

SMALL GROUP REFLECTION QUESTIONS

8 June 2025 – Pentecost Sunday

SERIES: RESURRECTION LIFE – a new dimension for human existence

TOPIC: PENTECOST: *Power for innovation & witness*

LECTIONARY READINGS: Genesis 11:1-9, Psalm 104:24-35, Acts 2:1-21

OUTLINE:

- Pentecost is about **God** the Spirit
 - Pentecost brings supernatural innovation
 - Pentecost is a reversal of Sinai (& Babel)
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ICEBREAKER

South Africa will host the G20 towards the end of this year. The whole country is already in a G20 hype-mode! On Tuesday, 10 June 2025, the province will gather with the Premier at ICC for an 'Education Indaba'. Do these politicians ever get tired of talking...and talking... about things that they know will never come to fruition? What will it take to get this country to start moving? Surely, we have enough strategies and plans and indabas?

THE TEXT: Acts 2:1-21

Ten days after the Ascension, Jesus delivered on his promise to bring God the Spirit! It is for this reason that we think **the Bible is infallible**. That is, its entire message even the second coming which is still to happen, is true. If past predictions have all been fulfilled exactly as predicted, why would anyone have any reason to doubt that what remains will also come to pass?

1) Pentecost is about God the Spirit

- (a) In Pentecostal (& charismatic churches), the Holy Spirit is nothing more than a force that stays in the pastor's pocket and is released according to the will and mood of the pastor. We have all heard, 'Fire! Touch him holy spirit!'. Their spirit serves them. He gets his programme from the pastor and has no purpose of his own. Outside the church, this spirit has absolutely no relevance. **How does Psalm 104: 30 challenge this notion?** Why do you think people fall for this scam?
- (b) In traditional churches, there is no Holy Spirit 😊! Everything is carefully planned, the I's dotted and t's crossed. All is mechanically planned. The worship service is mechanically planned to start at 9 and end at 10h12 sharp. The pastor reads his message as planned. No one gets saved, exactly like last week. **What will it take to free these churches from the slavery of worshipping routines?**
- (c) How is the Holy Spirit at work in you? Please give an example.

2) Pentecost brings supernatural innovation

- (a) Did the Spirit come because 'the day of Pentecost arrived' or because 'they devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers'? **Does this give us any idea about how we can live in a continual state of 'being filled' with the Holy Spirit?**
- (b) Do you know of anyone who speaks in the kind of tongues mentioned in Acts 2, earthly languages that were not studied at school? Please share what, according to your knowledge, led the Holy Spirit to give them that ability?
- (c) How are you making sure that you use your vernacular (& other languages you have learnt) for the same purpose of making Jesus known to the nations of the earth?
- (d) We are planning a **Mission Trip to Lesotho in March 2026**. What will it take for you to be a part of this?

- (e) Saul received the empowerment of the Spirit when he became king, and he prophesied. Likewise, when the tabernacle was built by Moses, Bezalel was endued by God's Spirit with unique abilities for the task. At the beginning of a new project, we need new strength and new anointing. Do you face new opportunities and challenges? ***Take a minute to pray for one another and ask God's Spirit 'to come upon' you for this new role.***

3) Pentecost is a reversal of Sinai

In the sermon we explored the similarities between the events at Sinai and at Pentecost.

- (a) At Sinai 3000 people died. God's Spirit executed judgement. At Pentecost 3000 people were saved. The Spirit executed the saving mission of Jesus. The message couldn't be clearer: there is a new covenant! What do you think is your role in this new dispensation?
- (b) How can we position ourselves in Scottsville and in Cedara such that the Spirit is able to use us to reach more people with the gospel of Jesus?