

Growth Group Study
Pentecost – A taste of things to come
Bible readings Luke 11:9–13 & Acts 2:1–13
9/6/2019 – John Malcolm

Have you seen the movie Apollo 13?

The movie highlights the lack of public interest in this mission, major tv networks didn't broadcast live pictures of the astronauts, and contrasts this with the concern and coverage given following the accident which threatened the lives of the astronauts.

Why do you think there was so little initial interest in the fifth lunar landing mission?

What is it about humanity that a toy, fashion, song, book or even high-tech space travel can catch our attention at one time and fade to obscurity just weeks or months later? Can you think of something like this in your own life?

Read Luke 11:11-13

When you purchase a gift for a child, do you ever check the packaging to see if contains small parts – if so, why do you do this?

Jesus was teaching about prayer, and as he did so he mentioned the Holy Spirit – what do we learn about the Holy Spirit here?

In your experience how has the church viewed the Holy Spirit and the ministries/activities associated with Him?

What is required from us to receive this gift from God?

Read Acts 1:4, 9–11 & John 16:7-15

The disciples may have liked Jesus to stay with them longer, but why did Jesus think it was good he was leaving them?

What benefits might there have been in having the Holy Spirit come, rather than to have Jesus remain?

A significant difference between the Old Testament and New Testaments is that in the Old Testament very few of God's people had the Holy Spirit (mainly prophets) while in the New Testament every believer was indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

How does this make Pentecost an important moment in the outworking of God's plan and what difference do you think this makes for God's people?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:21–22, 5:5 & Ephesians 1:13–14

What does it mean that the Holy Spirit is a deposit and why do you think God has given Him as a deposit to us?

What authority/significance does a Royal seal give to a document or promise?
(Esther 3.12 & Nehemiah 9.38)

Read Matthew 1.22-23 & Revelation 21:3

What does Jesus' name (Emmanuel) tell us about God's intentions?

If the Holy Spirit is the deposit of God's presence, what do we learn in Revelation about the fullness of the promise?

How has Jesus restored the relationship with God which was broken by the actions of Adam and Eve?

Read 1 Corinthians 12.7-11, 14.1 & 2 Timothy 4.6

What do we learn here about the ministry of the Holy Spirit?

What attitude does Paul encourage towards these gifts?

Do you know which spiritual gift/s the Spirit has given you, if so briefly explain what it is and how you use it.

Read Galatians 5.22.23

What do we learn here about the ministry of the Holy Spirit?

How has this fruit changed you?

What do you think a church (or individual's life) might look like with or without the presence of the Holy Spirit?

What holds some churches or individuals back from allowing the Holy Spirit to have more influence on them?

How could we foster greater openness towards the Holy Spirit?

For personal reflection:

Do you believe the Holy Spirit is a good gift offered to you by God?

Have you asked God for the Holy Spirit?

Is He a gift you treasure or is His presence somewhat neglected in your life?