



## Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

### "Pentecost"

**Preached by Dr. Daniel Grothe**  
**04 May 2025**

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."

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#### **Summary**

*Have someone from your group read the following summary aloud.*

On Pentecost Sunday, Pastor Daniel invited us into the wonder of Acts 1 and 2—the moment heaven touched earth and the Church was born. His message was clear and deeply stirring: the Holy Spirit doesn't descend in isolation. He comes upon *people*, together—waiting, worshiping, and willing.

Pastor Daniel reminded us that Pentecost is not a private encounter but a communal miracle. When the Spirit falls, he forms a family. God is not merely filling individuals; he is building a house, a body, a movement. The sound of rushing wind and the fire that rested on each head weren't signs for personal gain; they were the beginnings of a people who would carry Christ to the ends of the earth.

#### **Opening Prayer**

*Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own.*

"Heavenly Father, as we open your Word and talk about the story of Pentecost, would you help us listen with both our minds and our hearts? We want to learn more about your Spirit and how you're still building your Church—through people just like us.

"Show us what it means to be vessels you can use, helping us be open, humble, and ready to share your love with those around us. Guide our conversation, draw us closer to you, and help us see where we fit in your bigger story.

"We welcome your presence here with us, and we ask you to lead us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."

## **Getting Going**

*Allow time for each group member to answer the following questions as you begin your group time.*

What's the longest you've ever waited for something you really wanted? How did it feel when you finally received it?

## **Discussion Questions**

*Answer as many of the following questions as time and interest permit.*

1. Why do you think Jesus instructed the disciples as a group to wait together for the Holy Spirit rather than having them wait individually?
2. How does our modern culture's emphasis on individualism conflict with God's design for the church?
3. What role does community play in your own spiritual growth?
4. The sermon mentioned that sometimes God's work takes decades to unfold. How does this reality challenge or encourage you?
5. How can we maintain spiritual fire and avoid becoming spiritually weary?

## **Making It Personal**

*Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life.*

This week, identify one way you can deepen your commitment to our church community, such as by deciding to lead a small group, serving in a ministry, or intentionally building relationships with other believers.

Then, take a concrete step toward greater involvement in the body of Christ.

## **Key Takeaways**

*Commit to memory one point from the message before you dismiss.*

Which of these points will you carry with you this week?

- The Holy Spirit is poured out on groups of people, not isolated individuals.
- God's purpose in filling us with his Spirit is to grow his family and reach others.

- Spiritual transformation often takes time and requires patient endurance.
- True church community requires long-term commitment and investment.
- The Spirit empowers us to be witnesses and bring others into God's family.

## **Closing Prayer**

*Have someone from your group close your time in prayer.*

"Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of your Spirit—our Helper, our Guide, and the breath of life in us. Thank you for calling us not just to believe, but to belong—to be part of something bigger than ourselves, a living, growing Church shaped by your love. As we go from this conversation, help us to walk with patience and faithfulness, even when we can't see the full picture of what you're building.

"Teach us to value community the way you do—to show up for one another, to speak truth in love, and to open our hearts to those who haven't yet found their place in your family.

"Give us fresh fire, Lord. Renew our passion.

"Where we've grown tired, breathe new life.

"Where we've been distracted, bring focus.

"Where we've been hesitant, give courage.

"May we leave here today with a deeper desire to know you, to serve others, and to say yes to your Spirit—again and again.

"We love you, and we pray all this in your name. Amen."

## **Key Passage | Acts 2:1-4**

*These verses were highlighted during this week's sermon and appear here for your reference.*

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

## **Verses for Further Study**

- Acts 1:8
- Acts 2:41
- Galatians 6:9