

TABLE TALK

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE for June 5-June 11, 2022

WEEKLY READINGS: Acts 2; Exodus 23:14-17; Joel 2:28-29; Acts 19:1-6; Jeremiah 31:31-34; I Corinthians 3:16-17

ACTS IN 30 Week 2: *Pentecost: The Festival of Harvest*

"Pentecost (Shavuot) was an agricultural festival. It was the day when farmers brought the first sheaf of wheat from the crop, and offered it to God, partly as a sign of **gratitude** and partly as a **prayer** that all the rest of the crop, too, would be safely gathered in. (During their Exodus) **50 days after Passover**, the Israelites came to Mt. Sinai where Moses received the law (the 10 Commandments). Pentecost, the fiftieth day, isn't just about the 'first fruits,' the sheaf which says the harvest has begun. It's about **God giving to His redeemed people the way of life by which they must now carry out His purposes.**" -Dr. N.T. Wright, *ACTS for Everyone*

FOCUS: READ Acts 2:1-4 The People Receive God's Power to Carry Out God's Purposes

"When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."(Acts 2:1-4, ESV)

BIG IDEA 1 – On the day of Pentecost (during the Festival of Shavuot), the disciples experienced the fulfillment of the **Promise** Jesus gave to them in Acts 1:5 and Acts 1:8. They all had previously experienced John's baptism/immersion by water, but now they are being baptized/immersed with the Holy Spirit! This powerful experience was not just for the 120 men and women who waited in the Upper Room that day. The Apostle Peter gives the assurance that this is for EVERYONE who believes by saying: *"Repent, be baptized...and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the Promise is for you, your children, and for everyone whom the Lord God calls to Himself"* (Acts 2:38-39). The result was that over 3,000 received that word, repented, and were baptized in one day...the day the Church was birthed!

Q1- Based on what you read in Acts Chapter 2, what – in your opinion – are some of the differences between being water baptized and baptized in the Holy Spirit? (For a biblical reference, check out the story in Acts 19:1-6).

FOCUS: Exodus 23:14-17 The Day the 10 Commandments Were Given is the Same Holiday the Holy Spirit is Given

"Three times in the year you shall keep a feast to Me." (Exodus 23:14, ESV)

BIG IDEA 2 – If you've ever wondered why there were so many gathered in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost from all over the world, they were gathering together celebrating one of the "big three" festivals held each year in Jerusalem. The Feast of Harvest (Shavuot) commences exactly 50 days after Passover – the night the Israelites were spared from death. God led them to Mt. Sinai where on the 50th day of their journey, God gives Moses the Ten Commandments (see Exodus 19:17-20). Instead of God writing His laws on stone tablets, now He writes His law on our hearts (see Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 10:15-17).

Q2- Do you think it is significant that on the same holiday God gave His Law to the Israelites (the 10 Commandments) God also gave His Holy Spirit to humanity? Why or why not?

FOCUS: Acts 2:42 The One New Family (The Church) Forms Around the Habits of Biblical Community

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

BIG IDEA 3 – The Church grew from 120 disciples in the Upper Room to over 3,000 in one day on the Day of Pentecost. Now, instead of people being expected to go to the Temple to experience God's Presence, God's presence was dwelling **in them** (see I Cor. 3:16-17). These new believers immediately began ¹studying God's Word together, ²eating together, ³praying together and meeting each other's ⁴needs together. Notice that no one TOLD these early disciples to do these 4 things – the Holy Spirit LED them to do them naturally and organically.

Q3- Why do you think these brand-new believers were so devoted to prayer, God's Word, eating together and meeting each other's needs together without being told to do so? Do you think this is a pattern for us to do as believers today also?
