

WEEK 5
LESSON OUTLINE

Invited

BIG IDEA

We're invited to follow the Holy Spirit's lead.

BIBLE

John 20:19–23; Acts 2:1–4;
John 3:8

ABOUT THIS WEEK

There's not much worse than showing up to a party where you don't know anyone and don't know what to do. This week, we'll take a look at what Jesus said to his disciples right before he left them to continue his ministry without him. Jesus gave them instructions on what to do next and how **we're invited to follow the Holy Spirit's lead.**

WHAT?

When you show up to the party and there's dancing, how do you respond? Dancing can make us feel so vulnerable, and for some of us, that's an easy thing to overcome, but for others, when it's time to hit the dance floor, we pull back. Maybe all we need to get into the party's flow is someone to help us feel comfortable. The same is true in our lives. Sometimes, when it is slightly intimidating, we need a guide to help us understand what to do next.

SO WHAT?

In John 20:19–23, Jesus showed up when the disciples least expected it. He was about to send them out to continue his mission and work, but they wouldn't do it alone. He was giving them the Holy Spirit to help guide them every step of the way. Jesus gave us God's Spirit to help lead us into moments of connection and purpose, as well as through times of loneliness and confusion.

In Acts 2, we get a glimpse into the moment when the Holy Spirit started leading the church in the way Jesus talked about. The disciples followed the Holy Spirit's lead. They trusted God to provide a guide for them, and when this guide showed up, they listened. They invited people to the party and shared God's message of love, hope, and peace. We are encouraged to do the same, which means **we're invited to follow the Holy Spirit's lead.**

NOW WHAT?

Here are a few ways to start listening and following the Holy Spirit's lead this week.

- **PLAN TO PRACTICE SILENCE:** Silence when talking to God may seem counterintuitive, but we learn to listen to the Holy Spirit when everything around us slows and quiets down. Set aside a few minutes daily to sit still in silence and listen to God.
- **PLAN FOR INTERRUPTIONS:** If you struggle to stick to a plan because of constant interruptions, change your location, find a quiet place, or invite a friend to help you. Stay flexible and be okay with adjusting and adapting.
- **PLAN TO TRY NEW THINGS:** When we read stories about all the things the disciples did, we think, "Of course they did that. They're in the Bible!" We forget Jesus' earliest disciples were the first to trust the Holy Spirit and try new things.

Because of Jesus, we have access to the same guide he left for the disciples. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is in you, and **we're invited to follow the Holy Spirit's lead.**