

Wednesday

Read: Acts 2:9-13 *Responding to the miracle*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why do you think Luke mentions all these diverse places?*
2. *Why were some of the listeners amazed? Why were others so skeptical?*

Prayer Focus: Source of all Love, thank you for refusing to put limits on where your good news can go. I am grateful that I'm one of the ones who has inherited the blessings of Pentecost.

Thursday

Read: Acts 2:14-17 *Peter explains*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Peter addresses "all who live in Jerusalem." What does this say about God's message at Pentecost? What barriers to hearing this message are in place in our lives today?*
2. *What if all people today prophesied, or shared their visions and dreams?*

Prayer Focus: Great God, I need so much more of your Spirit. Let me be more aware that the Holy Spirit is everywhere in all creation and available to everyone, without exception. Let me be ready for visions, dreams, and prophecies from you.

Friday

Read: Acts 2:18-21 *Peter shares what is to come.*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why does Peter talk about the coming of the Lord's day?*
2. *What does it mean for us to call upon the name of the Lord in order to be saved?*

Prayer Focus: God of all, I am yours. Let me be someone who ignores all those barriers and limits and rules that we try to place on you and your grace. Let your wind set me in motion, your fire warm my heart, and let me share that powerful, saving Spirit with the world.

Surprise! The Ultimate Surprise Party

Acts 2:1-21 Jesus' followers were behind closed doors fifty days after Easter. The tongues of fire, the violent wind, and sudden ability to speak other languages were surprising. But the truly astonishing outcome is the change in followers of Jesus. Upon receiving the Holy Spirit, they were bolder, able to minister with power from above, less afraid of human retribution, more unified and certain of their purpose to spread the gospel.

Message Notes:

Small Group Format



Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Why do you think we as Christians don't often talk about the Holy Spirit?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

- Have someone read Acts 2:1-21. Discuss observations about the text.
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

June 9, 2019

The Ultimate Surprise Party

Monday

Read: Acts 2:1-4 *Wind and fire on Pentecost*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why do you think this was such a dramatic way for God to speak?*
2. *How do you think we would respond if this happened in our church today?*

Prayer Focus:

Creator God, you alone are in charge of fire and wind. You breathed the universe to life. You sent the spark that brought light in the darkness. Bless your name and your spirit-filling power.

Tuesday

Read: Acts 2:5-8 *Jerusalem hears the good news.*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What was the purpose of the disciples speaking in different languages?*
2. *What effect do you think this event had on the listeners? What effect do you think this event had on the speakers?*

Prayer Focus:

Gracious Giver, I realize I don't always listen carefully—I want to judge first, speak first. I realize I don't always speak with the loving kindness you've shown to me—I want to judge first, be heard first. Slow me down and help me be a part of your saving words.