

MESSAGE

EMPOWERED

ACTIVATE SERIES | MAY 16/17, 2015 | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON | ACTS 2:1-13

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." (Acts 2:4)

The Meaning of Pentecost

- God's Promise Fulfilled (Joel 2:28; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5, 7-8; 2:4)
- Signs of God's Presence in Wind and Fire (Exodus 19:16-19; Acts 2:2-3)
- Echoes of Jesus' Commissioning (Luke 3:21-22; Acts 1:14; 2:1)
- A Picture of God Gathering in the Nations (Leviticus 23:15-16; Acts 2:1, 5-12)

The Holy Spirit and the Activated Church Today

- Presence of God
- Power of God
- Purpose of God
- Proclamation of God

STUDY GUIDE

1. When have you really felt that God was at work through you in the lives of others? What happened?
2. This weekend at Eastbrook we continue our "Activate" series by looking at Acts 2:1-13. Take some time to pray, asking God to speak to you as you read His word.
3. As we look at Acts 2, it is important to remember exactly what God was doing in the life of the early church. Read Luke 24:45-49 and Acts 1:4-9 again. What was it that the disciples were to do in light of Jesus' words?
4. As the disciples are waiting and in prayer, a loud sound and startling sights appear as they are filled with the Holy Spirit. What would you say is the significance of these sights and sounds? Why are these connected with the filling of the Holy Spirit?
5. Because of the festival of Pentecost, many Jews and God-fearing Gentiles from around the Mediterranean have gathered in Jerusalem. Why do you think that the disciples are gifted with language along with the gift of the Holy Spirit? What does this signify and how does it begin to fulfill Jesus' commission in Acts 1:7-8?
6. Background: Pentecost is the Greek name for the Feast of Weeks, or Shavuot, which occurs 50 days after the festival of Passover. The Feast of Weeks is described in Leviticus 23 in connection with the grain harvest and bringing the first fruits of the harvest to God as a thanksgiving offering. In later Jewish tradition, Pentecost is linked with the giving of the law to Moses and the people by God at Mount Sinai.
7. Many biblical scholars also see a link between the Jewish festival of Pentecost as an offering of first fruits and the Holy Spirit's empowerment for ministry. What do you think that connection might be?
8. As the disciples move out from the upper room to speak to others, those gathered around them have a wide variety of responses. What are the responses? What sort of responses do you think we should expect when we step forward as witnesses of Jesus?
9. How is God speaking to you about waiting for the Holy Spirit's power in your life as a witness for Jesus? What is one specific thing that God is speaking to you? How might your life look different because of what you are considering with God? If you are with a small group, discuss that with one another and pray for one another. If you are studying on your own, write it down and share it with someone.

[Next week: *We continue the "Activate" series by looking at Acts 2:14-47. Prepare for next week by reading this passage ahead of time.*]