



Made For: Divine Alignment

Series Vision:

There is so much chaos and calamity happening in the world around us: The pandemic and the isolation that social distancing has caused in our lives, the fires in our backyard, the yelling going on amidst the media and political climate, and so much more. In a season like this, it's important for us to acknowledge some of the challenges we have in our souls. It is also important for us to understand and believe that God knows what time it is, and He has made us for this time. Those that followed Jesus likewise found themselves in chaotic times, beginning with Jesus' death and resurrection. In the book of Acts, we'll see how God used that chaos to mold the apostles into the world changers they were always meant to be. God wants to do the same with us today.

LOOKING BACK:

FAMILY TIME (25 min)

- Vision Statement: Have a group member explain the vision of your lifegroup. Invite another group member to share your vision piece next time.
- Intro Question: What is one thing about your community that helps make it feel like family?
- Prayer Requests, Praise Reports and Updates from previous week(s).

LOOKING UP:

WORSHIP (20 min)

- Cast Vision for Worship...What it is, why we do it, how we can do it.
- Spend time in worship together.
- This past Sunday's worship set: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTNYfevusZY>
 - "You Keep On Getting Better"
 - "Yes and Amen"

****Encourage your group members to engage God's heart for one another during worship and share any affirmations or words of encouragement they receive with each other as Holy Spirit leads. One way to do this on Zoom is through the private message option while worship is ongoing. Feel free to debrief this experience as you feel led.**

BIBLE STUDY (20 min)

Acts 2:38-47

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Guided questions for your group to explore together:

- 1) What really strikes you from this passage?
- 2) How do you feel challenged by the way they lived in community together?
- 3) What does devotion to the Lord look like for you in today's crooked, chaotic world?

LOOKING FORWARD (20-30 minutes)

Allow this be a space for God to minister to the hearts of your people in this time. Maybe play some soak/instrumental music while everyone takes some time to engage the Lord's heart (here's a good soak track you can use - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xx1MjhzKcYw&t=1169s>). Here are some more guided thoughts and questions for this time of seeking to engage God's heart. Encourage your group members to read through them, and answer which ones feel very real to them this week:

- a) Lord, I know there are parts of me that need alignment with Your heart. Will You reveal to me how I have been living amidst a crooked gospel?
- b) Lord, I desire to live my life aligned to an Acts 2 gospel where the body of believers are so interdependent on You and one another. How can I practically move towards living in a community like this?

**Encourage your group members to take some time and ask the Lord to speak into each of these points right now.

If you have some additional time, spend it praying for one another and sharing God's heart with each other as led by Holy Spirit.

KIDS' LESSON: [Read Acts 2:1-24]

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

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

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia,

Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia 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!” 12 Amazed 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.”

Peter Addresses the Crowd

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. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! 16 No, 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.

18 Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

19 I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

20 The sun will be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

21 And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

22 “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

Discussion Questions:

When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost there was a moment where the crowd felt both amazed and perplexed. They seemed confused and maybe even lost because they have never witnessed/experienced something like this before. Then some people began making fun of the disciples saying that they were drunk. At this point, it seems like people could have disregarded the presence of the Holy Spirit but it is here where Peter stood up, raised his voice and addressed the crowd from the words spoken by the prophet Joel.

1. When there was confusion and people didn't understand what was going on, what did Peter rely on to bring understanding and peace to this situation?
2. When you are confused, lost and/or discouraged have you tried spending time with God either through his Word or Worship?
3. Do you have any verses you go to when you feel any negative emotions? If not, spend time with your parents and look for passages that you can write or memorize so that like Peter you can stand up and raise your voice to address truth to your situation.