

Weekly Study Guide

The week of May 19, 2013

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge

Next week's readings: 2 Corinthians 5: 14-21

The Holy Spirit's work in us is to bring us to know and experience what Jesus did for us— to understand in a powerful way that we have been Saved by Jesus' work for us! The Holy Spirit was sent to make of us new creations through applying Jesus' saving work to our receiving hearts. MN Adult and Teen Challenge are with us today to share their stories of how God's Holy Spirit is at work to bring real life change today!



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Daily Readings

Monday	<p>Read Leviticus 23:15-22. From the first grain harvested, count seven weeks (49 days), then on the day after, the 50th day, and present a grain offering to the Lord. From the beginning of the harvesting, to the winding up of the harvesting—beginning and ending with offering to God, and thankfulness. Pentecost means 50th. That day was to be celebrated by resting and honoring God’s presence. This reminds us that God is the one who produces the real work of growing in this world, and we work with him. In verse 22 you see that even on this day for God’s people, he was thinking of those on the ‘outside.’ Why do you think God sent his Holy Spirit on Pentecost?</p>
Tuesday	<p>Read Acts 2:1-13. The disciples had been waiting for the gift Jesus had promised them of God’s immediate presence through his Holy Spirit. On the day of the Pentecost celebration, God’s Holy Spirit was poured out on them in a way that led them to speak about Jesus in the languages of all the people gathered around them. What does this tell you about God’s love for people all over the world? What helps you to hear the message of God’s love in a way that you know His love is for you? How does God speak your ‘language?’ How can you share his love in a language others can understand?</p>
Wednesday	<p>Read Acts 2: 11-21. People noticed something very different was happening on this Pentecost day! They heard this message about Jesus being spoken in the languages of every person present! People didn’t understand how this was happening, and tried to laugh it off as a drunken accident, but Peter instead told them all how this was God’s way of drawing the world back to his love! Have you ever encountered something beyond your understanding that you have tried to laugh off? Do you have friends or neighbors who try to belittle your faith? Pray for them today to feel the power of God’s movement in them!</p>
Thursday	<p>Read Acts 2: 22-41. People often call Pentecost “The Birthday of the Church” because after God sent the Holy Spirit, the disciples stopped hiding, started proclaiming Jesus, and things started to change! When people understood that God did something for us in Jesus’ death and resurrection that has created a brand new kind of life, they wanted to start living in it as soon as possible! Pentecost became a new start for a new harvest of life! Do you need a new start today? Re-read verse 39. Holy Spirit help us receive the promise of Jesus’ promise anew today!</p>
Friday	<p>Read 1 Corinthians 2:10-12. Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is God’s own spirit who is present in God and is not limited by earthly space or time. As Paul explains in this passage, each one of us has a spirit, our own spirit in us, limited by earthly time and space as we live in earthly time and space. No one knows the spirit within us like we do. No one except the Spirit of God who connects with the spirit in us. The Holy Spirit of God connects with the spirit in each of us to help us to understand who God is in a deeper way. Have you ever felt a connection to God’s Holy Spirit? Ask God today for a fresh outpouring of his Spirit in your life!</p>
Saturday	<p>Read John 16: 12-15. Guiding us into truth, Jesus tells us in John 16 that he will send the Holy Spirit because Jesus knows we will need help understanding all that God wants us to know. This passage says the Holy Spirit will always glorify Jesus and will help make the will of God the Father known. If someone claims something is the work of the Holy Spirit, but it works against the words of Jesus, we can trust that word was not in fact from the Holy Spirit. God is three in one, and the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, will always speak in harmony with them. The Holy Spirit guides us into truth. Ask him today for help with your faith questions.</p>