

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

OCT. 5/6 - ACTS 2:1-41

f-ACTS

- The Holy Spirit's outpouring on the Apostles in the Upper Room is known as Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13)
- Pentecost fulfills Jesus' promise to send the "Counselor" and "Spirit of Truth" (John 16:5-15)
- In Western Churches, Pentecost is usually represented by the color red, symbolizing the fire of the Holy Spirit.
- Pentecost came 10 days after Jesus ascended into Heaven.
- The Apostles were observing the Jewish festival of "Shavuot" (Harvest Festival) when the Spirit descended upon them, dramatically changing what and how Christians would celebrate on this day forever!

GETTING THINGS STARTED

First, take some time to do a "check-in" as a group. Go around your group and have each respond to these four questions. Then, after they have shared, have one person pray for them.

What is one word to describe the state of your heart/spirit right now? Why?

What is the one thing that is bringing you the greatest joy these days? Why?

What is the one thing that is burdening you most these days? Why?

What is the one thing you need prayer for?

Secondly, Ron mentioned that every family has "watershed" moments; moments that profoundly change the direction and flow of our lives forever. What would you say was a "watershed" moment in your life and in your family? Where were you aiming before, and where were you re-directed to?

READ TOGETHER

Acts 2:1-41

DISCUSSION

- This passage lays out the "watershed" moment of the Early Church. It is the moment that profoundly changed their direction and action. After the hearing the weekend message and reading through this passage again, what jumps out to you as something peculiar, interesting or profound? Are you surprised by something? Do you have questions? Confused by anything? Take some time to process these things as a group.

Main Points from Ron's Message:

1. The Holy Spirit gives extraordinary ability (2:1-13)
 2. The Holy Spirit is for all believers (2:14-18)
 3. The Holy Spirit is Jesus' gift to you (2:32-33)
 4. The Holy Spirit always points to Jesus (2:37-41)
- What extraordinary ability does the Spirit give us? How would you describe it?
 - What is the ultimate purpose or goal of this empowerment? Why are we given it?

BECOMING
PART OF THE
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- How have you experienced the Spirit's power in your life? How has it manifested itself? What was the occasion and what were the results?
- Do you feel that the church today (universal, local, or RockPointe specifically) is experiencing Spirit empowered ministry? Why do you think it is, or isn't? What are the things that must change (personally or as a community) if we are to experience the Spirit like the Early Church did?
- How do we discern if something is "of" the Holy Spirit? Have you ever encountered something that you just knew wasn't of the Spirit? What was it that made you question its authenticity or origin? How do you process or "test" whether something is of the Holy Spirit?
- This passage lays out very clearly that the Holy Spirit is given as a gift to you. Why is it that we sometimes feel we need to be "good enough" or to "work hard enough" to receive and live empowered by the Spirit?

What should we do? (2:37-41)

- If the Spirit is a gift, then how do we receive Him? How does someone move from being without the Holy Spirit, to being filled with the Holy Spirit? Share your understanding and convictions about this? Take a look again at Acts 2:37-41 to help you discuss.
- What then should we do, right now, tomorrow and every day after that... if we are to live a life empowered by the Holy Spirit?
- What about you personally? Share any convictions you have about steps you need to take, principles you need to trust in or simply prayers you feel you need to pray!

PRAYER

Truly, the Holy Spirit, the empowerment of the Spirit and life lived in the Spirit is very mystical in nature! We aren't going to understand it all. It doesn't all fit nicely on an Excel Spreadsheet. That's why we need to pray that God would give us supernatural understanding, wisdom and discernment. That's why we need to give to him all our fears, frustrations and questions. And that's why daily we must come to Him with an open heart, desirous of His Spirit.

Spend some time as a group praying for these things, and asking the Holy Spirit to come in Power.

NEXT STEPS

Sometime this week, take a more in-depth look at central passages in the Bible related to the Holy Spirit. Read them slowly and prayerfully. Write down what strikes you as important. Be sure to have your heart and ears open to what God wants to say to you through these passages! If you feel led, bring them next week and share with your group.

Ephesians 5:6-21... Galatians 5:16-23... John 14-17... Romans 8:1-17... 1 Corinthians 12:1-14:4... Ezekiel 36:22-27...