

Small Group Guide: Pentecost - The Holy Spirit Comes

Based on the May 24, 2026 sermon from Acts 2

Opening Prayer

Begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to be present in your gathering, to open hearts and minds to His word and work.

Icebreaker

Question: Have you ever watched a movie sequel that made more sense after rewatching the original? Or read a book series where earlier details became more meaningful later? Share your experience.

(This connects to the sermon's opening illustration about understanding the bigger story)

Key Takeaways

- God's heart has always been to dwell with us - from Eden to the New Heaven and Earth
 - The Holy Spirit is God's presence with us now - transforming us individually and collectively
 - Pentecost fulfilled the Old Testament pattern - God's presence dispersed to all believers, not concentrated in one place
 - The church is a prophetic witness - when we live in unity, generosity, worship, and care for others, we point people to Jesus
 - Revival includes repentance, baptism, and Spirit-empowerment - all leading to transformation and mission
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Key Scripture

Acts 2:1-21, 37-47

Take time to read this passage aloud together, perhaps having different people read different sections.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Big Story

1. The 50-Day Pattern: The sermon traced three "Pentecost moments" in Scripture:
 - The first Passover/Pentecost (Exodus - God's presence on Mount Sinai)
 - Jesus as the Passover Lamb (His death and resurrection)
 - The Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2)
2. How does seeing these connections help you understand what happened at Pentecost? What stands out to you about this pattern?
3. Heaven and Earth Overlap: Throughout the sermon, we heard about God's desire to dwell with His people - from Eden, to the Tabernacle, to Jesus, to the Holy Spirit in us. Where do you most clearly see or experience this "heaven on earth" reality in your life right now?

The Holy Spirit's Work

3. Personal Transformation: The sermon listed many things the Holy Spirit does in us:
 - Transforms us into new creations
 - Convicts and sets us free from sin
 - Opens our minds to believe
 - Produces fruit (love, joy, peace)
 - Comforts, strengthens, guides, renews us
 - Prays for us when we don't have words
4. Which of these do you most need the Holy Spirit to do in your life right now? Why?
5. Being "Cut to the Heart": When the people heard Peter's message, they were "cut to the heart" and asked, "What shall we do?"
 - Have you experienced this kind of conviction? What was that like?
 - Is there anything the Holy Spirit is convicting you about right now?

The Church as Community

5. Acts 2:42-47 describes the early church's life together: devoted to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayer, sharing possessions, meeting daily, praising God.
 - Which of these practices do you see happening in our church community?
 - Which ones do you personally need to engage in more fully?
 - What barriers keep you from participating more deeply?
6. Unity as Witness: The sermon emphasized that "in a broken, divisive world, our unity with one another is a miraculous thing."

- How does our unity (or disunity) affect our witness to those outside the church?
- What can we do as a small group to demonstrate this unity to others?

Practical Application

7. The Three Takeaways: The sermon ended with three calls to action:
 - If you don't know Jesus: Repent and turn to Him
 - If you haven't been baptized: Get baptized
 - If you haven't stepped into what the Spirit is doing: Ask for fresh filling and ask what He's empowering you to do
8. Which of these applies to you? What's your next step?
9. Prophetic Witness: The sermon described the church as "a pocket of heaven now, a picture of the new heaven and earth that's coming."
 - How can our small group be a "pocket of heaven" in our neighborhoods and workplaces?
 - What specific, practical ways can we bring the light of heaven to our city this week?

Personal Reflection Questions

(Allow 3-5 minutes of silence for individual reflection)

- What is one specific way the Holy Spirit is inviting me to step into His work right now?
- Is there any sin I need to confess and turn away from?
- How can I be more devoted to the practices described in Acts 2:42-47?
- Who in my life needs to hear about Jesus? How can I share with them this week?

Action Steps

This Week:

1. Pray daily for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit
2. Identify one specific area where you sense the Spirit calling you to act (serve, give, share your faith, reconcile with someone, etc.)
3. Take one concrete step toward that calling this week
4. Share your experience with at least one other person in the group

As a Group:

- Consider how your group can serve together in a way that demonstrates God's love to the community
- Pray for specific people in your lives who don't know Jesus
- Encourage anyone who hasn't been baptized to take that step

Closing Prayer

Go around the circle and have each person pray one sentence, asking the Holy Spirit to:

- Fill us afresh
- Empower us for the specific things He's calling us to do
- Make us a prophetic witness in our city
- Bring revival to Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario

Close with this prayer together:

"Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we know that You are here. Fill us with Your presence. Transform us from the inside out. Empower us to be Your church - devoted to Your word, to one another, to prayer, and to mission. Make us a pocket of heaven that points everyone to Jesus. We pray this in Your mighty, powerful name. Amen."

For Next Week

- Read Acts 3-4 to see how the Spirit-filled church continued to grow
- Come prepared to share one way you stepped into what the Holy Spirit is doing this week
- Consider memorizing Acts 2:38-39 as a group