

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 15th May 2016

## **PENTECOST**

### **As we Gather**

In the Jewish calendar, Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks, falls on the fiftieth day (a week of weeks) after Passover. In the Christian calendar Pentecost is significant because it occurs 10 days after Jesus' ascension – that is 40 + 10 days after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus

**Reading Scripture**      **Acts 2:1-21** see also **John 14:8-17 + 25-27** **Romans 8:14-17**  
**Psalm 104:26-35** **Genesis 11:1-9**

### **Thinking Together**

John records (John 14:8-21 + 25-27) Jesus' teaching of His disciples concerning the future when He was no longer physically present with them.

- To see Jesus is to see what God is like, and to know Jesus is to know the Father (John 14:8-11 Colossians 1:15 Hebrews 1:1-4 1 Peter 1:8)

#### **Why is it necessary for us to read and study the Word of God? Discuss**

- God will answer any prayer made in faith and in Jesus' name (John 14:12-14 1 Corinthians 12:7 Mark 16:20 Philippians 2:12-13 & 4:6-7 1 John 5:14-15)

#### **What did Jesus mean when He said any prayer made in His name would be answered? Discuss**

#### **What did Jesus mean when He said one day His disciples would do even greater things than He had done? Discuss**

- Believers live as God would have us live (Christian lives) in and through the power of the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-17 Acts 2:1-21 Ephesians 5:1-2)

#### **What does it mean in your life to know that by faith you can appropriate the power of the Holy Spirit each day? Discuss**

- Jesus promised His disciples that after He left them God would send His Spirit – the Spirit of Truth – to counsel them and remind them of everything He taught; and to give them His peace (John 14:25-27 1 Corinthians 2:10-14 Ephesians 4:1-6 and 4:22-24 Philippians 4:6-7 Psalm 104:26-35)

The Church was formed and the spread of the gospel message throughout the world began when Peter spoke in the power of the Holy Spirit for the first time at Pentecost (Acts 2:14).

This same power is available to us today as members of God's family (Romans 8:14-17)

**What is our obligation as adopted children of God? Discuss**

### **In Closing**

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify God through the life and witness of believers (John 16:14)

**Why did the early Church win hundreds to Christ and see Churches (faith communities) established throughout the Roman world?**

**How is the Church of today functioning in evangelism and church planting?**

### **PRAYER**

Almighty God, on the day of Pentecost you sent your Holy Spirit to the disciples with wind from heaven and tongues of flame. Inspire our hearts, set them on fire with joy and power, and send us out as witnesses to the wonder of your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen