

# A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Theme of the month: Embracing the Holy Spirit

Text for the Week: Acts 1:8-14

Message for the Week: "Coming Back"

The church needs to talk about Jesus, not the church.

Week 4

# **Preparation:**

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

# **Opening:**

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

What have you done recently to go outside of your comfort zone? How did it feel?

OR

What is the hardest thing that you have ever done?

#### Read:

Read Acts 1: 8-14 out loud.

What words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them those who are with you.

# Respond / Reflect:

How do you think Jesus felt about leaving the disciples? What do you think it was like to watch Jesus go up to heaven?

What do you think the Church's (disciples of Jesus) marching orders are for today? How do you think the Church is doing?

What should the Church (disciples of Jesus) be talking about (see verse 8)? What should Covenant Church be talking about?

How might our praying together enhance the unity of the church?

## "Try It!"

This week talk with at least one person about Jesus.

Talk with them about the role Christ's life/death/resurrection plays in your life.

**Prayer:** Spend time in prayer regarding the things God revealed and that you discerned in your time with God today.

Also, spend time in prayer for the other person(s) who are with you...

"Father, I/we need You. I/We hunger and thirst for a more vital relationship with You. I/We admit that I/we have often tried to be in control of my/our own life. As a result, I/we have sinned against You.

"Thank You for forgiving my/our sins through Christ's death on the cross. I/We now confess and turn from my/our sins. I/We surrender the control of my/our lives to the Lord Jesus. By faith, I/we ask You to fill me/us with the Holy Spirit as You commanded me/us to be filled. You promised to fill me/us if I/we ask according to Your will. I/We pray this in the authority of the name of Jesus Christ.

"To demonstrate our faith, I/we now thank You for filling me/us with Your Holy Spirit and for taking control of my/our life. Amen."