



WEEKLY STUDY

Week Seven

In week seven of the And They Prayed series, Pastor Mark shared the story of Pentecost. Although Pentecost was a Jewish Festival that predates Jesus, for his followers it serves as a celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that he would send the Holy Spirit to give power to his disciples as they gave witness to his life, death, and resurrection all around the world. While waiting on the Spirit, the disciples prayed. When the Spirit was poured out on them at Pentecost, they found that they had the opportunity to begin witnessing to the whole world without even leaving town because the world was at their doorstep.

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/signup and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this or your own prayer.

*O God,
We need the fresh wind of your Holy Spirit to bring life to our weary hearts.
We need the fire of the Holy Spirit to rekindle the Jesus-movement in our homes, in our churches, in our land, and in the farthest reaches of this world.
Amen*

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: ACTS 1.3-5

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

- These words were spoken by Jesus just before he ascended into heaven. It wasn't the first time that Jesus had given this promise about the coming of the Holy Spirit, but he was saying to them that the time was near. His instructions were to wait. The disciples didn't (couldn't) fully understand what was about to happen, so they waited. You can imagine that the waiting was exciting and scary at the same time. Have you ever found it difficult to wait on God to move?

- As you pray today, notice the anticipation of God's movement in your heart.

TUESDAY: ACTS 2.1-4.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

- The events of Pentecost occurred after days of waiting and praying. Have you ever waited on a promise to be fulfilled? How do you typically wait? In some ways we might recognize that God's Spirit is with us now—and yet there is more to come, more on the way. How and where can we pray in a way that keeps us looking for the promises of God?
- *Pray for a fresh experience of God's Holy Spirit in your life today.*

WEDNESDAY: ACTS 2.5, 11-12

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.

we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

- People from across the whole known world gathered in Jerusalem that day. The world was literally at the doorsteps of the disciples when they received the Holy Spirit and the gift of speaking in languages they did not know. In what ways is the world at your doorstep today? How has God uniquely empowered you to speak to those in your neighborhood, workplace, or community?
- *Pray for the representatives of the whole known world that might be at your doorstep. Pray for words to share about the goodness of God in Christ.*

THURSDAY: JOHN 14.16-17

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

- Jesus talks about the Holy Spirit as an advocate and a comforter. The Holy Spirit is not a short-term visitor. He will be with us forever. He lives with us and in us. How does the realization of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit impact your outlook on challenges and opportunities ahead of you?
- *Pray for a constant awareness of the Holy Spirit of God living and working in you.*

FRIDAY: LUKE 4.18-19

*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

- Jesus was quoting the prophet Isaiah when he shared the words in the synagogue. God's Spirit allowed Jesus to embark on a bold mission of freedom and recovery for those who were oppressed. Have you ever sensed that God is calling you to do something that you are incapable of on your own? Relying on the Holy Spirit is a means of glorifying God when amazing things happen!
- *Pray through Jesus' words in the synagogue. Pray for Spirit-enabled proclamation of the good news.*

SATURDAY: JOHN 16.7

...very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

- Good-byes are hard. Jesus' disciples were faced with the physical removal of their teacher, leader, friend, and Savior. The only way for the Spirit to be fully present with us was for Jesus to ascend into heaven. The reach of the gospel was dependent upon the followers of Jesus receiving the Spirit of God and heading out into the world. If you are a follower of Jesus this calling is for you too. Lean on the gift of the Advocate.
- *Thank Jesus for his willingness to send us the Spirit that brings us life and empowers us for witnessing to the life and work of Jesus.*

- See reverse for Small Group Discussion -

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

In the message, Pastor Mark shared about an increasing desire to pray for other people—even strangers on the highway. Pastor Mark attributes the desire to the fact that we (Providence Church) have been practicing prayer together for a long time. The more we pray, the more we see the need for and benefit of prayer. What one thing will you do to increase your practice of prayer?