

NOTES



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RHYTHMS OF HEAVEN

Week 3 | The Sounds of Pentecost

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit. As we gather today, we ask that You open our hearts and ears to hear Your voice. May the sounds of Pentecost remind us of Your presence and power in our lives. Stir our faith and ignite our hearts as we hear from you today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

Can you recall a time when sound had a powerful effect on you, whether it was a song, a voice, or even silence? What impact did it have on you?

WORD

1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” 12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” 13 But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

- Acts 2:1–13 (ESV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 If you were one of the disciples in the upper room, how do you think you would have reacted to the rushing wind and tongues of fire?

2 Why do you think God used sound and language at Pentecost instead of silence or stillness? What does that say about His nature or His message?

3 The crowd heard the message in their own language. What does this teach us about how God reaches people?

4 In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit empowered ordinary people to do extraordinary things. What might the Holy Spirit want to do through you?

5 What would it look like for your life group to reflect the unity and power of Pentecost in our family, school, or community?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the sound of Pentecost—that reminds us that You are with us on Your mission. Fill us today with Your Spirit. Help us to listen for Your voice, respond with courage, and share Your love with those around us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

REFLECTION

Pentecost is one of the most important and powerful moments in the story of the Church. The word Pentecost comes from the Greek word *Pentēkostē*, meaning “fiftieth.” It refers to the Jewish Feast of Weeks (Shavuot), celebrated 50 days after Passover. Originally, it was a harvest festival where Jews gave thanks for the firstfruits of the wheat harvest (Leviticus 23:15–21). Over time, it also became a time to remember when God gave the Law to Moses at Mount Sinai. In Acts 2, Pentecost takes on a new and deeper meaning. Instead of receiving the Law on stone tablets, the believers received the Holy Spirit, fulfilling the prophecy of Joel that God would pour out His Spirit on all people (Joel 2:28–29). Jesus had promised this gift in John 14:26 and Acts 1:8, and on Pentecost, that promise was fulfilled.

Pentecost is significant because:

It reminds us that God's mission starts with Him. The sound came from heaven, it began with God and His great love for all people. It marks the birth of the Church. This is the day the disciples moved from waiting to witnessing. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, they began preaching the gospel boldly, and 3,000 people were added to their number that day (Acts 2:41). It shows that God's Spirit is for everyone. In the Old Testament, the Spirit would come upon specific people for specific tasks. At Pentecost, the Spirit is poured out on all believers—young and old, men and women, from every nation. It shifts God's people from a local mission to a global mission. As people heard the disciples speaking in their own languages, it was a powerful sign that God was now building a global family in Christ, empowered by the Spirit and united by His truth. As N.T. Wright puts it, “Pentecost is the moment when the personal presence of God comes to dwell not in a temple made of stone, but in human hearts—and not just one, but many.” (Acts for Everyone, Part 1) So when we think about the Rhythms of heaven, sound is a major component of this. As we hear the Sound of Heaven, the sound of the crowd, the sound of the nations, the sound of scripture, and the sound of response, these should encourage us and remind us of the mission that God is calling us to, which is to impact the world for the sake of God's creation.

“The whole Bible renders to use the story of God's mission by God's people in their engagement with God's world for the sake of God's creation.” - Christopher Wright, *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*