

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE
OF PEACE
Called to Connect



Baptism and the Spirit

August 10-14, 2019

In the Genesis creation poem, the ancient writer tells us that the Spirit moves and is active and blowing through the ongoing work of creation. When God gathered up the dust of humanity and breathed the Spirit of life into it we became Spirit-filled, Spirit-moved, Spirit-sustained. If you need proof of the Spirit's presence in someone's life, the proof is in God's desire to give life, and more life.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: ACTS 19:1-7

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

The apostle Paul travels to the town of Ephesus, bumps into a small group of believers and has a conversation about baptism and the activity of the Holy Spirit in their lives. This passage could be a perfect example of how theology gets in the way. Which comes first, baptism or belief? Does the Holy Spirit show up at our baptism or is the Holy Spirit present at birth, or before birth? If we're not baptized can the Holy Spirit ever guide and lead us? Can we be baptized and never know the power of the Spirit in our lives? Is it possible to be Christian your whole life and never know Jesus? Oh my goodness! Good question. The closest I can get is this: ***If we're not plugged into the source, there's not going to be any power.*** There is a source, and there is power. Let's just plug into it.

The good news is, we are never without the Spirit. The gift of the Holy Spirit is given when God breathes the wind of the Spirit, the breeze of the Divine the into every one of us. Though we may not be able to fully comprehend the Spirit, it's ok to let mystery be mysterious and to lean into its guidance anyway.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What has been your experience with the Holy Spirit?
- How do you understand the connection between baptism and the Spirit of God?
- What do you think this experience was like for the disciples in Ephesus? Were they confused? Excited?
- What does "plugging into the power source" look like for you?

APPLICATION: This week, practice one method of plugging in with the Spirit. Spend time in scripture, prayer, or something else that works for you. Take note of how the Spirit may guide your day as a result of intentional time plugging in.