



## **Made For: Inheritance**

### Series Vision:

There is so much chaos and calamity happening in the world around us: The pandemic and the isolation that social distancing has caused in our lives, the fires in our backyard, the yelling going on amidst the media and political climate, and so much more. In a season like this, it's important for us to acknowledge some of the challenges we have in our souls. It is also important for us to understand and believe that God knows what time it is, and He has made us for this time. Those that followed Jesus likewise found themselves in chaotic times, beginning with Jesus' death and resurrection. In the book of Acts, we'll see how God used that chaos to mold the apostles into the world changers they were always meant to be. God wants to do the same with us today.

### **LOOKING BACK:**

#### **FAMILY TIME (25 min)**

- Vision Statement: Have a group member explain the vision of your lifegroup. Invite another group member to share your vision piece next time.
- Intro Question: Recall a time you felt offended. What was that like for you?
- Prayer Requests, Praise Reports and Updates from previous week(s).

### **LOOKING UP:**

#### **WORSHIP (15 min)**

- Cast Vision for Worship...What it is, why we do it, how we can do it.
- Spend time in worship together.
- This past Sunday's worship set:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_8NOA8iLCbl&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_8NOA8iLCbl&feature=youtu.be)
  - "Who You Say I Am"
  - "When You Walk Into The Room"

**\*\*Encourage your group members to engage God's heart for one another during worship and share any affirmations or words of encouragement they receive with**

each other as Holy Spirit leads. One strategic way to do this on Zoom is through private message while worship is ongoing.

## **BIBLE STUDY - Ignatian Meditation (25 min)**

### **Quick introduction to Ignatian Meditation**

"In Ignatius' 16th century approach to Scripture instead of analyzing a text, you use your senses to imagine yourself as a character in the story. Then you have a short, personal conversation with the Lord. Each reading is guided by a focus question below. In a group context follow the leader's instructions on what to share and be sure to protect people's confidentiality" (adapted from Bill Gaultiere's Ignatian Meditation Guide).

### **Background to This Week's Text (Acts 1:1-8)**

The disciples' frame of mind coming into the book of Acts is all over the place. They are traumatized by what their beloved Jesus has experienced. They feel a lot of guilt for turning their backs on Him and are ashamed of their actions and decisions to deny Him in fear for their lives. But, they also know that God is deeply with them, for them and ahead of them.

### **Before Beginning the Meditation - Asking For the Grace**

Have your group members pray this out a few times: "Lord Jesus, I desire a more personalized experience of God's grace that brings me spiritual relish and fruit" (adapted from Bill Gaultiere's Ignatian Meditation Guide).

### **Imagine Scripture: Acts 1:1-8**

(Two Options: You can have your group read the passage allowed together before transitioning into the 2 questions below, or have them read silently and jump right into the questions. Your choice! One thing to note - you still have about 20 minutes for this exercise by this point, so be encouraged to go slow, sit in the text, and let your imagination run free as you engage with Holy Spirit).

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

### **Prayer / Journaling / Soul Talk Prompts**

1. Visualize yourself in the Scripture. Don't seek intellectual insights—stay with the imagery. Use your senses to see, touch, feel, and hear. What part of the story are you drawn to? Which character do you identify with or are you a bystander?
2. Experience the story in the role of the character God led you to. Then talk with the Lord. What do you feel? How does this relate to something in your life today? What is God saying to you?

### **LOOKING FORWARD (20 Min)**

Break into small groups to talk about your experience through this meditation. Spend some time listening to one another and then praying over one another to close.

## **KIDS' LESSON:**

We are going to take some time to encounter God - we'll read a passage of the Bible where Jesus was taken up into Heaven. Close your eyes and imagine yourself in the story! God has a promise or message for you in this passage, so listen carefully. Parents, read this passage aloud.

### **Acts 1:1-8**

#### **1 To Theophilus,**

**The first book I wrote was about everything that Jesus did and taught. 2 I wrote about the whole life of Jesus, from the beginning until the day he was taken up into heaven. Before this, Jesus talked to the apostles he had chosen. With the help of the Holy Spirit, Jesus told them what they should do. 3 After his death, he showed himself to them and proved in many ways that he was alive. The apostles saw Jesus during the 40 days after he was raised from death. He spoke to them about the kingdom of God. 4 Once when he was eating with them, he told them not to leave Jerusalem. He said, "The Father has made you a promise which I told you about before. Wait here to receive this promise. 5 John baptized people with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."**

**6 The apostles were all together. They asked Jesus, "Lord, are you at this time going to give the kingdom back to Israel?"**

**7 Jesus said to them, "The Father is the only One who has the authority to decide dates and times. These things are not for you to know. 8 But the Holy Spirit will come to you. Then you will receive power. You will be my witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world."**

When you hear this passage, what pops out to you? What questions do you have? Who do you feel like you relate to the most?

Here are some additional questions about the passage for discussion:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story? What did He do?
2. What did Jesus say would happen after He goes to Heaven?
3. What do verses 7-8 mean to you? What is a witness?

Now - close your eyes again and ask God those questions you had, and ask Him if He has any answers for you. Is there anything He wants to show you in this story?

The Holy Spirit is one of the gifts that Jesus sent us when He went back to the Father. It means that as believers of Jesus, we can talk to God everyday, anytime, anywhere, and we can hear Him! What does the Holy Spirit want to share with you today?

Share with your friends and family what God shared with you! You are God's witness. Write it down or draw it and remember that God loves to talk to you and that He wants to be your friend.