**Discussion/reflection notes –3rd September 2023**

**Welcome**

* What is your favourite film/book sequel? Do you prefer the first in the series, or the sequel? Why?

**Worship**

* Listen to [In The Presence Of The Holy - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4lfD5IBymM) and let it lead you into prayer (you can check out the lyrics at: [In The Presence Of The Holy - Song - engageworship](https://engageworship.org/ideas/in-the-presence-of-the-holy-song)
* Consider reading the first five chapters of Acts (either silently together, or in advance) and giving thanks for the main things which strike you…

**Learning From the Early Church, Acts 1:1-5 (Church foundations)**

**Key ideas:**

1. Jesus Christ (life, death and resurrection) is the foundation of the church
2. The Holy Spirit is promised, present and powerfully at work in the church

**Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, is doing a new thing…in the church today, in our church today, in God’s church today…**

**Reflection and application questions (choose a few…)**

* What is the link between the book of Acts and Luke’s gospel?
* Is the name of the addressee (Theophilus) of verse 1 significant?
* Which elements of Jesus’ life, mission and ministry to we find presented here in this text?
* To what extent is the resurrection the most important foundation on which the church is built?
* Is it significant that forty days of resurrection appearances are mentioned?
* Is there any evidence in the text to suggest that the gift of the Holy Spirit is actually the promise of the presence of a person?
* Why do you think the apostles had to “wait” for the gift of the Holy Spirit?
* Why is it important for us also to “wait on the Holy Spirit”?
* Can you share any examples of the Holy Spirit at work either in your own life, in the life of the church, or elsewhere?
* Which key lessons should we, as NMBC, take and apply from this passage?

**Prayer suggestions**

* Spend some time together praying into the things you have discussed.
* Pray that we at NMBC/MMCC will keep our eyes on King Jesus as the foundation of the church and that we are ready both to wait on the Holy Spirit and to respond to his leading.
* Please pray for the Fuller family, with Andy having now had seven of his planned ten treatments and with Emily awaiting the results of her last scan.
* Pray for others that you know in the church fellowship who are in need of God’s special touch at this time.
* Pray for our CYP as they start back at school and begin their groups here at church next Sunday.
* Pray for the visit of Pastor Yevheniy and his wife Polina, and family, next Sunday to NMBC. Consider if you may like to give to a special offering for Dnipro Independent Baptist Church.