

**Instructions:**

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



**Message description:**

The day of Pentecost is a celebration that remembers the power of the Holy Spirit poured out on the disciples to carry on the mission of Christ in the world. It is sometimes referred to as the birthday of the church, when the church was formed and given the task, mission, and power of the Holy Spirit. When we hear of Pentecost, we often picture the Acts 2 event: rushing wind, tongues of fire, people from all nations gathering for a festival, and multiple languages being spoken. It is sort of a chaotic scene. The story in the gospel of John sounds quite different; it is an intimate gathering of Jesus' earliest followers who are locked in a room for fear. Then Jesus shows up and stands among them, and they rejoice! He says, peace be with you, and breathes on them to receive the Holy Spirit. That's it; breath. But this isn't just breathing onto but *into*, indicative of the first creation story in Genesis 2 when God breathed life into humanity. This is the power of new creation. This is the power of new life, new hope, and new possibilities. And this is the power of the Holy Spirit, given now to these disciples and all who will come after them, to announce the reign of Jesus and to tell his story in such a way that others will come to believe that he is the Christ.

**Key Scriptures**

*John 20:19-23; Acts 2:1-6*

**Questions Related to This Week's Message:**

1. What word or phrase stuck out to you in the reading of the Pentecost story? Upon reading it again, what phrase speaks to your season in life?
2. How do you imagine Jesus changed the dynamic of the room when he came and "stood among them"?
3. In relation to v 23, Rachel read this quotation from Rev. Matt Skinner: **"Jesus is not—at least, not in this verse—granting the church a unique spiritual authority. He is simply reporting that a church that does not bear witness to Christ is a church that leaves itself unable to pay a role in delivering people from all that keeps them from experiencing the fullness that Jesus offers."**
  - a. What role does the church have to play in "delivering people"?
  - b. What do you think he means by experiencing the fullness of Jesus.
4. "Sometimes the Spirit that we know is a spirit of peace, a spirit that prays, and mourns, and sits with us. Sometimes that dramatic and powerful Spirit is more evident in the quiet moments; for that is when we quite literally catch our breath." When have you experienced the power of the Spirit like this in a quieter moment of life?