



SPIRIT & COMMUNITY

Session 6: Spirit & Community

Small Group Guide

Warm up (activity to connect with the theme)

How well do you know one another? Play the game of two truths and one lie. Choose a couple of people to share two statements that are true about themselves and one that is false. The aim of the game is that others in the group must work out, through discussion and direct questioning, which of the statements is the lie.

Message (summary video)

Watch the video by Andrew Ollerton that summarises the big theme from the Bible and its relevance to our lives

Scripture readings (for the group to read together)

Acts 1.1–11, Acts 2.1–4, 17–18, 1 Corinthians 3.16, Acts 2.36–47, Galatians 3.28, Romans 1.1–17, Acts 20.36–37, Acts 28.30–31.

Discussion time

- In what ways is true community a challenge in our modern culture? Why do so many of us experience loneliness in our hyper-connected age?
- What is your experience of the Holy Spirit? How can you open up your life to more of his empowering presence?
- The book of Acts tells the story of the early Church. What made their community life so radical and attractive (e.g. Acts 2.42–7, Galatians 3.28)?
- What do you think of when you hear the word 'church'? How does the early Church in the book of Acts help you reimagine what Christian community can be like?
- The mission of Acts continues today through us. We are to 'faithfully improvise'. In what practical ways can you play your part and make a difference where you are?
- Overall, how has this section on the Spirit and community helped you make sense of life today?

Response time (a reflection to lead into prayer time)

Consider this quote.

'Find a community, a small group who can lovingly fuel your dreams and puncture your illusions. Find friends and form a family who are willing to see grace at work in one another's lives ... then go make something of the world together.' (Andy Crouch, *Culture Making: Recovering our Creative Calling*)

Are we this sort of community? What might it mean for us as a community to make something of the world together?

Write down one way you can play your part. Start small and manageable, but resolve to build it in to your lives and to stick with it.

Daily content

Continue the journey this week by reading the daily chapters of content and Scriptures in the series book by Andrew Ollerton, *The Bible: A Story that makes sense of life* (Hodder).

