

Encountering God: Pentecost

Welcome: What do you enjoy about Pentecost?

Word: Acts 2: 1 – 13

Question: Is there any significance in the phrase ‘they were all together’?

Question: What is the significance of the violent wind from heaven?

Question: What is the significance of the fire?

Question: Can you express the idea of being ‘filled with the Holy Spirit’ in other words’?

(**Question:** Is it exactly the same as being baptised in the Spirit? If not why not – can you back up your view from scripture?)

Question: How does it differ from ‘receiving the Spirit’?

Question:

Question: What do you understand by ‘they began to speak in other tongues’?

Question: Are tongues for today? If not why Not? If so, why so? Why do people find tongues difficult compared to say the gift of healing? When and how should tongues be used?)

Question: What was the content of their message?

Question: How did they appear to the observers?

Question: What were the results of the filling of the Spirit on Peter?

(**Question:** What other things are mentioned in scripture that result from the filling of the Spirit?)

Question: How have you encountered God in the past? – could be an extended time if people share easily.

Question: What might you expect in encountering God?

Question: What fears do you have and what is your personal comfort zone that stops or hinders you from receiving more?

Work This next section needs to not start to late and needs to be handled sensitively

Read Mark 10:46-52.

With background worship or other gentle music ask them, 'What do you want Jesus to do for you?'

Ask them ‘what do you want Jesus to do for the group.’

Ask them ‘what do they want Jesus to do for the church.’

Ask them to pray about what obstacles they may need to remove and throw aside in order to receive from God.

The aim, now, is that everyone in the group gets prayed for in some way but how is down to you taking into account where you group is.

The focus of the prayer is that we should receive more of the Holy Spirit and that he would meet the needs of our hearts.

Ways of praying

0. Simply pray for people to receive more of the Spirit whilst they sit in silence.

or

1. Pair people up and each pray for each other.

or

2 Pray in threes.

or

3 Ask the group to stand and then ask the Holy Spirit to come to the group. Then as leaders you, or people chosen by you, pray for individuals as they are standing. A quiet CD in the background will enable this to be done confidentially. Do not forget to get prayed for yourselves.

Drink and homemade cake at the end – very important to leave time for people to unpack what has happened and to pick up any issues raised in informal discussion