

Small Groups

SERMON-BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pentecost – Week 1 – *Empowered*

May 28, 2023

DIGGING IN:

1. Do you like to receive good news or bad news first? Why is that?
2. What emotions do you experience when you think of the Holy Spirit?
 - a. For example, is He a good friend? Does the thought of the Holy Spirit make you uncomfortable? Etc.
3. Would you describe your current faith as a candle or a fire? Why?
4. At the time the NT was being written there were several stages to the marriage process, as Alex pointed out. There was:
 - a. A proposal
 - b. A betrothal period
 - c. A marriage ceremony
 - d. An absence (a time when the groom would leave to prepare a home for his bride)
 - e. A sudden return of the groom to gather and bring his bride home
 - If you think of your relationship with Jesus as He is the Groom and you are His Beloved, where do you see yourself in the above five stages? You can ask yourselves the following questions for guidance:
 - How well do you know Jesus?
 - How comfortable are you with the idea of Jesus being your betrothed? Why?
 - Is His love trustworthy? Sweet?
 - Is there longing or distrust when you think of His return?

MAKING IT REAL:

From the moment God created us, we were designed and created to operate and live within the LIFE of God, to live within his presence and operate out of his power. In John 14:12, Jesus proclaims that we will “do even greater things than these..” This can only be because of John 14:20, “On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”

1. Would you say that you’ve realized your life “within” Jesus as John 14:20 states? Use the below activities to help guide your answer...

2. Think about what goes into your every day. What % of your time do you spend:
 - a. Sleeping
 - b. Eating
 - c. Working/Chores
 - d. Family/friends
 - e. Time with God
 - f. Other
3. Looking at your answers, what takes up most of your time? Why is that?
4. Realizing your life stage (parenting, student, working, retired, etc.), what % of your time would you ideally like to spend on these activities?
 - a. Sleeping
 - b. Eating
 - c. Working/Chores
 - d. Family/friends
 - e. Time with God
 - f. Other

Alex included a quote that said, "As a body without breath is a corpse, so the Christian is without the Spirit."

1. What is one practical step you can take towards living in the Spirit? (See below for examples)
 - a. Acknowledging His presence?
 - b. Praying for the Spirit to reveal Himself to you?
 - c. Setting aside 5-10 min. to be still in His presence?

Considering how your time is spent and how you would like to spend it, where in your day will this fit best? Where are you least distracted?

PRAYER IDEAS

According to Acts 2:1-5, Jesus has work for you to do and power for you to do it through. But it can only be done through the Holy Spirit in you. Spend some time reflecting on and praying through the following questions:

1. Holy Spirit, is there an area of my life that I need to trust you with?
2. What is the work or the people God has placed before me that I can tangibly minister to?
3. Do I trust that God will equip me for this task?
4. Holy Spirit, is my faith tame? How are you or would you like to grow my faith?