

iWitness - Pentecost

Introduction:

The word “Pentecost” comes from the Greek word meaning “fiftieth,” and in the Old Testament the Day of Pentecost was an agricultural observance fifty days after the first day of Passover (Deut. 16:9, Lev. 23:15-16, Num. 28:26-31). This day of offering and celebration was also known as the Festival of Weeks. In Acts chapter 2, it is during this festival time that the disciples were gathered in one place and God’s Holy Spirit came to rest on each of them and allowed them to speak in other languages and others were able to understand them (v.3-12). God’s Holy Spirit empowered the disciples, especially Peter on that day, to speak to those in Jerusalem about the Good News of Jesus Christ, all that they had experienced and seen of his life, death, and resurrection. Through their witness, the crowd was moved to respond in faith in God and about three thousand people were baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit that day.

As baptized followers of Christ, we have been given the same Spirit in us. The Holy Spirit empowers and calls us to witness to those around us what we have experienced and seen of Jesus in our lives so they too might come to know and experience the saving grace of God through Christ. When we allow God’s Spirit to use us and our witness, what was written about the early Christian church continues to be true today: “And the Lord added to their numbers daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47)

Read Your Bible

- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- Galatians 5:16-26
- Ephesians 4:7-13

- Acts 2:1-41

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

- As you read Acts chapter 2, what stands out to you the most?
- What comes to mind when you hear the title "Holy Spirit"?
- Have you ever seen someone changed completely by an encounter with God and what was that like?
- Read v.29-33. What did the people see and hear that was poured out onto the disciples by the Holy Spirit?
- In V.38, Peter tells us that all who repent and are baptized in the name of Jesus Christ will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. According to Acts chapter 2, what are some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit?
- What are some gifts of the Spirit as described in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and what are their purpose? Ephesians 4:7-13?
- What are some signs that the Holy Spirit is at work in you according to Galatians 5:16-26?
- Name some gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit you have seen at work in your life.
- How can you use those gifts and fruits to witness to others about Jesus Christ?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Heavenly Father, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of the earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your

love, empowering our lives to witness, serve and praise you. Give us the words to share your truth and grace with those around us so that all of heaven and earth may come to praise your name. Amen. (Adapted from ELW, p.36)