Acts: Week 1

**Groups**

**Sermon Guide**

**Acts: *Promise, Fulfillment, and Results***

 Remember that groups are a place to practice what is preached—in community with God and one another.

 Pray together for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to behold wonderful things

(**Ps. 119:18**) as your group meets with the Lord.

 Invite some group members to read aloud **Acts 1:4-8, Acts 2:1-6; 42-47** out loud; assign particular sections to different members (if needed) to help with reading and hearing the Scriptures.

 What struck you, surprised you, or challenged you from these passages from Acts or the message Sunday?

 Jesus promised that his disciples would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. As a result, they would be His witnesses in wider and wider contexts accomplishing His mission in ever growing degrees.

* Why do you suppose there is a tendency to downplay the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
* How might you live differently if you were consciously aware of the internal work of the Holy Spirit in your own life?

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke boldly to the crowd at Pentecost, and about three thousand believed his words about Jesus being the Messiah! Keep in mind that Peter was a man who consistently got things wrong, even ***after*** seeing the things he had seen

and receiving the promised Holy Spirit (see **Galatians 2:11-13**).

God uses imperfect people to accomplish His redemptive purposes for the world, because, let’s be honest, that’s all He has to work with!

 Christians have been given everything they could possibly need to lead godly lives. **Read 2 Peter 1:3-4**. We have what we need because it has been promised to us.

 Jesus fulfilled His promises, the Church was born, and it has been an unstoppable force ever since because genuine followers of Jesus obey what He commands (see **Matthew 16:24-25; Luke 9:23-24**).

 When we obey what Jesus commands, we leave the results to Him. Whether our message is received like Peter’s at Pentecost, or rejected like Stephen’s before the Sanhedrin, we give ourselves away for the sake of the gospel.

**Weekly Questions**

**for One Another**

 What is God saying to you in His Word, in the sermon, and in your walk with Him this week?

 What is God telling you to do? How can we as a group be part of giving you courage to obey?

 How can we pray for you? For your neighbors?