

# GROWTHguide

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 15, 2016  
"Pentecost"



## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

John 14:16-29, 1 Corinthians 6:19, Acts 3:1-10, Acts 2:1-21, Acts 2:42-47

## REFLECTION AND STUDY

### DAY 1

Some of us who have been on this journey of Christianity for some time may understand and relate more to God the Father and Jesus the Son than we do to the Holy Spirit. Yet the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential to living the "God-life." You **can't** live the God-life apart from the Holy Spirit. Pastor Bob challenged us to go home and google the phrase, "Christians are..." and note the responses. Do that now.

- What are some of the results you found? Does it surprise you that the world has this negative view of Christians?

Jesus teaches the church, "If you go out into the world just knowing my teaching, without the power to love with my love, no one is going to believe you. I will be rejected."

- How do we love with God's love?

**Pray that you would practice loving others around you with God's love.**

### DAY 2

**Read John 14:16-29.** Jesus' time on earth was coming to an end, but he Jesus told his disciples that even those who did not see him in the flesh would be able to see him in the lives of his followers. Remember, the Holy Spirit is not the power of God; the Holy Spirit is the **person** of God. Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit was sent to us to be our advocate and to give us peace that the world cannot give.

- How can people see Jesus in the lives of his followers? Can people see Jesus in your life?
- Is it difficult for you to relate to the Holy Spirit as the person of God?

**Praise God for his peace. Spend some time meditating on the Holy Spirit within you.**

### DAY 3

Sometimes, we think we have all we need because we have the scripture. **Knowing** the truth is not sufficient to **living** the truth. We cannot live God's life without God's presence. We cannot love with Jesus' love without the presence of Jesus in us. Jesus tell us that if we try to do it on our own we will destroy the very kingdom God is trying to build. When Jesus said he would send "another advocate" that word, "another" in Greek means, "Just like the first." It's not another of a different kind, it's the **same** kind. Jesus says God is going to send another Advocate who is just like me, who is just like the Father. So when a spirit filled Christian says, "God is with me" that is true. When a spirit filled Christian says, "Jesus lives in my heart" that is true too.

- What does it mean to you that the Holy Spirit is the "same kind" of advocate for you as Jesus?
- Is there a disconnect in your life between knowing the truth and living it?

**Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit and pray that what you know would be lived out in your actions.**

## DAY 4

**Read 1 Corinthians 6:19** When Jesus was on earth, his body was the temple of the Holy Spirit. We as his disciples carry the Holy Spirit with us and everywhere we go. Every person and every situation we face bearing the Lord's name God is there. He is with us. Wherever you go Jesus goes with you and is in you. When we the Church recognize we have this kind of power (the same power Jesus had) we can change the world ten times over! In the past people had to tear down roofs to get to Jesus. Now, the presence of Jesus is everywhere within his disciples because we are the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

- How can you do a better job of treating yourself as a Temple of the Holy Spirit.
- How can you use the power of the Holy Spirit within you?

**Thank God that you are not alone no matter where you go or what you face.**

## DAY 5

**Read ACTS 3:1-10** When Peter and John saw the lame man begging for money at the temple gate they offered him something he didn't even know he wanted through the power of the Holy Spirit. God wasn't just there to give the man a hand-out. God wanted to give the man a hand-up through Peter and John. Giving money to people in need probably won't solve their problems. You solve problems when you give people the power of God! If we are able to love people with God's love, what would happen in our local communities and the world?

- Do you know anyone that you could help give a hand up with the power of the Holy Spirit?
- What does it look like to love others with God's love as a church?

**Ask God to show you ways to help those around you with the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## DAY 6

Peter said in **ACTS 2:38**, "Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the Holy Spirit." That's not a possibility; it is a promise. Repentance means to go the other way. To repent is to change direction. When we repent we leave behind our desire to sin and ask God to make **us** the habitation of His presence through the Holy Spirit. When we are willing to give up all control to make our bodies the residence of God, then we receive His presence and his power to live our created purpose; that's what Jesus calls living an abundant life. He said, "*When you lose your life, you will find your life.*" With that, we can understand what happened at Pentecost: **READ ACTS 2:1-21**

- What does a spirit filled church and its people look like?
- In what areas of your life do you need to change direction?

**READ ACTS 2:42-47.** Try journaling some reflections on the scripture. Pray that God would reveal to you what a spirit filled church and its people would look like. Ask God to make you the habitation of His presence.

## DAY 7

Today is your "Sabbath" and a time for reflection. How has God been speaking to you over the week? Use what the Lord has said to you to remold and reshape your life. If you are having trouble hearing God's voice, slow down or even stop what you are doing so that the busyness of life's demands do not squelch the whispers of God's language of love upon your heart.