



GRACE CHURCH

Message Notes

Pentecost = fifty days after the Resurrection

- It is the launch of the New Testament church
- It fulfilled the promise of Jesus to send a helper
- It infused power on the believers
- It intentionally included every race and nation under heaven

True Pentecost counters racism.

God can fix this deep-rooted, evil issue and He will do so through His church

John 1:5 NIV84 — The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

We shine our light by showing the world how we love one another—love in our diversity, love in our commonality, love under the banner of God.

Luke 2:41-42 NIV — Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the feast, according to the custom.

What was the custom? Singing Psalms 120-134 as they went up to the temple.

They Psalms start with the writer crying out to God from a far away place and ends with the writer offering praise to God in his temple. It shows the progression of life and faith.

Psalm 120:1-2,6-7 NLT— I took my troubles to the LORD; I cried out to him, and he answered my prayer. Rescue me, O LORD, from liars and from all deceitful people...I am tired of living among people who hate peace. I search for peace; but when I speak of peace, they want war!

Faith is a journey. The goal is not to arrive safely at a place called certainty. The goal is to know God and to be known by Him.

Psalm 121:2-8 The Message — No, my strength comes from God, who made heaven, and earth, and mountains. He won't let you stumble, your Guardian God won't fall asleep. Not on your life! Israel's Guardian will never doze or

sleep. God's your Guardian, right at your side to protect you—Shielding you from sunstroke, sheltering you from moonstroke. God guards you from every evil, he guards your very life. He guards you when you leave and when you return, he guards you now, he guards you always.

Discussion Questions

1. As a church, we believe that loving others is one important way that we can show others the love of Jesus. What does "loving your neighbor" look like to you?
2. Pastor Scott reminded us that the goal in life is to know God and be known by Him. What do are some practical things that you do in your daily life to "know" God better?
3. What is the destination you hope towards and how can you enjoy the journey on the way there?
4. How can you exercise your faith in a season where you feel stuck?