

**Pentecost Sunday is May 31.**

**Monday, 5/25/09 – Read Acts 2:1-36**

My Observations \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: This coming Sunday, May 31, is Pentecost Sunday -- the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Christian Church. Today we read through most of the passage that recounts this experience in the lives of Jesus' disciples. (We'll read it more carefully, bit by bit, for the rest of this week.) For today, read it quickly. Maybe read it through a couple times. Jot down your thoughts & feelings, your reactions, your questions. Overall, what impression does this passage leave with you?

**Tuesday, 5/26/09 – Read Acts 2:1-4**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: When the Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, it doesn't so much try to explain the Spirit. It uses images, mental pictures -- to help us imagine or feel or sense the Spirit's movement and presence. ... One of the primary images of the Spirit is WIND. (Take another look at Genesis 1:1-2, like we did last week.) ... What does the description of wind in today's verses tell you about the Spirit of God? Does this fit with the way you think of Spirit? Does it change your understanding in some way or add to it?

**Wednesday, 5/27/09 – Read Acts 2:1-4 and Luke 3:16**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: When you think of FIRE, what comes to mind? Thoughts? Feelings? FIRE is a second image (word-picture) the Bible uses to suggest to us the nature of God's Spirit. Use your imagination now. In what way is the Holy Spirit like fire? ... Look carefully at Acts 2:3. What does this description call forth in you? Also compare Exodus 13:21-22 -- where (after their escape from Egypt) God led the wandering Hebrews at night as a pillar of fire.

**Thursday, 5/28/09 – Read Acts 2:5-13**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Notice that those who heard Jesus' disciples on that first Pentecost were from so many different places. And all these people from all these different places understood what was being said, even though they spoke different languages. ... God's Spirit is universal; it reaches out to & includes all people. And it creates understanding across our natural human barriers -- like language and ethnic origin. ... When have you seen God's Holy Spirit breaking down the barriers between people?

**Friday, 5/29/09 – Read Acts 2:14-21**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Peter's sermon in this chapter begins with this quotation from the Hebrew prophet Joel. The disciples of Jesus early on became convinced that Jesus was not a wonderful aberration. He was the fulfillment of what God had been doing and promising throughout all of history. And now the dramatic movement of the Holy Spirit also fulfilled God's promise. ... What do you think? Does God fulfill God's

promises? ... Promises are always directed toward the future. Every day each of us is moving into our own future. Do you move into your future counting on God to fulfill the promises?

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**Saturday, 5/30/09 – Read Acts 2:22-36**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: In today's reading (the second part of Peter's Pentecost sermon) Peter does what Christian preachers have done ever since: he tells the story of Jesus. ... Is the Jesus story compelling for you. If you were to tell the Jesus story, how would you tell it? What would you include? ... Then Peter makes a claim (in verse 36): "God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." ... What do you think of Peter's claim? What is he saying about Jesus? How would you say it in your own words? Is that true for you?

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**Sunday, 5/31/09 – Read Acts 2:37-42**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: Look at verse 42. Those who responded positively to Peter's proclamation "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." ... They focused on four things: the teachings, fellowship (relationships), communion, prayer. That list is a good place to start to deepen our relationship with God and with others in the faith. Which of these four is most important to you? Which one needs some additional attention at this point in your journey?

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*My Faith Journal*, May 24, 2009

## ***Fixin' To***

**What do I hear God saying to me today?**

John 14:12-19 ... Jesus promises the Holy Spirit.

**What action do I intend to take this week?**

*Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.*