

LEADING BY WAITING



HEAR

Read Acts 2:1-8

Waiting is a gift! The disciples had been promised, “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” (Acts 1:8). After waiting 40 days, the Holy Spirit empowers the community by giving them the ability to speak to all. The Holy Spirit could have come the day Jesus ascended (Acts 1), but instead the disciples are asked to wait. Waiting gives God, the opportunity to remind them who this story was about. It wasn’t power to build their own glory, but power for a specific reason, to be God’s witnesses.

- Looking at the response, why were the people amazed and perplexed?
- Looking back to Acts 1:8, how does the gift of speaking tongues align with the command Jesus gave them?
- Why did God give them the power to speak in tongues? Suggestion: look at the story of Babel (Genesis 11), what are the differences and similarities?
- There are some descriptive words about how the disciples waited. Why do you think God had them wait together in one place?



RESPOND

Go and do

Leading by waiting feels very contradictory, especially since Jesus gave us a call to make disciples, which might feel like a very active thing to do. But when we look at Jesus’ overall ministry, we see that he often waited—on people, on timing, on his own body’s need for rest, on his father’s will. Jesus’ leadership was opposite of what everyone assumed they would see in the Messiah. Following Jesus’ leadership means being willing to both *wait* and *go* as the Holy Spirit leads.

- Ask, in community if possible, “Where is God inviting us to actively wait on the LORD?”
- Unlike the disciples, we already have the Holy Spirit and are empowered by the Spirit to go into the world. List out the ways God has empowered you to go!
- Pray this breath prayer: (inhale) Lord, let me wait on you. (exhale) Holy Spirit, guide me in all my actions. Repeat several times.



DEBRIEF

Reflect on what you learned

- Where is God inviting you to wait?
- How are people perplexed and amazed by how God is empowering you?
- Community question: How can we encourage each other in sensing Holy Spirit’s presence and leading?