

# WHY WORSHIP?

GODLY CONNECTIONS | LEADER'S GUIDE

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## The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost | Acts 2:1-12, 36-41

Take a new look at a familiar account! Read the whole Biblical account of the Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost. As time allows, consider reading Peter's address to the crowd as well. Reread each of the verses as you take a closer look at each of them. Verse highlights are provided below. Suggested guiding thoughts are provided to curb thoughts toward desired goal answers. Support thorough discussion and make use of suggested further discussion topics as desired.

- **Acts 2:1** | If the old adage goes “nothing good happens after midnight,” what adage could be said of gathering for worship?
  - **Verse Highlights** | They (believers) were gathered together to celebrate Pentecost..
  - **Guiding Thoughts** | Believers were once again gathered together to celebrate a feast to worship God. In Acts 2:5, we see how important gathering was- God-fearing Jews from every nation gathered together! That which followed this gathering- and every God-fearing gathering of believers is a miracle.
  - **Goal** | Answers will vary: hit on the importance of gathering and the blessings of those gatherings. (i.e. only miracles happen after gathering, the Word of GOd each day keeps the Old Adam at bay, the gathering worshiper gets the Spirit, etc)

- **Acts 2:2-4** | How is it evident that God is with us when we worship? What does your tongue of fire look like?
  - **Verse Highlights** | There was a sound like wind and tongues of fire appeared.
  - **Guiding Thoughts** | Breath/wind is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, the presence of the wind symbolized the presence of the Holy Spirit.. The tongues of fire marked the presence of the Holy Spirit as well. This was not meant to frighten the people, but to encourage them.
  - **Goal** | God speaking to us through his Word shows us he is with us as we worship. The presence of Christ's body and blood in the sacrament of Holy Communion shows us God is with us. The change in our hearts that brings peace is God's work as he is present with us in worship.
  - **Guiding Thoughts** | The tongues of fire marked God's presence. God filled them and enabled them to speak in tongues. God fills us and enables us to share his Word.
  - **Goal** | Personal answers will vary. Focus on the gifts and opportunities to share God's Word and to show his love.
- **Acts 2:8-11** | Why is God's omnipresence a blessing during worship?
  - **Verse Highlights** | God's Word was preached in every language for every nation there at Pentecost.

- **Guiding Thoughts** | God's Word is for all people of all nations. God is with all people of all nations as they gather around his Word to worship. God is not only with you as you worship, he is simultaneously with all believers.
- **Goal** | God's omnipresence means that he is with you as you worship. It means that he is also with all believers all over the world as they worship. God's omnipresence connects believers of all nations.
- **Acts 2:36** | How did you crucify Jesus?
  - **Verse Highlights** | Those whom Peter is addressing crucified Jesus.
  - **Guiding Thoughts** | Many of those listening could have been present and chanting "crucify him" at Jesus' death a short time ago. These words hit home for us too as we put Jesus on the cross.
  - **Goal** | My sin put Jesus on the cross. (can use this time for personal reflection or confession)
- **Acts 2:37, 41** | What miracle happens here? How do you respond to God, who has made you a miracle?
  - **Verse Highlights** | The people were cut to the heart. The people were searching for what they should do.
  - **Guiding Thoughts** | The Word of God is efficacious. It caused a change of heart in those present. The Holy Spirit caused them to recognize their sin and thus

repent. He also worked the desire to live a sanctified life in light of the forgiveness they received.

- **Goal** | God worked a miracle as he changed hearts. Personal answers will vary.
- **Acts 2:38** | How do you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?
  - **Verse Highlights** | Repent and be baptized and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
  - **Guiding Thoughts** | The gift of the Spirit is truly a gift- we do absolutely nothing. Repentance is God's action first. Through baptism God comes to us to mark us as his own dear child. Through his Word God convicts us and calls us to repentance. It is by the power of God that our hearts are changed and that as his new creation we no longer reject his message.
  - **Goal** | Through our baptism and repentance, God comes to us with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Hearing God's Word through the lessons at church draws us to repentance and assures us of forgiveness.
- **Acts 2:39** | What does this promise mean for you?
  - **Verse Highlights** | This promise is for all who are far off, for all whom the Lord will call.
  - **Guiding Thoughts** | This promise is a promise God has made to you. It is a promise that God will keep. YOU are called by God, chosen to be his child, included in his loving and gracious promises.

- Goal | Personal answers will vary.