**A guideline & devotions for Bible studies
using ‘Growing FAITH at Home’ resources**

**Preparing for PENTECOST**Jesus’ plan was not for us to be left on our own after he returned to heaven. He told his people to wait and pray for the special gift God would send.

**1. WELCOME**
Welcome to our PENTECOST Bible studies using the Growing FAITH at Home material.
PENTECOST is the Christian festival when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, 50 days after Easter and 10 days after Jesus’ ascension. PENTECOST is regarded as the birthday of the Christian church, and the start of the church’s mission to the world.

**2. LET’S PRAY**
You might like to pray this prayer before you start each study. *Dear Jesus, Thank you for your gift of the Holy Spirit and this opportunity to study your Word. Holy Spirit be with us, enlighten us and guide us so we can grow in our understanding of your Word and in our love for you and others. In Jesus name, Amen.*

**3. ICEBREAKER QUESTIONS**
Choose an appropriate open-ended icebreaker question to kick things off and help get discussion going. Some suggestions are;

**22nd May** – Share about a good teacher or counsellor you know or have known. What did you like about them?

**29th May** – What are some things that separate us and cause us to fight?

**5th June** – What does the gift of the Holy Spirit look like?
**12th June** – How do you work out if something is true?

(Or see page 38/39 in your Life Group Leadership Guide for some more ideas.)
 **4. READ**Look for the title **‘Devotions’** and find the **‘Daily Bible Reading’** for Sunday in your Bible. (You can also do other day’s Bible readings later if you have time.)
One person then slowly reads aloud the Bible passage.
When they have finished reading, allow a period of silence (1 or 2 mins) to give people some time to process the reading, and to consider the questions you will ask.

**5. BIBLE QUESTIONS**

**1.** *What was special to you/ stood out to you about this passage?*

**2.** *What question/s do you have about the reading/s?* (Remember, we don’t always have the answers, and that is okay!)

**3.** Work through the questions in the **‘Caring Conversations’** section.

**6. BEYOND GROUPTIME**
Consider the **‘Creative Responses’** and the **‘Service’** sections.

What could you do today or this week?

You might like to even say together or memorise the **‘Verse for the Week’**.
Or you might continue to do the **‘Daily Bible Readings’** at home this week.

**7. PRAYER**
Ask each person, *How can I pray for you this week?*
People can share the answers in pairs (and pray for each other in pairs) or share the answer to the group.
If willing, people can pray for the person next to them.

**8. BLESS**
Before Jesus left his disciples to return to heaven he lifted up his hands and blessed them. (Luke 24:50-53)
At the end of your prayer-time say the **‘Blessing’** together.

**9. PLAN**
Plan for when you will meet next and what ‘Growing FAITH at Home’ study you will do, so people can pre-read the **‘Daily Bible Readings’** beforehand.
You can access the studies online (see below).

**PLEASE NOTE:**

This study format is based on LCA Grow Ministries ‘Growing FAITH at Home’ Devotions.

You will find the Devotions on our website [www.oursaviourap.org.au](http://www.oursaviourap.org.au)

Click on the MENU tab and find the RESOURCES section to download the appropriate Devotions.