

**Discussion Questions: Uncharted Territory
Spirit Fueled Church – Acts 2:1-13**

Drawn from the May 4, 2025 sermon by Keith Sandell

Opener: Since Christians celebrate Jesus' coming to earth at Christmas, then why do you think the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost isn't a more recognized or celebrated day each year?

Pentecost means "fiftieth day". The festival is also called the Feast of Weeks, as it was celebrated seven weeks after the Passover. The purpose of the festival was to celebrate the harvest. The first loaves made from the new grain were offered on the altar at this time. It was one of three yearly festivals where the Jewish people made a pilgrimage to the temple in Jerusalem.

1. Why do you think God waited until the harvest festival to pour out his Spirit?

2. Why was speaking in tongues (speaking in other languages) significant to this crowd?
Verse 6

How far have these pilgrims come – see v 9-11

3. How does the fact that Jesus told his disciples to wait before beginning to spread the good news inform us about the role of the Holy Spirit and our need for Him?

4. What do you think was the purpose of the sound of a violent rushing wind? What do you think was the purpose of the flames of fire resting on each other?

5. Do you think it is fair to say that most believers today experience Acts 2:2-3 in that they receive the Holy Spirit when they come to faith in Christ, but never experience Acts 2:4, the effects of the Spirit's power in their lives? Why?

6. If the Holy Spirit has the power to impart gospel understanding and raise the dead to life, then what does that tell you about His role and power in your life on a daily basis? In what ways would you say you regularly experience the power of the Holy Spirit for daily living?

7. The two responses of people at this supernatural event were amazement and disbelief. Which of the two best describes your view of the Holy Spirit's power?

Praying It Through

Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit, whose power raises the dead to life. Invite him to show you more of that power in your own life each day this week as you look for opportunities to serve him and share about Jesus.

For reflection in the group or on your own:

- A. Compared to the experience of the disciples on the day of Pentecost, how would you describe your initial experience with the Holy Spirit?

- B. Can you think of a time you experienced an empowering by God to tell someone about Jesus?

Next week will be a message by Kristi Godwin on Mother's Day. There will be discussion questions available at www.sequimcommunitychurch.org/downloads