



# Small Group Study Guide for May 28, 2023

*Our Savior Lutheran Church and School*

**Theme: Life in the Spirit.** At Pentecost, the promised Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples for the launching of the Christian mission. The same Holy Spirit enlivens and energizes the church for mission today.

**Getting Started: (sharing with each other)**

1. What was the most recent thing you read in your Bible, and what do you think God was telling you?
2. The Holy Spirit is probably the most mysterious person of the Holy Trinity. We can't grasp Him as easily as we can the Father and the Son. What questions do you have or have you always had about the person and work of the Holy Spirit?

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

3. Who was there? In verse 1, it says "they were all together..." Who is 'they'? To answer that, read **Acts 1:13-15**, and make a list of who was there at Pentecost when they were all together.
4. Jesus promised that His disciples would be 'clothed with power from on high.' On this occasion, the Holy Spirit manifested Himself in two ways – sound and sight. What was the sound, and what was the sight? (read carefully to see what it actually was)
5. Can you think of any Old Testament references where God is manifested in fire? (think the call of Moses, the Exodus journey, Elijah, etc.) Can you think of any Old Testament references where God sends a rushing wind? (think Red Sea, Elijah, etc.)
6. Note that the gift of the Holy Spirit here was speaking in languages that people knew and could understand. The miracle was that the disciples could speak in languages that they had not learned. This allowed them to preach the Gospel to a host of nationalities in their native tongue. How many people groups are listed in 7-11?

7. As soon as the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak. This is the most common result of the Holy Spirit. When people are filled with the Spirit, they speak about God. Read **Matthew 10:19-20** and **Luke 12:11-12**. Why is Jesus' promise about the Holy Spirit giving us words to speak a comfort to Christians? Have you experienced the Spirit's work in your words?
  
8. Peter quotes the Old Testament prophet Joel and the prophecy of the Spirit's outpouring. Men and women will 'prophecy' which means tell people the Word of God. (Remember that the Holy Spirit helps us believe and speak about Jesus!) The purpose of all this Spirit-activity is the final verse, verse 21. What is the goal or result of the Holy Spirit's work on Pentecost in verse 21?

### **Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)**

9. When do you find yourself most in need of the Holy Spirit's help to give you the words to say?
  
10. Pentecost is considered a type of "birthday" of the Christian church, when the Jesus movement was launched and the Gospel took off. How does our church today, and the gathering of believers at Our Savior, reflect many of the same aspects of that first Pentecost Sunday? (look especially at your answers to #6-8.)
  
11. Read Acts 2:36-41 to hear the conclusion of Peter's sermon. The Holy Spirit, working through the words of the Gospel, turns people's hearts to the Lord so that they will call upon Him and be saved. They are to be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins, and this promise is for them and their children. Who ultimately does the calling, the forgiving, and the saving?

**Prayer:** Ask the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts and minds that we might be strengthened in our faith and bold to speak God's Words of grace, mercy and forgiveness to others. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill our church as a mission outpost for the Kingdom of God, so that we might continue to reach more and more for Christ. Thank the Holy Spirit for the gift of faith, forgiveness, and life that He brings to us.

**Next Week:** We still celebrate the Holy Spirit, but include Him in the Holy Trinity, along with the Father and the Son. On Trinity Sunday we worship our one God in three persons.

**Note:** The last Sermon Study Guide will be for Sunday, June 11. They will resume on Sunday, September 10.