

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Week 3: Pentecost

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

To maintain a healthy group, focus on four key components: Word, prayer, relationships, and outreach. This guide will help you study a biblical passage through observation, interpretation, and application. As you explore Acts 2:1-21 and Luke 24:49, keep in mind this week's big idea: Pentecost propels the Church to the nations with the gospel, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

CONNECT

- Ask this ice-breaker: "Share about a time when you saw or experienced something so amazing it left you curious or confused, wanting to know more. How did you respond?"

INTRODUCTION

Pentecost Sunday marks a pivotal moment when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples, fulfilling Jesus' promise in Luke 24:49 to clothe them with power. In Acts 2:1-21, the Spirit arrives with wind and fire, enabling the disciples to proclaim God's mighty works in every language, reversing the division of Babel. Peter explains this as the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy, where God pours out His Spirit on all people, calling everyone to salvation through Jesus. This week, our big idea is that Pentecost propels the Church to the nations with the gospel. This passage challenges us to surrender to the Spirit's power, embrace the gospel, and join God's mission to the nations.

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Read: Luke 24:49; Acts 2:1-4

- Jesus instructs the disciples to wait for the Spirit's power (Luke 24:49). Why is the Holy Spirit's empowerment essential for the Church's mission?
- The Spirit fills "each one" with tongues of fire (Acts 2:3-4). What does this show about God's desire to include all believers in his mission?

Read: Acts 2:5-11

- The crowd hears the gospel in their own languages (vv. 6-11). How does this reversal of Babel demonstrate the Spirit's power to unite people through the gospel?
- The disciples proclaim "the mighty works of God" (v. 11). How can we share God's works in ways that connect with those around us today?

Read: Acts 2:12-21

- Peter quotes Joel, saying, "everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (v. 21). How does this promise encourage us to share the gospel boldly?
- The crowd's responses range from curiosity to mockery (vv. 12-13). How can we respond to opposition? To curiosity?

APPLICATION

- This week, take time to pray for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit for the mission of God to the nations.
- Ask the Lord to put a nation on your heart and begin praying for that nations.

PRAYER

- Pray for a fresh filling, for the nations, and for new gifts and fruit of the Spirit!