



# Small Group Study Guide for May 31, 2020

*Our Savior Lutheran Church and School*

**Theme:** Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian Church where Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit upon His disciples to launch a world-wide mission to bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth. Empowered by the Spirit, we get to speak the truth to the world about sin and grace, and joyfully proclaim the love of Christ.

## **Getting Started:**

1. What do you love most about this time of year?
2. How have you seen God working through this pandemic crisis, either in your own life, in our church, or in our community/world?

## **In the Word: Acts 2:1-21**

3. Pentecost was an Old Testament Jewish Festival that brought God's people from all over the Roman Empire to Jerusalem and to the temple. It was 50 days after the Sabbath of Passover week (Leviticus 23:15-17). The Sabbath was a Saturday, so what day of the week does that make Pentecost?
4. The disciples were in an "upper room" at a house in Jerusalem. **Read Acts 1:13** for another reference to it. This is most likely the "upper room" where Jesus had celebrated the Last Supper with His disciples. It would have been the home of a disciple or supporter of Jesus, someone with great hospitality to the disciples. **Read John 16:5-14**. What did Jesus promise the disciples in that very "upper room" that was fulfilled at Pentecost, and what details did Jesus include?
5. The miracle of Pentecost was the work of the Holy Spirit. First was the sound and the flames of fire that appeared. Then the disciples were able to speak in multiple languages. This did not mean they spoke a specific language. Look at verse 6 to see what the "speaking in tongues" miracle was all about.
6. It was quite multi-ethnic gathering of people from many places and nations that had gathered in Jerusalem. Look at the list in verses 9-11. This is always a challenge for the reader on Sunday morning! Point out which places / countries you recognize and could generally locate.

7. Peter is typically the spokesman for the Apostles. He cited the Old Testament prophet Joel as the prophecy of what the people were seeing and hearing. The key passage is **verse 21**. What does that verse say about the purpose of Pentecost?
  
8. Read ahead to the results of Peter's preaching in Acts 2:37-41. This is the second miracle of the Holy Spirit that day. What was Peter's promise, and how many people responded to it?

### **Putting it Together**

9. What pivotal role did the Holy Spirit play on that first Pentecost that propelled the Jesus movement forward?
  
10. In light of that, what does the Holy Spirit do in the church today that moves the mission forward, and how many similarities do you see between Acts 2 and the present church?
  
11. Jesus' commission was to "make disciples of all nations" – and multiple nations were present at Pentecost. The Christian Church is made up of multiple nations today. How do you see our congregation reaching out to people of all nations?
  
12. How can the church today be more inclusive of people from all nations?

**Prayer:** Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith and witness to Christ during these days of pandemic, empower the mission of the church. Ask for God's forgiveness when we have been exclusive or limited in our mission, especially to people of other nationalities. Pray for a greater inclusion and gathering of the Revelation 7 church, and for us to be bold in our proclamation of Christ.

This is [the last Sermon Study Guide for the season](#). This resource will resume after Labor Day. God's blessings on your summer!

**Bible Reading Plans** – Go to our website under Faith Resources to find two Bible Reading Plans for your use over the summer. A long one (Exodus Story) and a short one (Book of Acts).