

Growth Group Questions

Day of Pentecost, June 8, 2025

Introduction

The Lutheran Church tends to downplay the role of emotion in faith, in part for theological reasons, and in part for cultural (read: German) reasons. What is the danger of over-emphasizing emotion? What is the danger of ignoring it?

Into the Word – Genesis 11:1-9

1. Why do you suppose this account is used as a reading on Pentecost Sunday every third year?
2. This account occurs right after the Great Flood. What command that God had given after the flood were the people breaking with this tower?
3. What are some ways that we in modern times try to “make a name for ourselves” in sinful ways that go against God’s will?
4. In this account, God steps in directly to prevent the people from achieving their sinful purpose? Why does God not do that more often today?
5. What lasting impact do you see in our world because of this event?

Into the Word – Acts 2:1-21

6. What did the Holy Spirit enable the disciples to do?
7. What was the point the sound of wind, the tongues of flame, and even the speaking of different languages?

8. We saw the division that was sown between peoples in the Tower of Babel account. How does the Spirit undo that? What is our place in the Spirit’s work to accomplish that?
9. Read Jeremiah 1:7. What does the verb “prophesy” mean? How does that help us understand how Joel’s prophecy here is fulfilled in New Testament times by “sons and daughters, young men, old men, men, and women”?

Into the Word – John 14:23-27

10. On the night Jesus was betrayed he told his disciples how they would be recognized as his followers. What identifying marks does Jesus give in verses 23-24?
11. Are followers of Jesus identified by what they do or by what they say?
12. While we might not put the Holy Spirit front and center in Lutheranism, that is probably exactly what the Spirit wants. What work of the Spirit does Jesus describe in the second half of v. 26?
13. Verse 27 is a best-loved verse for many people. Come up with as many descriptions as you can of ways that Jesus’ giving is different from the world’s way of giving.

Closing Prayer: Holy Spirit, thank you for your quiet work and gift of faith. Continue to live in me and remind me of my Savior’s words and work. Bless me to live in your power and by your guidance in kindness, gentleness, patience, discipline, and love. Amen.