

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE –

Studies in the Book of Acts

“The Outpouring of the Spirit” – Acts 2

FELLOWSHIP

From all across the Mediterranean and the Middle East, Jewish pilgrims would ascend to Jerusalem for the celebration of Pentecost. This was one of three annual events that brought in people from all over the world. While its roots were in commemorating the harvest and God's faithfulness, by the time of the second temple it had gained the added significance of honoring the giving of God's law at Sinai. One could imagine the weight of this holiday given the importance of Torah to Jewish life and culture. Legends and stories filled extra-biblical and rabbinic writings about how God's word had reached peoples and languages all around the world. How fitting that Acts two records God manifesting his presence there in the city, most likely at the temple mount, with wind and fire. Both were associated all through biblical history with God appearances. What a miraculous phenomena in front of these crowds when the Spirit of God spoke prophetically in a way that all those representing the corners of the empire were hearing the message in their native languages. Just as a nation was commissioned at Mount Sinai with God's presence and His word, the church was birthed at Mount Zion with God's fire, spirit and a prophetic voice to repent and believe in Jesus Christ. The promise of the Spirit that had been so prominent in Jesus' teachings was becoming a reality before them. God's presence now rested on His church, and they would move forward empowered to fulfill their calling.

READ & DISCUSS

Read out loud together as a group Acts chapter two, paying special attention to the Spirit's work in verses 1-21 and how this partnered with the message of the Apostles. Note below in vs. 36-39 that the Holy Spirit is part of the on-going promise of the Gospel.

Acts 2:36-39 *Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”*

- *Why was it important that God physically manifested at Pentecost? What are some of the occurrences in the Bible where either wind or fire were associated with His presence? What other phenomena or forms have been associated with his appearing? What does wind represent biblically? What does fire represent biblically? When have you ever seen God physically manifest?*
- *When miracles occur, do they authenticate the message or prophetic word, or does the message authenticate the miracle? Why is this important? Some might naturalize or intellectualize the faith, others might solely rely on the emotional or experiential aspect of it. Why is it important to have both? What are the dangers of emphasizing one over the other? Who is both the source of the miracles and the Scriptures? Why is it important that these two categories are harmonious?*
- *Pastor Brian gave three ways to test whether miracles are from the Lord and if they are fulfilling their purpose: 1) God is glorified, 2) God's people are edified, 3) There is Gospel proclamation resulting in salvation. Who are some of the modern day miracle workers and how do they stand up to these tests? When have you experienced a miracle that also saw these criteria fulfilled?*

PRAY *Revival is our way to get back to Pentecost. The disciples waited obediently, sought God sincerely, and lived harmoniously. Let's pray that our hearts are awakened by the Spirit and moved to respond.*



Community Group Discussion Guide

Based on Pastor Brian Brodersen's message on October 1, 2017.

Watch: <https://cccm.com/teaching/the-spirit-the-church-and-the-world/video/the-outpouring-of-the-spirit/>