**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**July 1st 2018. Power encounters**

**Discussion notes: Imparting the Spirit. John 20**

The gospels give us stories of Jesus encountering all kinds of people. Many of those people had real needs and their encounter with Jesus turned out to be a ‘power encounter.’ In Jesus, the ‘powers of the age to come’ broke into their lives in healing, deliverance, provision and challenge. The power encounters we read about serve as an encouragement of the grace of God, but also a challenge to us about living a spirit empowered life.

1. How powerful were the disciples feeling in John 20:19. Why?
2. Authority is backed up by power. What authority did Jesus give to his followers in this account? What is surprising about this?
3. What was the significance of Jesus breathing on the disciples?
4. Thomas wasn’t present in the encounter. What is the link between Jesus’ presence and power? What do you make of verse 29?
5. John 20 is a starter for Acts 2. Why does this power encounter at Pentecost need to happen and what is the difference between it and John 20?
6. After Pentecost the disciples presence brings power encounters (e.g. Acts 3:6, Acts 5:15). What has happened? Has this happened to you?

To what extent are we able ourselves to mediate power encounters wherever our presence is? Is this too out of the question for us or is it an expectation for all believers?