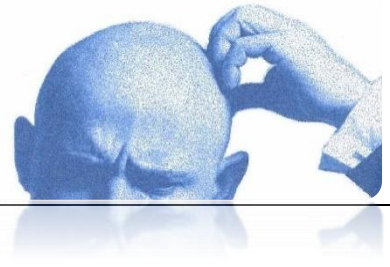


Pentecost

Small Group Questions



The following questions are intended to start conversations. Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.

Our preaching series turns toward Ascension and Pentecost. Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories BEFORE you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.

- Read **Genesis 11:1-9**. In what ways is the tower of Babel story contemporary? That is, in what ways do humans still build towers both literally and figuratively, to make a name for themselves? And in what ways do we still misunderstand each other?
- Read **Acts 2:1-13**. Not only does Pentecost signal the birth of the church, but it also gives witness to the type of community that God envisions. How is Pentecost a reversal of the tower of Babel? Why is that significant?
- How does this event fulfill Old Testament expectations of the Spirit, particularly in passages like Joel 2:28–32? What continuity and discontinuity do you see between the Spirit's work before and after this event?
- The Spirit's arrival is accompanied by wind and fire. What do these symbols reveal about God's presence and holiness?
- Read **Genesis 2:4-7**. How is the God breathing life into the first human similar to the Spirit bringing life to the early church? What does that tell us about our need for the Spirit?
- In what ways can the church become more dependent on the Spirit?
- The mixed reactions (amazement vs. accusation of drunkenness) raise questions about discernment. How should the Church evaluate spiritual phenomena while remaining open to the Spirit's work?
- The worship of one God in many languages is both a foretaste of heaven and a profound witness to our fractured world (see **Revelation 7:9-10** and **Ephesians 2:14-22**). How might this shape how you come to worship on Sunday morning?