

Discipleship Notes 1: June 2020

“Pentecost”

Acts 2: 1-11

Opener

How many different types of church can you think of? List denominations as well as differing styles of church.

Why do you think we have so many different Christian churches? Does it matter?

Welcome:

The books of Samuel are really about leadership. We will be back in Samuel next week. However today we are in the New Testament book of Acts. In many respects the account of the birth of the early church also focuses on leadership. Without good leadership this small, fragile grouping of disciples would struggle to achieve the mission Jesus had set them. They needed help! And they needed supernatural power.

Do we still need God’s help today? Or have many aspects of church life become possible without our need to really rely on God?

Read: Acts 2: 1-13

- Summarise what happened.
- What was Pentecost? You might like to look up the following verses. Leviticus 23: 1-2 & Leviticus 23: 15-22 & Deuteronomy 16: 9-12.
- Describe the ‘state’ of the ‘church’ prior to Pentecost.
- How would Pentecost change things?
- Suggest some of the ways people reacted to the events they witnessed.
- Why do we need the Holy Spirit today? Do you think that we a bit reluctant to talk about the Holy Spirit?

Reading 2: Acts 2: 14-41

- What are the key points of the message given by Peter?
- Are there aspects that would be familiar to listeners? Are there other things that would be new?
- Think about the season we are currently going through. As we look to the future what familiar things do we long to see back? Are there any 'new things' God might be leading us towards both as individuals and as a church?
- A lot of people responded to the message Peter gave. Describe the early church as recorded in Acts 2: 42-47.

Thought:

What might it have been like to have been part of this emerging church? Would it have been scary? Exciting? Are there aspects we would have liked? Or perhaps disliked?

Do we need another Pentecost? Can we ever be described as an Acts 2 church?

Prayer Pointers:

- We pray for wisdom for our national political and healthcare leaders
- We ask that God lead us through the routines and challenges of each day
- We remember those who are self-isolating at home.
- We pray for the staff and residents at our local care home, Austen House.
- We thank God for 'Earley Help hub' and good relations between our local churches.

