

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

CONNECT

Share with one another one moment this past week that brought you joy, and one moment that brought pain or sadness. (Kids are welcome to join you and share, too.)

LEARN & APPLY

This is week one (of four) in learning about the Holy Spirit; set within our larger *According to Luke* series.

- Spirituality can be a confusing topic. Sometimes it seems weird or even dangerous. What reservations or questions do you have about the topic of spirituality from past experiences?
- "Spirit" can also be a hopeful topic. Why is a relationship with a living God better than just principles or beliefs?

Now read Acts 2:1-18 (don't worry about the hard names around verse 9!) and Ezekiel 36:26-27 and discuss the following questions:

- Through the prophet Ezekiel (about 550 BC), God said he would remove our "hearts of stone." What does this image suggest to you? Have you ever felt stone-hearted about something? Where have you seen it elsewhere?
- Instead, God promised to give his people soft hearts or hearts of flesh. What does it look like to be pliable or cooperative with God's work in our lives? Do you know anyone like this? What can you learn from them?
- In Acts 2 Peter says the Spirit is the sign (and power) of God's new day for the world. In the message this week we were challenged to ask: what old attitude or action is still clinging to you that you need to shed? What new thing do you think God is inviting you to embrace in your heart or life? Discuss this with your group.

PRAY

Ask for God's Spirit in your life. Each person can say something aloud like, "God take away my heart of stone. Give me a soft heart and move me to..."