



Small Group Study Guide for May 23, 2021

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: The Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost and the disciples preached the Good News of Jesus to people from many nations. The crowd was “utterly amazed” and perplexed at what they saw, yet this was the fulfillment of God’s promised salvation.

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. Pentecost was a pretty big God-sighting. We often see God at work in big and small ways around us, when we are looking for Him. How have you seen God at work lately? Share your God-sightings with your group.
2. The Holy Spirit is definitely one of the most mysterious aspects of the Biblical revelation of God. What are some of the questions you have had about the person and work of the Holy Spirit?

In the Word: Read Acts 2:1-21

3. Pentecost was a festival that ancient Israel celebrated according to the Torah (Leviticus 23:15-21, Numbers 28:26-31, Deuteronomy 16:9-12). Jews from all over the Roman Empire gathered together to worship the God of their Fathers at the temple in Jerusalem. It was to celebrate the first fruits of the harvest – the beginning of the harvest. How was this Pentecost a spiritual “first fruits” for the Kingdom of God?
4. The apostles were enabled by the Holy Spirit to speak in multiple languages / tongues. How do we know, from verse 8, that this was not gibberish, but actual languages?
5. Look at the list of regions and parts of the Empire that were represented in Jerusalem that day in verses 9-11. This is a geography lesson.
 - a. How many places are listed? _____
 - b. How many of them do you recognize, and you could locate on a map? _____
 - c. Then choose one of the places you do not recognize and look it up (phone?) to find out it’s general ancient location.

Putting it all Together (what we should believe or do as disciples)

6. Jesus fulfilled His promise – the apostles received power when the Holy Spirit came on them, so that they could be His witnesses, in Jerusalem, and Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). How does the Holy Spirit continue to give power to Jesus' disciples today?

Romans 8:26 –

John 16:13 –

Mark 13:11 –

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 –

7. The miracle at Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian Church, and the launch of the Great Commission – to make disciples of 'all nations.' Christianity has had a multi-ethnic and multi-national dimension from day one. How do you see this multi-ethnic dimension of the church manifest today, and what can we do as a church family to foster and embrace it?
8. The Holy Spirit's role was to empower the disciples to give witness to Jesus. The apostles did this by preaching publically and as official teachers of the faith. But each disciples was called to share Jesus personally, and share the good news of Jesus. Why is it important to remember that while pastors and called church workers preach and proclaim publically, all Christians are to be able to share their faith in Jesus with their friends and neighbors?
9. Read the conclusion of the Pentecost account in Acts 2:37-41. How do you see these results of the Spirit's work through the preaching of God's Word in our church today?

Prayer: Ask God to pour out the Holy Spirit upon our church family at Our Savior, so that we can boldly and faithfully proclaim the good news about Jesus. Thank the Holy Spirit for creating faith in us, and for comforting us with the promises in God's Word. Pray for all those newly baptized into Christ, and for all the new members of our church and school as together we learn, live and share Christ.

Next Week: We worship God as Father-Son-Holy Spirit on Trinity Sunday, and marvel at the mystery of our Triune God. While we don't fully comprehend it, we humble ourselves before God and cherish His love.