

### *The Holy Spirit Comes*

*1 On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.*

*5 At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. 6 When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.*

*7 They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, 8 and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! 9 Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, 10 Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" 12 They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other.*

*13 But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!"*

### *Peter Preaches to the Crowd*

*14 Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. 15 These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. 16 No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:*

*17 'In the last days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. 18 In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy. 19 And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below - blood and fire and clouds of smoke. 20 The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious day of the Lord arrives. 21 But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'*

*Acts 2:1-21 (NLT)*

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\* As discussed in Riverside's HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid "go through this guide word-for-word." There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. This guides rely heavily on a few other study guides; including: Serendipity NT for Groups by the Young Life ministry (ISBN is N/A), "Acts: Seeing God's Power in Action" by Phyllis LePeau (ISBN 9780830830077), "Acts: Seeing the Spirit Work" by John Stott (ISBN 0851113907), "Acts" by N.T.Wright (ISBN 9780830821853), "Acts" by NavPress (ISBN 0891091122), "Acts" by Blackaby (ISBN 9781418526429), "Acts: The Spread of the Gospel" by John MacArthur (ISBN 9781418508746), "Book of Acts" by Max Lucado (ISBN 0849953006).

**Observation** (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

### **Discussion/Topic Starters** (Ice Breakers)

- Honestly, what comes to mind when the “Holy Spirit” is mentioned?
- O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

### **v.1-13**

*Note: Keith talked about how Pentecost was a Jewish celebration of two things, the first fruits of the harvest, as well as God meeting with Moses and the giving of the law in Exodus (50 days after the passover, hence “pente”). Keith then pointed out how the scripture calls the Holy Spirit a first fruit, God’s presence but the first fruit (Romans 8:23, 2 Cor 1:22).*

- O: What was the day of Pentecost important, and why do you think God chose to send the Holy Spirit on that day?
- O: What were all of the different reactions for the different groups of folks to these events?
- I: What is the significance of people from all over the Mediterranean region hearing the disciples speak each in their own native languages (8-11)?  
Follow-up: While we can certainly talk about the “tongues”... discuss the significance of this event, in terms of the new unity that the Holy Spirit brought across racial, national, and linguistic barriers (v.41).
- I: v.2&3 uses Similes to describe God’s Spirit. What are the implications of these comparisons?  
What can we gather about the Holy Spirit?
- I: What does it then mean, per v.4, to be “filled with the Holy Spirit?”
- A: What has the Holy Spirit done in our midst recently that has grabbed the attention of others?  
If nothing, why is that so?
- A: Honestly...What difference do you think it would make if the Holy Spirit were withdrawn from your life and/or our church/home group? Why do you think this? If needed, how could/should this change?

### **v.14-21**

*Note: you could focus on questions, such as “How does Peter use Joel’s prophecy (found in Joel 2:28-32) to explain what is happening?” .... but this guide will focus more on the change that comes with the Holy Spirit dwelling in people (individually, and corporately). Next week’s guide on Peter’s sermon (Acts 2:22-41) will focus more on things like the prophecy and the gospel story of Jesus laid out by Peter.*

- O: In v.14-21, describe how you picture Peter? How does this compare to earlier pictures of Peter in the Bible (ex. Mark 14:66-72)?
- O: Previously, in the O.T., God had acted by his Spirit through one or two key people at a time.  
How is this action of God’s Spirit new?
- I: What should be the significance of this widespread action of the Spirit for how our church/home group carries out its work?
- A: The Holy Spirit gave Peter the Boldness to speak. What ability or gifts have you received from God?  
How are you using them, powered by the Spirit, for the sake of God’s kingdom?

### **Recommended Follow-up:**

- Read: Next week’s sermon (9/30/2012) will focus on Acts 2.22-41. Take time prior to next Sunday to read & study the passage, pray through the passage, meditate on the passage, etc.