

Leader Resources for Small Groups | June 9, 2019

Anyone leading the group this week may find additional Small Group Leader Resources at <http://www.wcchapel.org/resources-for-small-group-leaders/>

Explore the Holy Spirit — The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Focus Passage: Acts 1:8; 2:1–13

Context: Acts 1:1–11; 2:1–21

Other Passages Referenced: Gen 1:1–2; Exodus 3:2; Deuteronomy 16:9–12; 2 Chronicles 5:13–14; Ezekiel 36:26–27; Matthew 5:14; Luke 3:16; John 8:12; 20:19–22; Acts 1:4–5; 2:37–38, 41; Ephesians 4:14–15;

Sermon Recap: The Big Idea of the sermon is, “The Holy Spirit exceeds all of our expectations.” Pentecost was a celebration of God’s provision of grain and a reminder of God’s covenants with Abraham and Moses—covenants of providing a Savior and making a people for His own possession. On the specific Day of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit was given to live inside of believers, we see an even greater provision than grain and the previous covenants. We see the fulfillment of God’s promise made 600 years earlier in Ezekiel 36:26–27 to put a new spirit and a new heart within His people. The Holy Spirit creates the new community of the Church ... makes us like burning bushes—the light of the world ... empowers mission. Acts 1:8 is not just a command to go but a promise that we will arrive. The Church will be Jesus’ witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Introductory Comments to Leaders

1. When you get to application question 2 in the *Took* section: “Do you have questions about the Holy Spirit that have not been addressed in this sermon series?” you should be open for anything. However, don’t feel any pressure to be able to answer all of the questions. The application question is stimulated by the several questions the people asked in Acts 2:1–13, when they saw phenomena that they could not explain. It is very natural for us to have questions about something as supernatural as the Holy Spirit. He and His work do not fit into all of our scientific and logical frameworks. I do hope people’s responses to the question may give you a better understanding of where some of your members are in their understanding of the Spirit. If you come across questions you don’t have answers for, contact me. I may not have an answer either, but we can work on it together.
- This will be the last Leader Resource pages until we pick back up with small groups and the Chapel Wide study in September. Thank you for investing in your group members this year. If you have not already signed up for one of the dinners for Group Leaders that Celia and I are hosting, I hope you will.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4dacab23aafe3-small>
- If you have any group members that you believe would be good candidates for leading a small group, please send me their names that I might ask them to pray about that possibility and offer them equipping.

Background:

- **Pentecost** was the second of the three great harvest festivals of Judaism, coming between Passover and Tabernacles.¹ It is also known as the Feast of Weeks since it is the 50th day after seven weeks from Passover. It was a celebration of the wheat harvest in the Old Testament (Exod. 23:16; 34:22; Lev. 23:15–21; Num. 28:26; Deut. 16:9–12). By the time of Jesus, the festival was associated with the renewal of the covenant made with

¹ John B. Polhill, [Acts](#), vol. 26, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 97.

Noah and then with Moses (*Jub.* 6:17–18), and in second-century Judaism, it was regarded as the day when the law was given at Sinai.²

- **Sound of wind and Visual of Fire** —The association of the coming of the Spirit with a noise like a powerful wind and with tongues like fire is no doubt to be understood primarily in the light of the prophecy by John the Baptist (Luke 3:16), but at a secondary level the imagery used is reminiscent of the descriptions of theophanies in the OT. God’s coming is associated with mighty storms consisting of wind, thunder, and lightning (2 Sam. 22:16; Ps. 18:7–15; Ezek. 13:13).³
- **Geography & Nations** mentioned — “The list has long intrigued scholars. It begins in what is present-day Iran (Parthia) and then proceeds across the Middle East (Mesopotamia), then southward to Judea, then north to central Turkey (Cappadocia), to northern Turkey (Pontus), eastward to the Aegean coast of Turkey (Asia), inland to Phrygia, then south to the Mediterranean coast of Turkey (Pamphylia) ...The catalog covers North Africa (Egypt, Libya, Cyrenaica), then north and west all the way to Rome, then southeast to the Mediterranean island of Crete, and finally much farther east and southward to Arabia.”⁴

Hook: *Pick a Question to Help Ignite Conversation*

Can you briefly tell us about a recent experience that exceeded your expectations?

Look—Observing and Interpreting:

READ: Acts 1:8 & 2:1–13

1. What are the audio and visual manifestations of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:1–13?
2. What descriptive words are used to describe the state of the people when they saw and heard these manifestations of the Spirit?
3. What questions do the people ask?
4. What was the message about that people were hearing in their own languages?
5. What accusation did mockers make against those speaking in the various tongues of the nations represented?

Illustrations:

Illustrations and quotes can be found on the “Sermon Slides” link at the bottom of www.wcchapel.org

² I. Howard Marshall, “Acts,” in *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI; Nottingham, UK: Baker Academic; Apollos, 2007), 531.

³ Ibid.

⁴ John B. Polhill, *Acts*, vol. 26, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 102.

Took: *Applying the message to our lives.*

2. Have you had or observed an experience attributed to the Holy Spirit that left you bewildered, amazed, astonished, or perplexed?
3. Do you have questions about the Holy Spirit that have not been addressed in this sermon series?
4. What do you think about the claim that the Holy Spirit in you makes every believer like a burning bush or in Jesus' words, "the light of the world"?
5. What do you see as your next step in being a "mobile disciple" of Jesus?

Prayer: Please spend some time praying for one another.

What we hope members glean from the passage:

1. Sound like a mighty rushing wind ... tongues as of fire resting upon each of the disciples who had been gathered together when the Holy Spirit came ...
2. Bewildered ... amazed ... astonished ... perplexed ...
3. "Are not these men Galileans?" ... "How is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?" ... "What does this mean?"
4. "the mighty works of God" (Acts 2:11). They were being told about God's salvation by sending the promised Messiah King, Jesus.
5. Mockers accused the Spirit-filled disciples of being drunk—"filled with new wine."