

*My Faith Journal*, May 31, 2009  
**Pentecost**

**Saturday, 6/6/09 – Read Acts 8:14-25**

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

A Question to Answer: We have become sensitive and alert to inappropriate physical touch in the church over the last few years. This is good and necessary. Living responsibly within appropriate boundaries is one way we stay faithful to God and each other. Physical human touch is a powerful thing, and indeed it is one of the ways that the Holy Spirit is experienced and communicated. The “laying on of hands” (physical touch) has been an integral part of the church’s rituals since the days of the apostles. ... Think about your experience for a moment. For you, what is appropriate touch? What is inappropriate? When have you felt the Holy Spirit communicated through touch?

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**Sunday, 6/7/09 – Read Acts 8:26-40**

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

A Question to Answer: “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked this question of the man in the chariot. The eunuch replied that he needed someone to guide him. ... Have you tried to read the Bible or other Christian literature and felt like you just didn’t “get it”? Obviously from today’s reading, that’s a common experience, and people have been feeling that for a long time. ... The early Christians thought that we need each other, we need a community, if we are to understand. Who has been most helpful to your understanding? Is there someone you need to consult with at this point in your journey? Is there a small group you’d like to join?

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

Acts 2:1-36

**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.*

**Community of the Spirit**

**Monday, 6/1/09 – Read Acts 3:1-10**

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

A Question to Answer: The gift (and experience) of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 2:1-36) transformed the fledgling Christian community. This week we'll read through some of the disciples' initial experiences as a community empowered by the Holy Spirit. ... In today's reading focus on verse 4. Notice the way Peter and John look directly at the lame man. ... How often we hurry by each other! We all need simply to be seen, to be noticed, to have another person focus their attention on us. This simple act has the power of the Spirit in it! ... Think for a moment about some of the people you are likely to encounter today. Write down the name(s) of one or two that you'll take the time to really look at and focus your attention on.

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**Tuesday, 6/2/09 – Read Acts 4:13-22**

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

A Question to Answer: Have you ever felt like Peter and John did? Something great happens and you just have to tell others about it. Have you ever felt like that? If so, describe what that experience was like for you. ... Has your faith, your relationship with God, filled you so full that you wanted to tell others? If so, remember that time for a moment, and in your prayer today ask God to rekindle that experience for you.

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**Wednesday, 6/3/09 – Read Acts 5:27--42**

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

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A Question to Answer: Think about Gamaliel's advice in verses 35-39. Do you think this is good advice? Does it seem sometimes that the attempt to stamp out an idea or a practice only inflames it or makes it stronger? Write down an example where you have seen this happen. ... Have you ever opposed something only to find out later that God was in it? This is the gist of Gamaliel's warning about these early Christians. ... Make some notes for yourself about your discovery that God was working somewhere you didn't expect him to be.

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**Thursday, 6/4/09 – Read Acts 6:1-7**

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

A Question to Answer: The Christian church has been stressed by change throughout its history -- from the very earliest days! And when conditions change, responsive people adapt themselves to new conditions, just as the apostles adapted to greater numbers by appointing more servants. This is one of the ways we live faithfully. As you think about churches today -- and especially about our church -- what's one adaptation that you think is needed now? Will you communicate that to someone who can do something about it?

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**Friday, 6/5/09 – Read Acts 6:8-15 and 7:54-60**

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

A Question to Answer: Stephen was the first martyr, the first one to give his life for faith in Jesus. Does anything about Stephen inspire or challenge you? If so, write it down. ... We do not typically face the possibility of death because of our faith. ... If our faith is challenged in countless smaller ways. What are some of the challenges you face? How would you like to respond to those challenges?

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