

EMPOWERED BY

# THE HOLY SPIRIT

**Ice Breaker:** Share a time you "saw a sign" to guide a decision you've made.

**Read:** Acts 2:14-18, Matthew 3:17, John 14:15-18; Isaiah 7:14, Ephesians 5:18, Romans 8:9, Genesis 8:11, Ephesians 1:13-14

## Discussion Questions:

- Opening Thoughts
  - What's the difference between seeking God for guidance vs. testing God for proof?
  - Why do you think tone and motive matter when we ask God for something?
- The Pouring (Acts 2:14-18, Ephesians 5:18, Romans 8:9)
  - In your own words, what does it mean to be filled with the Spirit compared to being filled or drunk with wine (Ephesians 5:18)?
  - Pastor Christa mentioned that "the enemy wants to fill our lives up with people, possessions, pursuits, and positions, so that there is no room for God's presence, peace or purpose." What are some ways people can be deceived with what the world has to offer us, and how can this be harmful?
  - Why is it important to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit?
  - How does Romans 8:9 challenge or affirm your understanding of belonging to Christ?
- The Peace (Genesis 8:11, Matthew 3:17)
  - When you think of a dove, what qualities stand out most to you — peace, gentleness, purity? Why?
  - In Genesis 8:11, the dove brings an olive branch. What "storms" in your life are you hoping God will declare finished?
  - What does it mean to you personally that you are beloved by God (Matthew 3:17)?
  - Why can it be hard to sometimes believe God truly delights in us?
  - What practices help you slow down enough to hear God's still small voice?
- The Promise (John 14:15-18)
  - What challenges do orphans have?
  - In what ways do people still live like "spiritual orphans" even after coming to faith?
  - How does Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit in John 14:14-18 challenge feelings of loneliness or abandonment?
- Closing Thoughts: The Seal (Ephesians 1:13-14)
  - Why is it important to know your relationship with God is secure and not temporary?
  - What is one step you can take this week to respond to what God is showing you?

