

# TAKEAWAY

## EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE



### Part Two: Acts 1:4-11

*At Maybridge we want to be a church of disciples who make disciples – we hope this takeaway session encourages practical outcomes in the lives of the individuals in your group. The focus of group discussion should be on becoming 'doers of the word' and not just hearers or people who enjoy a good discussion!*

As always, there are more questions and discussion prompts than you'll have time for, so feel free to use what is helpful for your group as time allows and discussion flows.

#### INTRODUCTION

Like Christians through the ages, we believe the Bible to be full of timeless truth that can be applied anytime, anywhere; it's God speaking to us. We're beginning a new teaching series working our way through a book of the New Testament known as 'Acts'. Our hope as we unpack this pivotal book, is to try to understand it, in context, and then think about what it has to say to us as followers of Jesus today. We've called the series 'Everyone, Everywhere' because at heart Acts is *a message for everyone everywhere, about a person who is for everyone everywhere.*

#### SHARE

- When was the last time you were so convinced by something that it caused you to change your mind and habits?
- Have you ever felt convinced something is true, but unsure what to do with it? What helped you find purpose?

#### READ

##### Acts 1:4-11

#### DISCUSS

What does it actually mean to be "baptised" (verse 5) or immersed in the Holy Spirit? How is being baptised in the Holy Spirit different from John's baptism with water?

How would you describe the kind of transformation the Holy Spirit brings into a believer's life?

Why is it absolutely vital that spiritual experiences should lead to real change rather than just good feelings?

The disciples ask Jesus: "*...are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?*" (verse 6). In what ways do Christians today sometimes want Jesus to fulfil their own plans rather than his?

Why is it important that Jesus describes His followers as *witnesses* (verse 8) rather than *warriors*?

In what ways do Christians today sometimes stand '*looking intently up into the sky*' instead of acting?

Where might God be prompting you personally to act? What might "being elbowed" by God (as Matt put it on Sunday) look like for you?

It is easy for Christians to become focused on the parts of faith they enjoy most. How can followers of Jesus make sure their gifts and interests still serve the bigger mission Jesus gave?

Why do you think having a clear purpose matters so much for both individuals and churches?

What encourages you personally to keep living out the mission Jesus gave his followers?

## **PRAY**

Pray for Jesus' kingdom to come. Ask for Jesus to empower you with the Holy Spirit to do what only we can do while we're waiting for God to do what only He can do.

## **TRY OUT**

- Think of one or two things that you can act on in the coming weeks following this session. Where do you sense God, through the Holy Spirit, 'elbowing' you to Act? What steps can you take to do it?
- Reflect on what gets in the way of you sharing your faith with those who don't know Jesus. Commit to pray for five people from your neighbourhood, leisure activities, family, work or studies over the coming weeks and for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with them.
- Read through Acts Chapter 1.