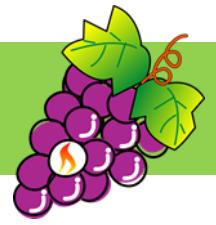




## LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 19th May 2024



### Acts 1:1-11. Acts 2 Pentecost

#### Warm Up

Apart from your conversion testimony, has there ever been a time when you have experienced something that has transformed your outlook on life? Share a story. Share your testimony too.

#### Background and context

Pentecost, or Whitsun, is known as the birthday of the Church. The day everything changed and the Church began to grow. Interestingly, it occurred at the time of the Jewish festival of Pentecost or Shavuot. This festival combines the bringing of the grain harvest offering (First Fruits) and the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. It is no coincidence that God chooses this time to give the Holy Spirit to His people as He gave the Law to Israel. It is also symbolic of the early Church being the first fruits of His new kingdom.

#### Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



**READ Acts 1:1-11. and Acts 2.** What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. Ch1: 4, 8 What instructions did Jesus give the Apostles? What might have happened if they had ignored them?
2. What confirmation did the Apostles receive that Jesus was truly God and King?
3. Ch2. How would the Apostles have known it was the Holy Spirit descending on them?
4. What is the evidence that Jesus' instruction in Ch1:8 is already coming true?
5. In what way was Peter (and all the others) different after receiving the Holy Spirit?
6. How has the Holy Spirit changed your life?
7. Read Peter's sermon again. How does he preach the gospel? What were his main points?
8. How would you describe the gospel to someone who asked you?

#### Discipleship and Application



9. How would you describe the role of the Holy Spirit in your own life?
10. What sometimes stops us enjoying a fuller experience of the Holy Spirit?
11. How can you change this?

#### Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.