

The Amazing Acts of the Holy Spirit
Small Group Study
September 19, 2021: Acts 2:1-21 *The Church is Born*

Can you speak another language? What parts of the world have you traveled where you wish you knew the native tongue?

Read Acts 2:1-4. Why do think God waited until Pentecost (a harvest festival 50 days after Passover; see Deut. 16:9-12) to give the Holy Spirit? What harvest was brought in? (See Acts 2:41.)

Pentecost was the time each year when the people remembered God bringing them to Mount Sinai, giving them the Law and shaping them into a community. See Exodus 19:1-6, 16-19 and 20:1-3. What connections do you see between what the Israelites experienced and what happened on this Pentecost in Jerusalem?

What do the wind and fire suggest to you about the Holy Spirit?

Read Acts 2:5-12. How far have these pilgrims come (vv. 9-11)? What attracts them to the disciples? How does being filled with the Spirit relate to bearing witness to Jesus?

Exodus 12:38 says that the people who came out of Egypt were not just Israelites; they were joined by “a great rabble” of people from many places. In *Simply Christian*, N.T. Wright says that Christian faith is like a river where many streams of people converge. How does that echo what happened in Exodus and Acts 2? How have you seen that happen?

If you had been an onlooker at that Pentecost, what would you have seen, heard, and felt?

Have you ever seen the gift of tongues used in this way (vv.11-12) or in another way? When have you experienced an empowering from God to share about Jesus?