

# Small Group Guide



## Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Begin by inviting the Holy Spirit to be present in your gathering. Ask Him to open hearts and minds to understand His work in forming us as God's people.

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## Icebreaker (5-10 minutes)

Question: When you hear the word "Pentecost" or "Holy Spirit," what's the first thing that comes to mind? What experiences or teachings have shaped your understanding?

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## Key Takeaways from the Sermon

### 1. Pentecost is More Than Personal Experience

The Holy Spirit is not given merely for private spiritual experiences, but to form a people centered on Jesus, filled with God's presence, and empowered for witness and mission.

### 2. The Three Signs of Pentecost

- Wind - The Spirit breathes new creation life into God's people
- Fire - God's presence now rests on His people, not just in a building
- Languages - The gospel is for all nations; the church is sent outward

### 3. The Church is Spirit-Filled, Not Activity-Driven

Activity is not the same as spiritual life. We need the breath of God to bring life to our worship, prayers, homes, and witness.

## 4. We Are Living Temples

The presence of God no longer resides in a building but within the people of Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

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### Discussion Questions

#### Understanding Pentecost (15-20 minutes)

1. Before this sermon, how much attention did you give to Pentecost compared to Christmas or Easter? Why do you think Pentecost often gets less attention in Protestant churches?
2. The sermon mentioned that Pentecost was already a Jewish feast before Acts 2. How does understanding this Old Testament background help us better grasp what God was doing on the day of Pentecost?
3. Read Acts 1:4-8 together. What was Jesus' promise to His disciples, and what was the purpose of receiving the Holy Spirit? How does this differ from how we sometimes think about the Spirit's work?

#### The Wind - New Creation Life (10-15 minutes)

4. The sermon states, "A church can be busy and breathless at the same time." What does this mean? Can you identify areas in your own spiritual life or in church life where there is activity but perhaps not spiritual life?
5. What would it look like for the Spirit to breathe life into your worship, prayers, relationships, or witness? What specific area do you most need God's breath right now?

#### The Fire - God's Presence (10-15 minutes)

6. How does it change your understanding of church to realize that God's presence rests on His people rather than in a building? What implications does this have for how we live Monday through Saturday?

7. The sermon asks: "Is worship something we reserve for one hour on Sunday morning?" Be honest—how do you answer that question? What keeps us from living in continual awareness of God's presence through the Spirit?
8. Share a recent moment when life pressured you (screaming kids, work stress, unexpected problems). In that moment, were you aware of the Holy Spirit's presence? How might we cultivate greater awareness of His presence in difficult moments?

## The Languages - Mission to the Nations (10-15 minutes)

9. The sermon identifies four mission fields: Jerusalem (family/close friends), Judea (workplace/neighborhood), Samaria (people we struggle to love), and ends of the earth (everyone everywhere). Which of these feels most challenging for you personally? Why?
  10. Who is your "Samaria"—the person or group of people you find difficult to love or witness to? What would it look like to allow the Spirit to empower you to reach them?
  11. The sermon says, "The Spirit forms us, and then the Spirit sends us." How does being formed in community prepare us to be sent on mission? Why can't we skip the "forming" part and just focus on "sending"?
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### Practical Applications

#### Individual Reflection (5 minutes of silence)

Take a few minutes of quiet to personally reflect on these questions:

- Am I living by the Spirit's power or running on my own energy?
- Do I see myself as part of a Spirit-filled community, or is my faith mostly private?
- Who has God placed in my path that I need to witness to this week?

#### Group Commitments (10-15 minutes)

1. Breath Prayer Practice This week, practice a simple breath prayer to cultivate awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence throughout your day:

- *Inhale*: "Come, Holy Spirit"
- *Exhale*: "Fill me with Your presence"

Practice this prayer when you wake up, during transitions (getting in the car, walking into work), and in moments of stress or frustration.

2. Identify Your Mission Field Write down one specific person in each category:

- Jerusalem: A family member or close friend
- Judea: A coworker, neighbor, or acquaintance
- Samaria: Someone you find difficult to love
- Ends of the earth: Someone from a different culture or background

Commit to praying for these four people daily this week and ask the Spirit to give you opportunities to be a witness.

3. Community Formation Discuss as a group: What is one practical way we can become more Spirit-formed as a community? (Examples: regular prayer together, serving together, sharing meals, accountability in witness)

Choose one action to implement in the coming month.

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## Closing Exercise (10 minutes)

Prayer of Invitation

The sermon ended with this invitation: "Come Holy Spirit, form us into God's new creation people."

Go around the circle and have each person pray a short prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to work in a specific area of their life. Encourage honesty and vulnerability.

Examples:

- "Holy Spirit, breathe life into my prayer life which feels dry."
- "Holy Spirit, give me courage to witness to my coworker."
- "Holy Spirit, form me into a better community member who serves others."

After everyone has prayed, close with this corporate prayer:

*"Holy Spirit, we acknowledge that we cannot live the Christian life in our own power. We need You to breathe life into us. Make us a people of worship, holiness, reconciliation, mission, and love. Empower us as ordinary witnesses to point faithfully to Jesus. We are available. We are willing. Come, Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

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## For Next Week

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-47 (the full Pentecost account)

Reflection Question: Come prepared to share one way you experienced or sensed the Holy Spirit's presence or leading this week.

Challenge: Practice the breath prayer daily and reach out to at least one person on your mission field list.

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## Additional Resources

- Book Recommendation: *Forgotten God* by Francis Chan
- Podcast: Search for episodes on "Life in the Spirit" or "Pentecost"
- Worship Song: "Holy Spirit" by Francesca Battistelli or "Spirit of the Living God" (traditional hymn)

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*Remember: The goal is not to have all the right answers but to honestly engage with how the Holy Spirit wants to form us as God's people and send us as witnesses to Jesus.*