

Week of May 9, 2021

Acts 10:44-48

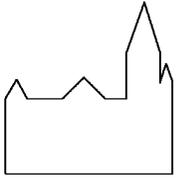
⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles,

⁴⁶ for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said,

⁴⁷ "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. What is an "old wives' tale" that your mother taught you? Or, what do you do today because your mother taught you to do it, even though there's no particular reason to do it that way?
- B. What traditions do you personally hold dear?

Bible Study Questions:

1. In verse 47, Peter's challenge is rhetorical, but what reasons do you think the Jewish believers would have given for not baptizing the Gentiles?
2. When have you seen God active with people or groups of people whom you didn't expect to be in relationship with God?
3. What religious rituals are most important to you? Which ones do you think are "better" than other practices?
4. In what ways does the rich history of the Church interfere with its ability to adapt to current contexts? What rituals/beliefs/practices does the Church need to be ready to discard?
5. How have you come to understand God's love as being broader or different than you had previously thought?
6. In what areas of your life have you become set in your ways – to your detriment? What in your life needs to be re-thought?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about ways in which people can rethink aspects of their lives, their goals, their faith