

#### 4. Count the Cost

*Acts 2:11b-13 NLT – 11b And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" 12 They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. 13 But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!"*

*Luke 14:33 NLT - 33 So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.*

When God invites us to gather and be part of His Church, it is not for a one-time experience or an encounter, it is to be part of a movement. Following Jesus was going to be costly. The disciples were going to be mocked, persecuted and martyred. In Acts 2:13 they were ridiculed and dismissed, but Jesus had warned them much earlier about the cost to follow Him.

*Jesus' question is not "are you willing to experience or encounter this movement", but are you willing to give your life for it? What are the kinds of things you have had to give up in order to follow Jesus?*

#### WRAP-UP

In Acts Chapter 2 the disciples experienced God's supernatural power as the Church was birthed. And if it was just an experience to you, you will walk away looking for another experience. But if this movement resonates deep in your bones you'll let it consume you, transform you, invade every area of your life. You will let go of less important things. You will give your life to it.

#### Memory Verse

*And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability - Acts 2:4 NLT*

#### PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members' needs: \_\_\_\_\_

*Challenge: If you haven't started reading the Book of Acts on your own, start this week. Consider using the YouVersion Bible App reading plan <https://www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/864>. Acts 28-day guide.*

## **"A Movement, Not an Experience"**

**Book of Acts – Week #2**

### INTRODUCTION

What happened in that upper room at Pentecost may have begun as an experience, but it sparked a movement that changed the world. Unfortunately, some of us are still stuck on the experience and haven't embraced the fundamental change that takes place when we commit our lives to the movement of God. How do we shift our focus from being partakers of an experience to participants in a movement?

#### Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What are some of the memorable, but short-lived fads you've seen in your lifetime?

### STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

#### 1. Experience versus Movements

*Acts 2:1-4 NLT - 1 On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.*

Pentecost began with all the believers together, waiting on God's promise as Jesus had instructed them. Their experience with Jesus emboldened them to face the danger in Jerusalem. Jesus had been crucified and this put his followers at risk as well. But over the prior 40 days they had witnessed firsthand the resurrected Jesus.

*How do you think their time with the risen Christ (His teaching, admonishing, encouraging and eating together) changed how they viewed Him and how did it shape their role in the early days of the*

*church movement? What changes do you notice in yourself after spending time in God's presence?*

In the upper room the disciples had an unexpected experience with God when the Holy Spirit arrived. And although that experience was confined to a place, it sparked a movement that took root and began to grow.

Quarantine reminded us that Church is something greater than what we've allowed it to become. Being the church goes beyond the experiences we have within the walls of a building.

*Rather than longing to return to familiar church experiences, we can take advantage of the unique movement of God in our lives right now and develop a fresh and deeper connection with the resurrected Jesus. What have you discovered about Jesus during the time you've spent with Him in the last 3 months?*

## **2. Focused on Mission**

*Acts 1:8 NLT - 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere--in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Jesus had clearly given His disciples their mission to be His witnesses in Acts 1:8. At New Life we define that mission as being loved by Jesus, shaped by Jesus, and empowered to do the things that Jesus did. This may be easy to agree with but difficult to keep in focus.

*What are some of the things that most recently have battled for your attention and challenged you to remain focus on the mission of the church? How have you been able to integrate that mission into your everyday life?*

## **3. Wind and Fire**

*Exodus 19:18-19 NLT - 18 All of Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the LORD had descended on it in the form of fire. The smoke billowed into the sky like smoke from a brick kiln, and the whole mountain shook violently. 19 As the blast of the ram's horn grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God thundered his reply.*

When the Spirit arrived at Pentecost, we saw two symbols of His presence; wind and fire. These symbols displayed God's power. Just as on Mt. Sinai God was demonstrating His power as He delivered the law to Moses, at this moment He was writing the law of God, not on stone tablets, but on the hearts of men.

*What are some of the ways you have seen the power of God displayed?*

The fire of God rested on each one indicating that God was now dwelling in the individuals. And God did something unexpected. Each one began speaking in a language they did not know. But those who heard them understood their words, and they were declaring the mighty things that God had done. God went to extraordinary lengths to reveal who He was and extend a wide-opened invitation into his kingdom to all people.

*Genesis 11:1, 4, 6-8 NLT - 1 At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words. ... 4 Then they said, "Come, let's build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world." ... 6 "Look!" he said. "The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! 7 Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other." 8 In that way, the LORD scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city.*

In Genesis 1:28 God had told Adam and Eve "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it." But in opposition to God's command to fill the earth the people conspired to stay in Babel, with the purpose to make themselves famous.

*In what ways was the miracle of languages at Pentecost the reversal of the story of Genesis 11? What can our own church do to be more like the oneness seen at Pentecost and less like Babel?*