



WARM-UP

We recommend you choose 1 or 2 of the following questions to discuss.

What was your favorite public speaking experience? What was your worst?

Do you tend to always keep the law even when no one is looking or do you ignore it when it is to your advantage? For instance, if you drive, do you tend to drive the speed limit all the time or only when there is a cop around?

Share a time when you felt really guilty about something. How did you react to the guilt?

WORD

""When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?"

- Acts 2:1-8 (NIV)

"Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: " 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams."

- Acts 2:14-17 (NIV)



WORD CONTINUED...

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah." When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."

- Acts 2:36-41 (NIV)

INTRODUCTION

Although it isn't publicly celebrated, the Day of Pentecost is the 4th most important day on the Christian calendar after Christmas (celebrating Jesus' birth), Good Friday (Jesus' death), and Easter (the resurrection). Acts 2 recounts the events on a Day of Pentecost that birthed the Christian church. Today we will look at that event and what it teaches us about what it means to be a Christian.

Historically, Pentecost was a Jewish feast celebrating the giving of the Ten Commandments, written by God on stone tablets and given to Moses. On this Pentecost in Acts 2, God gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit so that instead of laws written down somewhere for us to memorize and attempt to obey, the Holy Spirit is always with us to remind and motivate us to obey the law (John 16:8, Romans 8:13, Galatians 5:16). What God gave us in the two Pentecosts — the laws written in stone in the first Pentecost and the Holy Spirit living in our hearts in the second — is reminiscent of the two choices God gave Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden: to have God's guiding presence in their lives or to have a knowledge of good and evil and attempt to go it on their own. Being a Christian means we choose to follow God's guiding presence.



INTRODUCTION CONTINUED...

On this Day of Pentecost, Peter, with the power of the Holy Spirit, showed the Jews how they had rejected God and killed the Son of God. They came under deep conviction and Peter told them how to get rid of their guilt. He told them to:

Repent, which means to ask God's forgiveness for our sins, to turn from our disobedience, and to follow God's leadership.

Be Baptized, which means to fully commit to following God by trusting in Jesus' death on the Cross to pay for our sins and save our souls. We do this by being baptized in water in obedience to Christ's commandment.

Lastly, Peter told them they would **Receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit**, as promised by God.

DISCUSSION

1. As Christians, what do we gain from having the Holy Spirit according to this passage? How were those who weren't believers affected?
2. What can we learn about God, ourselves, and how God interacts with us from this passage? [Perhaps compare Peter in this passage with Peter in John 18:25-27; 20:19]
3. Three thousand people accepted Peter's message on Pentecost, were baptized, and were 'added' to the church that day. Do you remember the day that you repented of rejecting God's leadership in your life and accepted Jesus death as payment for your sins? Can you describe what happened?
4. What are some ways the Holy Spirit can help us follow God's leadership in our lives?



APPLICATION

1. How might this passage affect our lives? What might you do differently this week because of it?
2. Take time this week to read Peter's Day of Pentecost sermon (Acts 2:14-36) and write down his main points. Then, with another member(s) of the group, think about how you might share these points with someone you know who is not yet a Christian.
3. If you haven't repented of your sins, accepted Jesus' death as payment for your sins, and chosen to follow God's leadership in your life, would you like to do so today or perhaps schedule a time to further discuss this topic with someone else from the group?
4. If you haven't been baptized yet, would you be willing to schedule a time with someone in the group to further discuss baptism or even to sign up to be baptized at the next baptism? (usually the first Sunday of every month)

PRAYER

Two options in prayer, depending on time and what you feel is best for your group, you can do either or both.

Prayer List

1. Ask God for the Holy Spirit to have more influence in your life.
2. Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower you to be a witness.

Group Prayer

"Lord God, thank you for inviting me into a relationship with you. Thank you for wanting to know me and be known by me. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit who helps guide me on that journey. God, I want to know you deeper and I want to experience more of who you are. Show me your ways God teach me how to obey your will."