



SONGS: "High Praise", "Fresh Wind", "Rest On Us"

TITLE: "120 People Changed the World"

ICE BREAKER: Where is your least favorite place to wait and why?

BIG IDEA: The Holy Spirit was given to empower a multicultural global church movement marked by unity, evangelism, and mission.

MAIN SCRIPTURE: 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^[a] 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,^[b] **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome¹¹ (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."

OPENING THOUGHTS:

As we close out one period of waiting between the Passover and Pentecost, let us not grow weary as we wait upon the Lord between Pentecost and the Parousia (Second Coming)! We are called to wait upon the Lord's second return, and in the meantime, Jesus has given us more work than can be done

in a thousand lifetimes! He gave us his Spirit to fulfill a multicultural mission called the church that changed the world, and continues to do so!

MAIN POINTS:

1. Seasons of waiting come to all who desire to live a godly life.
2. We survive periods of waiting through continual prayer and staying close to our spiritual community.
3. On Pentecost Sunday God was setting out to build a multicultural global church movement made up of people from every tribe, tongue, and nation.
4. The Holy Spirit was given to empower us to enjoy unity in diversity, to declare God's praises, and to go global.
5. Don't be surprised; a Spirit empowered life will draw haters and believers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do seasons of waiting produce in our lives? And what helped the disciples remain faithful in their season of waiting?
2. Do you see the connection between Pentecost and the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11? What did God curse in Babel? What did he bless in Pentecost?
3. As you wait upon the Lord, what can you do to better enjoy and celebrate the unity in diversity of the church?
4. As you wait upon the Lord, whom can you declare the praises of God to? Who has he placed in your path to evangelize?
5. We don't have to move abroad to reach all tribes, tongues, and nations. What people group can you be more intentional about sharing the gospel with?

FURTHER STUDY (IF APPLICABLE)

Genesis 11.

CHALLENGE: Are you living the Spirit empowered life as described by Acts 2? And if not, are you waiting on the LORD in prayer and community so that you might gain courage and direction to join him in this global, multicultural mission?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord, thank you for keeping your promise to pour out the Holy Spirit on us all! Help me to be empowered by the Spirit to enjoy unity in diversity, declare your praises, and go global until we are gathered in the new heavens and the new earth where people from every tribe, tongue, and nation will worship you!

