

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of May 15, 2016

Acts 2:1-13

*These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.*

*Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.*

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

### **New International Version (NIV)**

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

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

*of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,<sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome<sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”<sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”*

*<sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”*

**Connection Questions:**

1. Define what prayer means to you.
2. Our text describes God coming to the disciples with tongues of fire and the room was filled with God’s presence. Describe what you think really happened on Pentecost as the writer Luke describes it.
3. Describe your understanding of God’s involvement with his world. Have you ever sensed the presence of God in your personal life in a keen way? If so, describe your experience or experiences.
4. The 2nd chapter of Acts is focused on the disciples discerning God’s movement in their lives. Reread the 2nd chapter in Acts and discuss what it teaches us about our faith in God.

5. In the book of Job we often find Job angry in his prayers to God in how he perceives God's involvement in the world. What, if anything, do we learn about the nature of God through Job's discourse with God?
  
6. In Rev. Adkins' sermon he shares how people at Shady Grove through prayer took a leap of faith at different times in its history attempting to add to its facilities. Has God through prayer ever urged you to take a leap of faith? If so, describe the experience.
  
7. Can you recall a time in your life or in your church's life when through prayer something was achieved that seemed impossible? If so, describe the experience.
  
8. Why is patience an important quality to have in our prayer life or is it?
  
9. Can you be a mature Christian without consistently practicing prayer in your daily life? Why or why not?