

Take Home

MAY 4, 2025

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 2:1-13

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” 13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

GETTING TO KNOW THE BOOK OF ACTS

READ Acts 1-12 in one sitting (it takes 30-40 minutes). Consider reading it again in a different translation. Write down your questions as they come to you, and note when something confuses you or excites you, or you find something that you want to explore further.

WATCH an explainer video from the Bible Project about the meaning of Pentecost: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/gospel-acts-1/>

A DAILY PATTERN FOR MEETING WITH GOD THROUGH SCRIPTURE:

Now that you’ve seen the big picture, zoom in on a smaller portion of Scripture each day. Slow down, close your eyes, take deep breaths and become aware of God’s Presence. Ask the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of your heart. Read the passage slowly, two or three times. Consider: what does this passage clearly reveal about God? What does it clearly reveal about me / humanity? Ask the Holy Spirit: Why are you revealing these truths to my heart today? What is God asking me to do today? Respond with adoration, confession, thanksgiving and petitions.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS FOR SMALL GROUPS, FRIEND GROUPS & HOUSEHOLDS:

1. Read the Scripture passage printed above. What stands out to you in these verses? What questions do they raise? Feel free to take time to wrestle with these questions.
2. What, if anything, comes to mind when you hear the word “Pentecost”? Did this sermon cause you to think about it in a different way? If so, how so?
3. Why does the church need the Holy Spirit?
4. Why did the Holy Spirit come down on Pentecost? What do you think God was trying to communicate or accomplish by sending His Spirit on that particular occasion?
5. In what ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit “breaking barriers” and opening up new possibilities, in or around you?
6. In what ways do you long to see the Holy Spirit bring transformation to your life, family, congregation or region? **Spend time praying for the Holy Spirit to bring renewal to these places.**

Sermon Notes