

Life Group Guide: Acts 2:1-13

"The Holy Spirit Indwells and Empowers His Church for God's Mission"

OVERVIEW

This passage marks a pivotal moment in redemptive history. The Holy Spirit arrives at Pentecost, fulfilling the promise Jesus made to His disciples, and sets the church in motion for gospel mission. This guide helps your group reflect on what the Spirit's arrival means for believers today and how it shapes how we live on mission together.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost fulfilled a promise, confirming that God is faithful to His word and can always be trusted.
- The event was unique and entirely God-initiated. No human hand manufactured what happened. It had God written all over it.
- Every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit at salvation. Being filled with the Holy Spirit produces bold gospel proclamation, courage under opposition, and wisdom for ministry.
- The tongues spoken at Pentecost were real, recognizable human languages. God is not a God of confusion but of clarity, and He wanted the message about Jesus to be unmistakably understood.
- The church is designed to gather and scatter. God does not intend for His people to stay in a holy huddle. His power is purposeful, not theatrical.
- The gospel demands a response. People will be curious, they will ask questions, and some

will mock and dismiss. The church's call is simply to be faithful to proclaim the message and trust the Holy Spirit to do the heavy lifting.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening Question

Think of a time when you waited on something significant, and it finally arrived. What was that experience like? How did the waiting shape how you received what came?

Digging Into the Text

1. Read Acts 2:1-13 together as a group. What details in Luke's description stand out to you most, and why?
2. The pastor described Pentecost as an inauguration moment, the point at which everything Jesus promised was set in motion. How does understanding Pentecost as a fulfillment of promise change the way you read this passage?

3. The pastor made a distinction between being indwelt by the Holy Spirit at salvation and being filled with the Holy Spirit for ongoing ministry. How would you explain that distinction in your own words? Why does it matter practically?
4. The pastor described the filling of the Holy Spirit as producing bold gospel proclamation, courage under opposition and persecution, and wisdom for ministry and God's guidance in mission. Which of those three do you find yourself most in need of right now, and why?
5. Look at the crowd's two responses in verses 12 and 13. Some were amazed and asked questions while others mocked and dismissed. Why do you think the same supernatural event produced such different reactions? How does that reality shape the way you think about sharing the gospel?
6. The pastor said, "God has never been the God of confusion, but the God of clarity." How does the nature of the tongues spoken at Pentecost, real languages understood by real

people, reflect that truth about God's character?

Going Deeper

7. The pastor noted that the disciples' obedience, waiting, and trust were not in vain. Is there an area of your life right now where you are waiting on God and struggling to believe that your trust is not wasted? How does Pentecost speak to that?
8. The pastor quoted David Platt: "The gospel came to you because it was heading to someone else." What does that statement stir in you? Does it challenge you, encourage you, or both?
9. The pastor described the church's pattern as gather and scatter. How well do you feel you are personally living out the scattering part? What tends to hold you back?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

This Week, Consider Taking One of These Steps:

- Write down the name of one person in your life who needs to hear the gospel. Pray daily this week that God would open a door for a meaningful conversation with that person.
- Reflect honestly on whether you are relying on your own strength, courage, and words when it comes to sharing your faith, or whether you are asking God to fill you and work through you. Spend time in prayer specifically asking the Holy Spirit to produce boldness and wisdom in you.
- If you have never shared the gospel with your own children or a family member, consider what a first step might look like. It does not need to be a perfect presentation. Ask God to open the door and then take the intentional step of walking through it.
- As a group, consider identifying one person or one context where you can collectively be on

mission together. Pray over that person or opportunity at the close of your meeting.

CLOSING PRAYER POINTS

- Thank God for being a promise-keeping God who can be trusted completely.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill each member of your group for bold and faithful gospel proclamation.
- Pray by name for the people each group member identified who need to hear about Jesus.
- Ask God to make your church a community that gathers with worship and scatters with mission.