



Small Group Study Guide for May 19, 2024

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: “Fan the Flame” Wherever the flame of God’s Spirit rests, the gospel is being shared and the church is alive. Pentecost shows us an early church that is quite literally on fire for the Lord. In some places today, the flame that burns within the hearts of God’s people feels more like an ember. Yet even in the darkest valleys, God promises that He is always working to transform the lives of the lost so that they may enter into the kingdom of God. We live by the same Spirit, whose desire is to fan the flame of the church and reflect Christ’s love with the world.

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. Have you ever learned to speak another language? What was that experience like?
2. When you think of Pentecost, what comes to mind?

In the Word: Read Acts 2:1-21

3. Acts 2 begins with the apostles “all together in one place.” God used a single room full of people to spread His message to the nations. What might this tell us about God’s ability to work through a few people?
4. In what follows, the Holy Spirit makes a powerful entry. This single line found in verse 2 gives us a vivid description of how the Spirit moves to change lives:

Suddenly: God moves into action suddenly

From Heaven: God’s Spirit is not of this world

A Sound: God’s action calls for our listening

Mighty: God moves in full force of grace and power

Filled The Room: The Spirit of God *fills* us up

What reflections and questions do you have about the work of the Holy Spirit?

5. The visual act of Pentecost takes form in tongues of fire that rest on the apostles. God’s presence is portrayed involving fire throughout the Bible—consider Moses and the

burning bush, or the Israelites who were led by a pillar of fire by night. Deuteronomy 4:24 tells us, “The Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.” Here at Pentecost, God’s Spirit rests as a flame. What do you think God’s fiery presence tell us about His power?

6. At Pentecost, the gospel is shared in the languages of at least 14 other nations. Biblical scholar Richard Baukham says, “Almost certainly Christianity exhibits more cultural diversity than any other religion and that must say something about it.” What does the diverse assembly of believers across the world say about Christianity?

7. Peter quotes the prophet Joel to say: “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh...” What unique hope does this give to us as Christians who are living in the last days?

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

8. How did this grand event of Pentecost change the way we relate to God today?

9. What are some ways that we can be more open and willing to the Spirit fanning the flame of our church today?

10. The apostles share the gospel with peoples of many nations. What does this tell us about the mission of the church, and how might we be a part of this mission here in Michigan?

Prayer: Gracious Heavenly Father, you make all things new through Your Son Jesus. This Pentecost, we pray for Your Spirit to fan the flame in our hearts and enliven the church to boldly proclaim the Your love. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Next Week: Over Memorial Day Weekend we also celebrate the Trinity. We give God all the glory: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person is unique, yet One holy God that we worship and serve. We will hear about how knowing the Trinity gives us a fuller understanding of God.