

QUESTIONS WEEK BEGINNING 2 JUNE

Read Acts 1:1-5

- 1) Pentecost is a Jewish festival held 50 days after Passover (the word means fiftieth). How long was this after Jesus had ascended into heaven?
- 2) During this period the believers (about 120 people - Acts 1:15) were prayerfully waiting for the Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised. How do you imagine they were feeling?

Read Acts 2:1-4

- 3) There were audible and visible signs. Where did the (sound of the) wind come from? Is there any parallel with this account and that in Ezekiel 37?
- 4) What looked like tongues of fire separated and rested on each of them. In what ways are fire and the separating significant?

Read Acts 2:5-13

- 5) When the disciples received the Holy Spirit in this way, they began speaking in other tongues or languages. Those that were there from different nations heard the praises in their own natural languages. Compare this with 1 Cor 12:7-11 and 1 Cor 14:1-4. If you have been in churches where any of these spiritual gifts were demonstrated, how did God use them?

Read Acts 1:14-41 (or just 14, 40 and 41 if you prefer)

- 6) What the disciples experienced and those in Jerusalem witnessed was not only promised by Jesus but was the fulfilment of Joel's prophecy. Peter used the scriptures to explain what had happened. What happened next? In what ways might we need to change to see something similar in our own generation and location?
- 7) The same word is used in Hebrew, Greek and Latin for Spirit as for wind or breath. Does the image of "the breath of God" offer any additional insight into the character of the Holy Spirit?
- 8) The events of Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost are often referred to as the birth of the church. What does that mean?
- 9) Acts 2 was a dramatic demonstration of the power of God by his Spirit. However, the Spirit is described in other ways too. Consider the following scriptures: John 14:25-27, Romans 8:1-18. Identify the characteristics of the Spirit in these passages.

Read Ephesians 1:11-14

- 10) What does it mean to be "marked in him with a seal"?
- 11) Do you want to be filled/re-filled with the Holy Spirit? If so, spend a little time in prayer, asking God to do that. *Luke 11:13 – "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*