

## Pentecost: The Story has Changed

Read: Acts 2:1-12

1. When you hear the word "Pentecostal" what thoughts, memories, or experiences come to mind?
2. What comes to mind when you think about the Holy Spirit?
  - a) The Bible uses many names when referring to the Holy Spirit. Do any of them stand out for you? Comforter, Advocate, Spirit of Wisdom, Guide, Teacher, Gift of God, Spirit of Jesus, Helper
  - b) Do you have any fears (or perhaps suspicions) when it comes to the work of the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit was understood as present throughout the Bible, but in different ways:

- Old Testament: powerful but contained (*shekinah*, *ruach hakodesh*) | Gospels: breaking through in acts of power; but it wasn't until Pentecost that it was poured out.
3. How you ever experienced the Holy Spirit in a significant way? What were the circumstances surrounding that event?
  4. How do you recognise the work of the Holy Spirit?

Read: John 16:5-15

Leaving, that he might then send the Holy Spirit was Jesus' idea - he wanted it to take place for our good.

5. Putting aside that Jesus is inevitably correct. If you were one of the disciples, what reservations might you have about this plan?

Read: Genesis 28:10-19

6. What might be an area in your life that the Holy Spirit is at work but you, like Jacob, need to wake up to God's presence there?
    - a) Consider your workplace, family, a key relationship, a challenge...
    - b) What "certain place" could become a "house of God" for you
- Remember the story has changed: it's not about God becoming present to us, it's about us becoming present to God.

**Action Step:** What is one step you can take to become more *present to God* this week?