



**Sermon Based Small Group
Leader Discussion Guide**

Sermon Title: “What Makes a Great Church?”

**Sermon by Pastor Tom Harrington
Week of May 23, 2010**

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Icebreaker	<p>You can choose one of these questions or read both to the group and let each member respond to their choice.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What’s the most powerful or violent wind you can remember? 2. What has been your best and/or worst experience with public speaking?
Session Objectives	<p>By the end of the session, group members should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how the Holy Spirit drew them to Northwest and/or your group. • Name at least two ways the Good News can be “demonstrated” to people far from God.
Personal Connection	<p>How does my story connect to the reading?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did you feel about going to church when you were a kid? If you have children, how do they feel about going to church? • What do you like best about Northwest Baptist Church?

Sermon Text

Acts 2:1-21

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

⁵Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? ⁸Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language?⁹Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹²Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

*¹⁷" In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.*

*¹⁸Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.*

*¹⁹I will show wonders in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.*

*²⁰The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.*

*²¹And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

Digging Deeper

Learning more about the lesson

The disciples were transformed by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Read the passages below to see how they acted before the coming of the Holy Spirit.

²⁵As Simon Peter stood warming himself, he was asked, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not." ²⁶One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove?" ²⁷Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow. - John 18:25-27

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews... - John 20:19

Luke 24:44-49 says of Jesus, *⁴⁴He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."*

In what way does **Acts 2** reflect the fulfillment of God's promise in v. 49 of this passage?

Because Jesus died and rose to new life, the Holy Spirit now lives in all God's people. He is the One who makes them new, teaches them, and gives them freedom for a new life. What is the main idea or teaching about the Holy Spirit in each of the following passages of Scripture?

¹⁵"If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever - ¹⁷the 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." - Jn. 14:15-17

Main idea:

¹⁶"So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. ¹⁹The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish

ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”- Galatians 5:16-26

Main idea:

“The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. ¹⁴The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”- 1 Corinthians 2:10-14

Main idea:

When are you aware of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit? Check as many as apply:

- Reading the Bible
- Sharing in a group like this
- In praise and worship
- Praying with friends
- Alone with God
- Spending time in nature
- Creating something
- Telling someone about Jesus
- Other:

	<p>How does the ministry of the Holy Spirit impact you?</p> <p>In the space below write down one quality that you think makes great churches so appealing. Be prepared to explain why you chose the quality you did.</p> <p>How did God lead you to Northwest Baptist Church (and/or this group)?</p> <p>I think one strength of Northwest Baptist Church is:</p> <p>I think one “growing edge” of Northwest Baptist Church is:</p> <p>What does Northwest most need? Do you have a vision or a dream for our church? (See Acts 2:17)</p> <p>To <u>proclaim</u> means “to declare something publicly.” To <u>demonstrate</u> means “to show the validity of something.” What happens when a church shifts from “proclamation alone” to “proclamation with demonstration?”</p> <p>How can the Good News be demonstrated to people far from God - those outside the walls of the church?</p> <p>It’s been said that the Church of Jesus Christ gathers to worship and then scatters to serve. Is this repeating pattern of worship and service true of the members of Northwest as a whole? Of you personally?</p>
<p>Taking it Home</p>	<p>How will I live it? Apply it?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the members of your group agree about something our church needs and pray together about it?

	<p>2. What is your next step as a disciple of Jesus Christ? Is there a specific action you might take with the help of the Holy Spirit and the support of your group?</p>
Looking Ahead	<p>How can I prepare for the next Small Group meeting?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read John 15:12-17. Sermon title: "Spiritual Friendship."
Prayer Focus	<p>How can I connect with God and others through prayer?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the members of your group agree about something our church needs and pray together about it?
Updates	<p>Announcements from:</p> <p>Care Coordinator Outreach Coordinator, Social Coordinator</p>