

Things to do during the week/at Life group

Be open to the Holy Spirit working in you. What is He saying? What gifts would He like to give to you? How would He like to use you in speaking of Christ to others today?

Questions for discussion

1. How would you summarise the events of Pentecost Sunday when the Holy Spirit came and filled the disciples in the upper room?
2. What part of this story do you enjoy the most?
3. What part of this story challenges you most? Why?
4. The disciples heard a gale in the house and tongues of flame descended upon them. Explain the power of the wind and flames and what these might symbolise for the power of the Holy Spirit.
5. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples meant that they had the courage, and the ability, to go and speak of the Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit always witnesses to Christ. What would the scenes have been like on that day?
6. When have you known the power of the Holy Spirit in your life? How has He helped you to witness to Jesus Christ?
7. What are the four things that Peter says are essential for the people to believe? Why are these so important?
8. Do these four things still stand today? How might you explain these four things to someone who might listen today?
9. The Holy Spirit transforms the Church from the earliest days through to today. In what ways might more of the Holy Spirit in our church transform us and our life, mission, ministry and witness together as a church family?
10. Do you want to see more of the Holy Spirit in your life and in your church? Are you hungry for more of the power of God in your life?

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Sermon Notes

Pentecost Sunday 2018

life in all its fullness

John 10:10

The day of Pentecost is the day when the worldwide Church came alive.

The word 'Pentecost' means 'fiftieth' and it was and is celebrated by the Jews as being 50 days after the Passover Feast.

It was also the Harvest Festival when the first loaves of bread made from the barley harvest were offered to God.

Pentecost also celebrated the 10 Commandments being given on Mount Sinai, but 3000 people lost their lives.

Do you find it remarkable that the feast of Pentecost 3000 people became Christians, and they actually found life? God was turning the death into life.

Their Experience

On that day the disciples were gathered and were waiting and waiting, with hearts that were longing for something to happen.

What did they hear?

They heard a gale within the house, not outside where you would expect to usually hear a gale. This was the beginning of something very unusual.

A gale can be frightening, powerful, an invisible power that can literally move things.

Remember Jesus' meeting with Nicodemus at night in John 3 and Jesus says that the wind blows where it wills, you don't know where it is coming from or where it is going; so it is with the Spirit of God.'

You know when you have been touched by the Spirit of God.

What did the disciples see on that day?

They saw fire coming down to rest on each of them. Fire is important in scripture for signifying the presence of God.

not from earth to heaven.

What did they do?

They opened their mouths and they began to speak in different languages.

There are 6000 languages on earth and God knows all of them. They spoke miraculously and supernaturally and proved that God can use ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

They praised God in different languages – this is where it all begins.

Pentecost was one of the 3 major feasts – Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles, and Jerusalem was full of pilgrims at these times.

This is a reversal of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 10 when languages were confused and people were dispersed, here languages are understood and the people come to hear about God.

The people were confused as they heard the disciples speaking in different languages.

Peter pointed to what was happening – your sons and daughters, old men, young men, maidservants and manservants, are all prophesying.

Joel said that this will be the beginning of the last period of history.

But Joel also says that 'everyone calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

The key word is 'everyone' or in some translations 'whoever'. Now is the time to get ready and to call on the name of the Lord.

So what do you need to know?

1. He was the man from Nazareth, he performed miracles as he travelled around, things happened in his life which can only be explained by saying that he was God
2. you need to know that Jesus died on a cross and that event was no accident.
3. you need to know that God reversed the human verdict by raising