

Church on Fire!

Welcome/Communion

Intro: What is new about the New Testament or New Covenant?

Read Acts 2:1

- **Jesus was crucified on Passover.** Out of 365 days, Jesus was crucified on the one day each year the Jews celebrate Passover. Passover goes all the way back to the Exodus story, from the book of Exodus, the second book in the Bible. This was when Moses, went to Egypt and demanded that Pharaoh let the Jewish people go! God brings ten plagues against the Egyptians and parts the red sea, you know this story. The tenth plague, final judgement against the Egyptians after enslaving the Jews for 400 years was an angel went throughout Egypt and killed the first-born son in every family. However, God told the Jews, kill a lamb and spread the blood of the lamb over the door post of your homes and when the angel of judgement comes through the land, he will see the blood and pass over. 1,400 years later Jesus dies on Passover. Jesus is our Passover lamb.
- **The Holy Spirit comes on Pentecost.** Pentecost, is a Jewish Festival that occurs 50 days after Passover. Pentecost is a celebration of first fruits, the grain harvest.
 - o Salvation/spiritual harvest. 3000 people! **Verse 41**
 - o Giving of the Law, which made the Jewish people, God's covenant people. The Holy Spirit writes God's law on our hearts and identifies God's covenant people.

One of the amazing aspects of scripture is learning to see how God has been working throughout history to reveal himself to us and to invite us into relationship.

Read Acts 2:2-21

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?

Explain: The Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a force. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity and God's presence on earth. The Father and Son are both in Heaven. The Holy Spirit is on earth and lives in every believer. One God who exists in three persons.

Illustrate: Apple, Egg, Water (object lessons)

- **Wind** symbolizes God's creative breath (**Gen 2:7; Ezekiel 37, John 20:22**)
- **Fire** symbolizes God's holy presence (**Exodus 3; Mt. Sinai**)
- Don't get too legalistic about names: Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit. One God!

What do we mean by person not a force? The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force, power, energy, or goose bumps. He is a divine being with intellect, will, and emotions, just like the Father and the Son. He is capable of personal actions like speaking, teaching, loving, and

interceding. He can be grieved, lied to, and obeyed. He possesses all the attributes of God, including omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence, and is co-eternal and co-existent with the Father and the Son.

When we open our heart to Jesus, when we decide to follow Jesus, we are born again when the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. (**John 3:5, Romans 8:8-9**) The Holy Spirit is united with our spirit.

Argue: **1 Corinthians 6:19**, OT- Tabernacle/Temple. The Holy Spirit lives in bodies not buildings. Not just apostles/leaders but all believers. **Romans 8:9-11**

Apply: The Holy Spirit is God, present in the world.

2. Why is the Holy Spirit Here?

a. The Holy Spirit points people to Christ. Verse 4

Explain: Verse 4 says, “everyone was filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.” They are speaking different languages, this is not a prayer language, Jerusalem is filled with thousands of pilgrims and God gives them the ability to speak in different languages so everyone can understand. **What were they preaching?** The “wonderful things God has done”. They are preaching the good news, God sent his son Jesus to offer us forgiveness, new life and eternal life. The Holy Spirit points people to Jesus.

Illustrate: Witnessing, counseling, preaching- pointing people to Jesus.

Argue: Acts 1:8- courage (**Acts 2:14**), repour (**Acts 2:14-22**), scripture (**Acts 2:17-21, 25-28**), clarity (**Acts 2:14-41**), open hearts/conviction (**Acts 3:27**), salvation (**Acts 2:41, John 3:5, John 14:6**)

Apply: The Holy Spirit is present to make Jesus known!

b. The Holy Spirit unites believers around Christ. Verse 5-12

Explain: Again, there are people from several nations. Luke lists 15 people groups. If you were to locate these 15 people groups on a map from the first century you would discover they are from the same geographic places as the people God scattered at the tower of Babel, in **Genesis 11**. In the **Genesis 11** story, the people of the world reject God, build a tower trying to reach into heaven and God judges the people, confusing their language and scattering them. Here God is reclaiming the nations. Here God brings them together, gives them a common language, God comes down and they are all born of the spirit into God’s family.

Illustrate: The Holy Spirit creates unity in the church. How?

- Holy Spirit leads us into the truth. **John 16:13**
- The Holy Spirit produces spiritual fruit. **Galatians 5:22**
- The Holy Spirit clarifies values. People, Jesus over issues. **Acts 15**

Monthly Practice: Fasting

- The Holy Spirit clarifies the mission. **Matthew 28:19-20**
- The Holy Spirit keeps us all moving toward Jesus. **Hebrews 12:2**

Argue: **Acts 2:42-47**

Apply: The more we become like Jesus the more united we are.

c. **The Holy Spirit makes us like Christ. (to a degree)**

Explain: How does He do this? In first-century Rome Christians were hated and persecuted. However, by the third century, Christianity became the official religion of the Roman empire. **How?**

- **We believe God loves everyone.** He proved his love by laying down his life so that we could experience forgiveness, new life and eternal life and he wants everyone to join His family.
- **His love is transforming our hearts** and filling us with the same love, God has for our world; even those who do not believe, who are antagonist, and even those who would persecute us.
- **His vision is our vision.** To build his kingdom, to redeem all of creation, for the glory of God and the blessing of all people.

Argue: **Matthew 6:10**, Your kingdom come, your will be done...

Illustrate: **Practically speaking, how have Christians blessed the world?** Caring for the poor, education, orphanages, hospitals, science, women's rights, property rights, abolition. ***Unimaginable* by Jeremiah Johnston**

- In contrast, atheist like Mao, Stalin, Hitler, Lenin, Kim Sung were responsible for tremendous suffering and the death of 150 million people over the last 100 years.
- **How can you be involved? In 2025 Definition Church:**
 - 61,317 meals, 1.2 million pounds
 - Prisons, Kairos, weekly service
 - Freedom House, 7 Homes, Urban Ministries, Pregnancy Care center
 - 378K missions
 - Backpack drive: 906 backpacks
 - Giving Hope: 315 kids/Christmas
 - More in the years to come!

Final Thought: **Ephesians 5:18**, "Be filled" We leak. He is present once and for all but is he president?

Invitation

Communion