

w/b 1st October 2017 3-2-1 We have lift off – Pentecost

THE HOLY SPIRIT – FIRE AND WIND

Icebreaker /Gathering Together

What is the most awe inspiring natural event you have ever witnessed? Why was it so special?

When and how did you first learn about the Holy Spirit? What was your reaction?

Growing Together

Read Acts 2:1-21

1. Imagine yourself in this story. You are one of Jesus' followers when, on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you begin to share the gospel with total strangers in a language you have never previously studied. How would you explain all this to a friend who was not present to witness the event?
2. Who is the Holy Spirit? How would you describe Him and what He does for a new Christian? See John 14:16-17, 25-26; 16:12-14.
3. What was the role of the Holy Spirit in the days of the Old Testament? See Genesis 1:1-2 and Ezekiel 36:25-27. What is the difference between the ministry of the Spirit in the Old Testament and His ministry today?
4. What is the significance of the Spirit coming "like the blowing of a violent wind"? See Genesis 2:7; Ezekiel 37:10; John 3:8.
5. It was suggested in the sermon that the Holy Spirit is like a wind driving the boat of our lives forward. In what areas of your life would you like to be driven forward by the Spirit?
6. The people "saw what seemed to be tongues of fire." John the Baptist had predicted that the Messiah (Jesus) would "baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire...burning the chaff with never-ending fire" (Luke 3:16-17). What does God want to burn up in our lives? See Galatians 5:19-21. What positive qualities does the Spirit want to produce instead (Gal.5:22-23)? Which of these positive qualities do you most need right now?
7. In his book sustainable power, Simon Holly suggests that the Spirit has had to deal with some key areas in his life that might be more commonly linked to 'the mature Christian'. These include self-reliance, critical/judgemental attitudes and

religious over control which all act as a block to the Spirit flowing. Can you identify with any of these blocks? How do they impede the work of the Spirit in your life and in the church? What does the opposite look like?

8. Do we receive the Holy Spirit at conversion or does 'baptism' in the Spirit occur at a later point? What is your experience? How should it be?

APPLICATION

1. How have you experienced the work of the Spirit? How has He brought about change in you?
2. Where today do you specifically need the comfort, assurance, guidance or power of the Holy Spirit?
3. Pray for one another to be filled with the Holy Spirit not just for purpose but to enjoy an amazing relationship with the best friend you will ever know

*Excellent framework of this study provided by North Shore Community Baptist church (USA).
Some questions have been amended and a few additional questions added.*