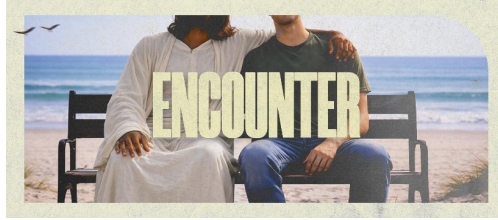


"Your encounter with Jesus prompts you to action."

**Icebreaker:** Share a memorable encounter you've had that changed your perspective on something important.

### **Group Discussion Questions**

1. **Reflect on the Significance of the Ascension:** The sermon suggests adding the ascension of Jesus to the "big three" events of His life. Why do you think the ascension is so crucial, and how does it impact your understanding of Jesus' role today?
2. **Counterintuitive Instructions:** Pastor Reid mentioned that Jesus' instructions can often seem counterintuitive. Can you recall a time when following a seemingly illogical step led to growth or a positive outcome in your life?
3. **Understanding the Holy Spirit's Role:** How do you interpret the promise of being "baptized with the Holy Spirit" as mentioned in Acts 1:5? How can this understanding influence your daily walk with God?
4. **God's Bigger Agenda:** The disciples had a limited vision of Jesus' mission, expecting a restoration of Israel. How can we broaden our perspective to align with God's larger plan for our lives and communities?
5. **Action and Waiting:** Discuss the balance between waiting for God's timing and taking action in faith. How can you discern when to wait and when to move forward in your spiritual journey?
6. **Experiencing Jesus' Presence:** Pastor Reid talked about experiencing Jesus' presence in unexpected ways. Share a time when you felt Jesus' presence in your life, especially when you least expected it.



"Your encounter with Jesus prompts you to action."

## Scripture Exploration

- Read Acts 1:1-11. What stands out to you about the instructions Jesus gives to the disciples?
- How do the disciples react to Jesus' ascension, and what might this tell us about their understanding at the time?
- Why do you think the ascension of Jesus is not as widely celebrated or recognized as other events in Jesus' life?

## Personal Reflection

- What does the ascension of Jesus mean for your understanding of his role and presence in your life today?
- How does the promise of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:8 influence your view of your own spiritual journey?
- Reflect on the idea that Jesus' instructions might seem counterintuitive. Can you think of a time when God's direction seemed contrary to your expectations?

## Personal Application

- In what ways can you seek a deeper encounter with Jesus in your daily life? What steps can you take this week?
- Consider the areas in your life where you feel called to "wait" versus "go." How will you discern the appropriate action?
- How can you be a witness to Jesus in your own "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"? Identify specific actions you can take to share your faith.