

Small Group Material - Pentecost

Acts 2.1-11

Welcome What is the most powerful thing you have ever seen? or What is a journey you'll never forget?

Word

Read Acts 2.1-11

(Note to leader: the prompts in brackets are for you! Don't read them out - but feed them in if you need to to get a good discussion going.)

1. Why did God wait until Pentecost, a Jewish harvest festival (Dt 16.9-10) to give the Holy Spirit?
2. What would you say was the most impressive evidence of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost? *(prompt: the wind, tongues of fire, gift of tongues, crowd understanding God's wonders in own language, giving of prophetic gifts to all people, 3000 converts!)*
3. If you had been there, what would have been your strongest feeling afterwards? *(prompt: once-in-a-lifetime experience, I hope it wasn't a once-in-a-lifetime experience, If the Spirit is this powerful, there isn't a problem I can't face, Give us five days and we'll conquer the world, I'm keeping quiet as people will think me crazy.)*
4. Have you ever seen the gift of tongues used in this way?

5. Why did God pour out the gift of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' followers? *(prompt: to bless them with a spiritual high, to empower them to be witnesses, to serve as a miraculous sign to draw others, to get the Christian church off to an explosive start)*
6. When and how have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit as you've witnessed for Christ? What came first, the witnessing or the sense of power? What can you learn from this?

Witness

"Jesus said, 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'" Acts 1.8.

To where do you sense is your calling to witness?

Worship within Witness As we turn to prayer, listen to this song by Martin Smith, Come Holy Spirit
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8WV86yYATSg>

Then pray for our witness, the witness of our church but the church across the world.

How has everyone got on praying for their 5? Any answers to prayer?

Pray for the witness of St Mary's and the church in this country. Pray for the influence of the church in the corridors of power.

Choose one country or situation in the world that you could focus your prayers on now. Pray for the church's witness there.