

May 24, 2026 – Leader’s Guide
When the Holy Spirit Comes
Acts 2

This Pentecost Sunday, we continued a sermon series entitled “*Empowered to Bear Witness to Jesus’ Kingdom.*” This series focuses on how the risen and ascended Jesus empowers his disciples for mission through the gift of the outpoured Holy Spirit.

Small Group Questions with Leader Guide

- 1. Read Acts 2:1-13. What stands out to you most about the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost?**

Leader Notes:

Encourage observation before interpretation. Your group may notice:

- Wind and fire imagery
- Speaking in different languages
- Boldness replacing fear
- The public nature of the event
- The change that comes upon the disciples/apostles

You can help the group see that Pentecost is not merely a private spiritual experience; it marks the empowering and birth of the church for God’s mission.

- 2. Why do you think God enabled the disciples to speak in many languages?**

Leader Notes:

You can draw attention to the international crowd in Jerusalem in verses 5–11, the background of the tower of Babel (Genesis 11), and what Jesus says in Acts 1:8.

Your group may notice:

- The creation of fellowship
- The fulfillment of God’s plan all peoples and nations
- The accessibility of the gospel in people’s mother tongues
- Unity in the midst of diversity
- Mission and witness beginning immediately

- 3. Read verses 14-36. What are the main points of Peter’s sermon? How does Peter explain the meaning of what happened at Pentecost?**

Leader Notes:

Help the group summarize Peter's message:

- Jesus was crucified
- His death was according to God's plan
- God raised Him from the dead
- Jesus is Lord and Messiah
- The Spirit's coming proves Jesus reigns

Help your group notice how Peter roots the meaning of Pentecost in Scripture and in the resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

4. Read verses 42-47. What did the new Spirit empowered church prioritize in their common life?**Leader Notes:**

Your group might observe the four *devotions* in verse 42 and what they are:

1. The apostles' teaching
2. The fellowship
3. The breaking of bread
4. The prayer

They might also notice the presence of:

- Wonders and signs
- Generosity
- Gratitude
- Worship
- Unity
- Hospitality
- Evangelistic witness
- Joy
- Awe

The church was deeply committed to their common life of worship, spiritual formation, and mission.

5. Which characteristics of the church in Acts 2 most challenges or inspires you?**Leader Notes:**

This question moves from interpretation to application. Create space for honest reflection without trying to immediately resolve any challenge that participants may be processing.

6. How can we cultivate this kind of fellowship as a church today? What are ways we can either help or hinder the work of the Spirit in our midst?

Leaders Notes:

Reinforce that what happened at Pentecost was a sovereign work of God the Holy Spirit, not a human endeavor. The Spirit creates and animates the fellowship of the church, and our fellowship with one another flows from our common sharing in the divine life of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

At the same time, there are postures/practices on our side that help cultivate what the Spirit animates.

Your group may notice postures/practices that help:

- Being open to God's Spirit
- Formation in Scripture (ie, the Apostles' teaching). Remembering and sharing what Jesus has done
- Breaking bread together (meals and the holy meal of the Eucharist)
- Prayer – personal and communal forms
- Practicing forgiveness and reconciliation
- Service and care for the needs of others
- Generosity
- Repentance

Closing Prayer

Close in a time of prayer that focuses on an ancient prayer called the *epiclesis*: “Come Holy Spirit”.

This prayer does not suggest that the Holy Spirit is not already present but rather opens us to the awareness of His presence and welcomes Him to come in a fresh way into our lives, the church, and our world.

You might offer intercessions along the following lines: “Come Holy Spirit for...”

You might offer prayers of thanksgiving: “Thank you Holy Spirit for how you...”