you ever attended)**

**START THINKING:**

* **What do we learn about God/Jesus in Acts 1:1-11?**
* **What was the primary message Jesus emphasized? (vs.3)**
* **How many people did Jesus show Himself to after He resurrected from the dead? Why is this important?**
* **Who is “baptized with the Holy Spirit”?**
* **What does the Holy Spirit empower us to do? (vs. 8)**

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

* **What is your understanding of the Kingdom of God that is referenced in Acts 1?**
* **Why is the Kingdom of God the primary message that all Christians should be sharing?**
* **Since all Christians are baptized with the Holy Spirit at the time they receive Jesus as their Savior, how does this impact your understanding of the Holy Spirit?**
* **Knowing you are empowered by God through His Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel to others, what hinders you from doing so? How can you overcome those barriers?**
* **Who do you need to be sharing Jesus with this week/month/year?**