



# PENTECOST

## STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, June 8, 2025

**Teaching Title:** Pentecost

**Key Scripture:** Acts 2:1–8

## CEDAR VALLEY

### 5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

**Monday:** Luke 4:14–21

**Tuesday:** 1 Samuel 10:1–12; Joel 2:28–32

**Wednesday:** 1 Corinthians 12:1–31

**Thursday:** Psalm 51

**Friday:** 1 Corinthians 14:1–39

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's Word, what do I need to do?
4. What's your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

### MEMORY TOPIC:

Holy Spirit Empowerment

**MEMORY VERSE:** Acts 1:8 NLT

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

### LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

#### Introduction:

Pentecost comes from the Greek word “*Pentekoste*”, which literally means “fiftieth.” It was on the fiftieth day after Easter Sunday that the Holy Spirit was poured out on all who were gathered in the upper room. It was after the disciples' experience with the power of the Holy Spirit that they boldly and effectively proclaimed the resurrected Christ. As a result of the Spirit's power through the disciples, the church was born, and multitudes were added to the church daily. We all have received the commandment from Jesus, to be witnesses and to go out into all the world and make disciples. Let's remember that we must follow His command relying on the power of the Holy Spirit. Let's remember that Pentecost is the Holy Spirit's power within us.

#### Questions:

Icebreaker: When was the last time you felt ill-prepared or uncertain of how to complete a task?

1. Read Acts 2:1–8 as a group. The believers were all gathered in one room. What physical sights and sounds in the room are described as the Holy Spirit comes? Why do you think these signs were significant?
2. Read Acts 1:14–16. What were the disciples doing as they waited for the promise?
3. Have you ever “waited” on the Lord. What did you do as you waited?
4. Read Acts 2:42–47 as a group. What did the early believers do and what were the results?
5. Share a time or occasion when you experienced great joy and displayed generosity because of God's blessing in your life.
6. How do you think you practically make yourself more available for the Holy Spirit?

## Notes

God commanded the Israelites to celebrate three main festivals in Exodus 23. During these festivals the people of Israel, scattered throughout the world, traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate. Psalms 120–134 were sung and meditated on as the Israelites traveled. These 14 Psalms (called songs of ascension) would prepare their hearts and minds to experience God's presence in the temple as they traveled "up" to Jerusalem. Paul, during his third missionary journey, writes how he is eager to travel back to Jerusalem to observe Pentecost. The Day of Pentecost falls on the second festival that God ordained (Shavout). Shavout is referred to as Feast of Weeks or First Fruits. This was a harvest party! Shavout also came to commemorate God giving the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai.

It's not a coincidence that God sends the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. On Pentecost we see a mighty spiritual harvest! God's timing is perfect. It's also true, historically and archeologically, that the Romans were great road builders. They built straight roads leading to and from Rome to every part of the expansive Roman empire. This meant that God's harvest throughout the known world could also be reached quickly and easily by the Spirit filled believers.

## Digging Deeper

Read these three passages of Scripture. How would you connect them to Pentecost? Compare the results of the Levites swords to Peter wielding the sword of the Spirit.

**Context:** Paul is contrasting the Old Covenant to the New.

### 2 Corinthians 3:6-7—

6 He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life.

7 The old way, with laws etched in stone, led to death, though it began with such glory that the people of Israel could not bear to look at Moses' face.

**Context:** Moses has received the Tablets with the Ten Commandments along with other instructions on Mount Sinai. When he comes down, he finds the people dancing around the golden calf.

### Exodus 32:25-29—

25 Moses saw that Aaron had let the people get completely out of control, much to the amusement of their enemies.

26 So he stood at the entrance to the camp and shouted, "All of you who are on the Lord's side, come here and join me." And all the Levites gathered around him.

27 Moses told them, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Each of you, take your swords and go back and forth from one end of the camp to the other. Kill everyone—even your brothers, friends, and neighbors."

28 The Levites obeyed Moses' command, and about 3,000 people died that day.

29 Then Moses told the Levites, "Today you have ordained yourselves for the service of the Lord, for you obeyed him even though it meant killing your own sons and brothers. Today you have earned a blessing."

**Context:** Peter steps up full of boldness and preaches to a multitude of people. As a result of his sermon, they feel their hearts cut or "pierced" (Acts 2:37) and asks, "what should we do?" Peter instructs them to repent, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit.

### Acts 2:41—

Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.