



"The Spirit throws open the doors with a force of wind that recalls the primordial breath, the ruakh that was the mighty wind that swept over the waters in the first verses of Genesis. This wind is joined by fire, traditionally in the Scriptures fire tends to accompany the manifestation of God. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descends to fill the Temple of the Body of Christ, the disciples. While Luke is giving an account of what actually happened, God is speaking to this Jewish audience, saying much in the means by which He is filling His people. Our Father spoke the language of His people to encourage and empower them to do the work He had for them. He still does this today, with us. Are we listening?"

INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:

Have you ever felt like God spoke to you? If so, how did He speak to you? What did He say?

MEMORY VERSE:

Acts 2:1-4

"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[a] 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."

SCRIPTURE READING:

Genesis 2:7

"...then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature."

Exodus 3:2

"2 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed."

Exodus 13:21-22

"21 And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. 22 The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people."

Exodus 24:17

“Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.”

John 16:7-15

“7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Fire, wind and breath seem to be the descriptions often used for the presence of God, why do you think this is? What attributes of the Spirit are the Biblical authors trying to highlight by using these metaphors?
2. Fire can be both violent and useful. How does this describe God and His presence as well?
3. How does wind or breath help illuminate the Holy Spirit for us?
4. How is it an advantage that Jesus left and the Spirit came?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Often talking about the Holy Spirit makes people uncomfortable. It almost sounds like we are talking about believing in a ghost. How does it make you feel and why?
2. Are you filled with the Spirit? How can you tell? What does this even mean?
3. Often in the Scriptures, the presence of wind or fire in a narrative helps illuminate that the hand of God, the presence of God, is in whatever is going on. Think about your story, times when God has moved in your life? Were there things that told you that He was present there in the moment?

CLOSING PRAYER ACTIVITY:

Invite someone to close the group in prayer.