



April 27, 2025
Jesus at the Festivals
PENTECOST
Acts 2:1-24 and 36-41



1. Opening Discussion: (You will probably want to use only one of these openers)

- a. How many languages do you speak? If you speak more than one language, when did you learn a second or additional language, and how difficult was it? When speaking a language other than your heart language, how much effort do you have to make to mentally translate before speaking?
- b. Have you ever known someone who was fluent in many languages (6 or more)? What was your impression of the individual? Did he or she have to work hard to become fluent, or was it more a matter of just having a God given ability for languages?
- c. Have you ever travelled to a country where you did not know the language? How did you feel when you tried to do a simple task (i.e., order from a menu in a restaurant, use public transportation, etc.)? How did you feel when you met someone who spoke your heart language?

2. Prayer:

- a. Adoration – Pray Psalm 95 or another passage of Scripture that enables you to focus on praising God for who He is in all His majesty and glory, the only One worthy of praise.
- b. Confession – Spend time in silence, allowing the Holy Spirit to bring to mind any sins you need to confess. Keep a paper and pencil handy in case He reminds you of one that requires you to ask forgiveness of someone. Close by reading 1 John 1:9
- c. Thanksgiving – In the spirit of Ephesians 5:20, thank God for answered prayers, His blessings and gifts, and the opportunities He provides to serve. Make a point to thank Him for at least one thing that you've never given thanks for before.
- d. Supplications
 - i. Pray for the activities of His Church, both locally and around the world; for those who serve Him, including missionaries, pastors, and volunteers; for the persecuted Church in countries which are actively hostile to the Gospel: and for the more than **3,000,000,000** souls who currently have **NO** access to the Gospel – especially that God will raise up workers who will go and serve in their lands.
 - ii. Pray for the spiritual and physical needs of friends and family, your personal needs, and at least some of the items on LRBC's weekly *Praises & Prayer Requests*. Close by reading John 14:13-14, 15:16, and 16:23-27.

3. Sermon Key Points for John 20:1-18

- a. Pentecost Was the First Reversal of the Tower of Babel, Inviting Us to Worship Together
 - i. What God scattered at Babel, He began bringing together at Pentecost
 - ii. This was the widespread pouring out of the Holy Spirit God promised long before
- b. Pentecost Was the First Broad Invitation to Repent and Be Baptized Into Christ
 - i. Peter preached the Gospel to the gathered crowd in the Spirit's power
 - ii. The invitation hasn't changed - repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus

- c. Pentecost Was the First Outpouring of Our Power to Bear Witness to Jesus
 - i. Everyone who believes in Jesus is sealed with the Holy Spirit
 - ii. You have the power, use it for its purpose

4. Bible Study:

- a. *Sunday Afternoon* – As soon as possible after the sermon, make time to consider:
 - i. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
 - ii. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
 - iii. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
 - iv. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
 - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
- b. *Monday:*
 - i. Last week, we celebrated the Resurrection. This week's sermon focuses on the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. But between those two, another critical event had to occur first. Read Luke 24:50-53 and Acts 1:6-11.
 - 1. Although not as widely celebrated in Baptist churches as the Resurrection, Christ's Ascension is part two of Christ's transition from death to glory and of immeasurable value to us as Christians. Read these verses in John: 6:62; 14:2 & 12; 16:5, 10, 17, & 28; 17:5; and 20:17. What "benefits" do you realize because of Christ's Ascension?
 - 2. Now read John 14:15-21 & 25-27; 15:26-27; and 16:4-11. Based on these verses, what benefit do we receive from God that is tied to Christ's Ascension?
 - ii. In addition to the gift of the Holy Spirit, which will be the subject for the rest of this week, Paul and the author of Hebrews tell us that the Ascension returned Christ to Heaven for his present role, sometimes called "His Session". Read Ephesians 1:18-23 & 4:7-13; Philippians 2:9-11; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 1:1-4, 4:14-16, & 9:24. What are some of the benefits we currently receive because Christ Ascended and now sits at the right hand of God in Heaven?
- c. *Tuesday:*
 - i. Read Acts 2:1-13.
 - 1. Imagine you were a reporter in Jerusalem on Pentecost, what facts would you have included in an article you wrote about the initial events that day?
 - 2. Why were the believers together on the day of Pentecost? What day of the week was it (see Leviticus 23:15-22)? It is often said that Christians worship on Sunday because that is the day Christ arose, but what other reason do we have from this passage in Acts for worshiping on Sunday?
 - ii. The event of Pentecost has many ties back to Old Testament scripture. One is a reversal of God's actions at the Tower of Babel. Read Genesis 11:1-9.
 - 1. What is the most obvious way God reverses at least some of His actions at Babel?
 - 2. As you read this account, what questions does it raise in your mind?

- a. Do you think God was concerned that a tower of brick would actually reach heaven? What was his concern – what has always been His concern about us since the sin of Adam and Eve?
 - b. What was the general sin of the people? What was a specific sin (see God's command in Genesis 9:1 & 7)? Specifically, what were the people doing to violate this command (see Genesis 11:4b)?
 - c. How does the end of the passage about the Tower of Babel show God accomplishing His Will for mankind after the Flood?
 - d. What parallels do you see between the Tower of Babel's outcome and the Holy Spirit's gifting, especially in view of Acts 1:8?
- iii. Reading Acts 2:9-11, how many different languages do you see mentioned? If you have access to a good Bible atlas (or perhaps maps in your Bible), locate the various locations mentioned. With what you know about the spread of the Gospel from the accounts in Acts, what similarities do you see?

d. Wednesday:

- i. Read Acts 2:14-24 and Joel 2 (or at least verses 28-32).
- ii. How does the individual addressing the crowd differ from the one who denied even knowing Jesus (Matthew 26:69-75) less than two months earlier? What two events account for this difference (see John 21:15-17 and Acts 2:3-4)?
 - 1. How are you responding to the equivalent events in your life?
 - 2. If you were in a situation where you were unexpectedly given the opportunity to present the Gospel to a small group of unbelievers, would you be willing and able? To a crowd of thousands?
- iii. Peter begins by addressing two different groups of people in verse 14. Who are they?
 - 1. While many (maybe most) of those mentioned in verses 9-11 may have been Jews or converts to Judaism, how do we know that there would have been Gentiles included in the second group (see verse 23)?
 - 2. How would this distinction between Jew and Gentile become important later in Peter's life (see Acts 10)?
 - 3. How does Peter's selection of the passage from Joel foreshadow what he would learn in his vision later?
- iv. While Peter is specifically addressing the gift of the Holy Spirit, what truths does the quote from Joel provide about Christianity in general?
 - 1. What does Joel tell us about how God responds to men and women who believe, and how does that compare with Galatians 3:26-29?
 - 2. Quoting the same passage from Joel (2:32), what does Paul teach us about who can be saved in Romans 10:9-13?

e. Thursday:

- i. Read Acts 2:14-24 again, then continue reading verses 25-35.
 - 1. What astonishing truths does Peter reveal to his listeners in these verses?
 - 2. To whom did Peter assign the primary responsibility for Jesus' death (see also the believer's prayer in Acts 4:27-28)?

- a. Although he is now preaching that it was God's preordained will that Christ die, how did Peter react to the idea when Jesus presented it to Peter in Matthew 16:21-23?
 - b. How does Luke 24:45-46 explain the change in Peter's thinking?
 - c. What does Paul tell us in 1 Corinthians 1:23 will be the world's reaction to such news?
 - d. Read 1 Corinthians 2:12-14. How does Paul relate the work of the Holy Spirit, which was poured out on Pentecost, to our understanding of what Christ has done for us?
- ii. Peter again quotes the Old Testament, this time from Psalm 16:8-11 and 110:1. You may find reading both Psalms in their entirety helpful.
 - 1. Why could David not be talking about himself in these verses?
 - 2. Why was using Scripture particularly important for Peter as he presented the Gospel?
- f. **Friday:**
 - i. Read Acts 2:36-41.
 - ii. As Peter concluded his message, what two facts about Jesus did he say that "all Israel" (and in fact all people) need to know are absolutely true?
 - 1. What role is Paul emphasizing when he says Jesus is "Lord"? What does it mean to you that Jesus is "Lord"?
 - 2. What role is Paul emphasizing when he says Jesus is "Christ" or "Messiah"? What does it mean to you that Jesus is the "Christ"/"Messiah"?
 - 3. Do you think it was merely a happenstance that led Peter to put Lord before Christ/Messiah? When you share Christ with others, which do you emphasize?
 - iii. What was the result of Peter's message?
- g. **Saturday:**
 - i. End the week by reading Acts 2 slowly, meditating on the messages and how they apply to you and your walk with Christ.
 - ii. When you get to verse 23, pause and ponder the question: While it was God's plan that Christ would die, who were/are the "accessories to murder" that share in the blame? Truly, thank God that Christ took our place in this fantastic display of mercy and grace!

5. Application:

- a. Too often, we think of our salvation in terms of the future benefit of eternity with God in heaven. As wonderful as that will be, Pentecost should show us that there is a present benefit that is just as amazing – we have the Holy Spirit residing in us and empowering us. Consider the real implications of Ephesians 1:18-21 and 6:10-18.
- b. Peter stood and gave this sermon without advance preparation. He did not have a seminary degree and had never read a book on "How to share your faith." He was able to do so because of what Jesus promised in Matthew 10:19 and John 14:26. Are we taking full (or perhaps any) advantage of those promises?