



5-20-18 Sermon Discussion Guide

"Salty Faith - Come Holy Spirit"



Context

This week we continue in our sermon series entitled "Salty Faith." It asks the question, "What difference does follow Jesus make in our lives?" This is a big question with big implications. It can make all the difference in the world. In the coming weeks, we'll explore many facets of this question and take a more specific look at how this question impacts us. This week we discuss the Holy Spirit because we celebrate Pentecost today. What difference does the presence of the Holy Spirit make in our every day lives?

Checking In

Since the last time your group has met, how have each of you experienced God at work? What have you celebrated? What have you mourned?

Introduction

Today we celebrate Pentecost. Pentecost means "the 50th" and occurs 50 days after Easter. This Jewish festival was celebrated 50 days after Passover, and all Jews from 20 miles around were obligated to come to Jerusalem to celebrate this Festival. Some call it the birthday of the church.

Discussing the Text – Acts 1:6-11, Acts 2:1-21

1. In Acts 1, Jesus promises the arrival of the Holy Spirit. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." Share an example of when you felt the Holy Spirit's power working through you.
2. In Acts 2, through the power of the Holy Spirit, each person heard the disciples speaking in the native tongue of each. Share an example of when you felt someone speaking right to you- in your own language. For example, a sermon or a blog post or a conversation with someone that was exactly what you needed to hear in that moment.

So what?

1. Sanctification is the process of being made holy. At this moment in time (this week or this month), how is that process going? Do you think you're growing in leaps in bounds, or have you hit a plateau?
2. What helps you personally in this process of sanctification. Pastor Sara spoke of her "motherhood is sanctifying" t-shirt. What is sanctifying for you?
3. How could you rely on the powerful Holy Spirit on a daily basis? For example, when losing patience with a person, that's a great moment to pray for the Spirit to give you patience, or help you bite your tongue!
4. In John 14:26, the Holy Spirit is translated into different words, depending on the English translation. Here are a few translations of the word 'paraclete:' advocate, comforter, friend, helper, intercessor, counselor, strengthener, standby. Which one resonates with you today? Why?

Prayer

Have the group share any prayer requests or prayers of thanksgiving they may have. Then invite the group to ask the Holy Spirit to empower them this week. Ask for the ability to continue in the process of sanctification this week. Ask for the ears to listen to the Spirit's nudges.