

# Sermon Discussion Questions

## “THE POWER OF PENTECOST”

### Discuss

People often laugh and say that the correct answer to any question in Sunday School is “Jesus.” The reason, of course, that the correct answer is indeed so often “Jesus” is that our faith has no foundation without the reality of the life and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Peter’s sermon at Pentecost, recounted in brief in this passage of Acts, made clear the centrality of Jesus. Peter did not preach about how to have a better marriage or how to be a better neighbor or how to bring about a better world: he told them about Jesus of Nazareth, who is both Lord and Christ.

- 1) We were told earlier in this chapter that some who saw the wonders of Pentecost were amazed yet perplexed, while others wondered aloud if the disciples had already begun dipping into some wine despite the early hour. Since the coming of the Holy Spirit happened on Pentecost, a feast day in Jerusalem, it’s safe to assume that the crowd with its mixture of amazed and scoffing people was quite large. Yet Peter stood and spoke confidently before them all.
  - Take a look back at the story of Peter disowning Jesus found in the gospel of Mark. (Mark 14:66-72—We studied this last spring.) How can we best explain the change in Peter?
  - In what ways was Peter like his Savior as he preached to this crowd? Consider both what he said and how he said it.
- 2) The result of Peter’s preaching was that his listeners were “cut to the heart.” (v. 37)
  - What do you think they were understanding and thinking and feeling?
  - What did Peter mean when he told them to “repent . . . in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins?” Is repentance a one-time or ongoing activity for believers? Explain your answer.
- 3) The prophet Isaiah spoke these words some 700 plus years before the life of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit:

“For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams.” (Isaiah 44:3, 4)

  - What does the pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost attest to? Or in other words, what does it confirm? Consider not only what it confirms about Jesus, but what it confirms about Scripture and what it confirms about Jesus’ disciples.
- 4) We are at the same moment in redemptive history as Peter was when he preached this sermon—between the coming of the Holy Spirit and before the return of Jesus. Would you say our situations are the same, or would you say that our situations are quite different?



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

DATE: September 8, 2019

SPEAKER: Brian/Chad

SERIES: Acts

PASSAGE: Acts 2:14-41

### Pray

ALMIGHTY AND MERCIFUL GOD,

Give us repentant hearts! May we be as deeply moved to follow you as Peter’s listeners were at Pentecost. Don’t let our hearts grow cold, or the wonder of our salvation dim.

We give praise to you, Father, who sent your only Son to die for us.

We give praise to you, our Savior Jesus, Lord and Christ, who suffered the agony of death on the cross, yet is even now exalted to the right hand of God.

We give praise to you, Holy Spirit, who was poured out at Pentecost and continues to work in this world, stirring up faith in us and uniting us to our Savior.

Rule us according to your will, defend us from all error, comfort us in all our afflictions, and lead us into all truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, world without end. Amen.

**PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS**  
Bethlehem Center

**PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS**  
Lydia and Robbie Sweet serving with MTW in Scotland

<sup>1</sup>based on Acts 2:14-41 and the collect for Monday in Whitsun Week, *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1945 edition