

## WEEK ONE: HE EMPOWERS

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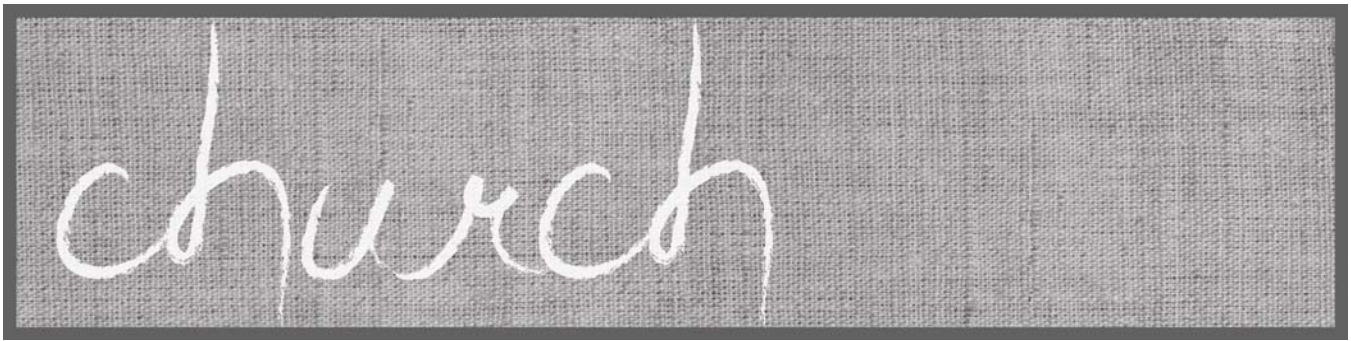
What is "church"? As we begin to go through the book of Acts, we see the first two guiding principles for a functioning body of believers. The Holy Spirit comes and empowers the people. The people gather and support each other by the direction and power of the Spirit. We will look at some questions like "Is it important to be a part of the local church?" And, "What is your role in the church?" We'll begin to seek to answer questions like these, and many more, throughout the "church" series.

### Where Am I Today?

- 1) Has anyone ever promised to do something for you without saying when it would happen? How anxious were you? What did you do in the meantime? What did waiting teach you?
- 2) What inspires you when you hear that every believer is empowered by the Holy Spirit and is a part of the church?

### Into the Bible

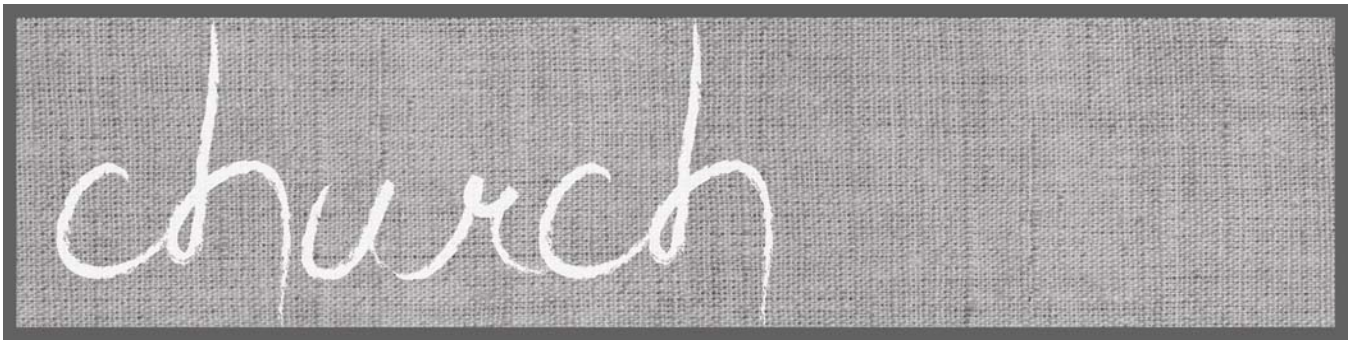
- 3) **Read** Acts 1:4, 1:8 and 2:1-4. What does Acts 1:4 teach about the importance of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church? What is the promise of Acts 1:8? How will a believer's life be different "when the Holy Spirit comes on [them]"?



- 4) **Read** the following passages on the Holy Spirit's role in the church and in the lives of Jesus followers. What is His role in the church? How are we called to respond to Him?
- a. John 15:26
  - b. John 16:8-13
  - c. Acts 2:38
- 5) **Read** the scriptures below. What is the Holy Spirit's role in your ability to follow Jesus? How did Jesus model this for us? Are we instructed to pursue the Holy Spirit in our lives? How?
- a. Acts 10:38
  - b. Ephesians 5:18
  - c. Luke 11:5-13

### **How Does This Apply?**

- 6) How can you live a life full of the Holy Spirit? What are the benefits of living that kind of life? What are the disadvantages/dangers of not living that kind of life, individually or as a church body?



- 7) Think of the people and community around you. Are there people in your life that need salvation? How does the promise of the Holy Spirit help you with telling others about the Gospel? How does it help with showing them the love of Jesus? Think of the "awe factor" in Acts 1 and 2. How will living empowered by the Spirit impact our communities?
- 8) When we gather together, we find strength in each other. **Read** Hebrews 10:22-25. What are the dangers of neglecting that? What changes or commitments have you made to gather with other believers more often? How can you help others see the need for gathering together?

### **Digging Deeper: Going Further on Your Own**

- 9) What is "the Trinity"? How can there be One God who is also Three? When do we first learn of this mystery in scripture? Why is a proper understanding of the Trinity important to your daily life?

Genesis 1:1,2,26

John 1:1-3

Isaiah 48:16

Matthew 3:16-17

Mathew 28:19-20

John 14:26

2 Corinthians 13:14

1 Peter 1:2