

## # Church on Fire: Small Group Discussion Guide

**\*\*Pentecost Sunday - The Gift of Fire\*\***

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### ## Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Begin by inviting the Holy Spirit into your time together. Ask God to open hearts and minds to His Word and to stir fresh devotion in each person present.

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### ## Icebreaker (5-10 minutes)

**\*\*Question:\*\*** When you think of "fire" in a spiritual sense, what comes to mind? What emotions or images does it evoke for you?

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### ## Scripture Reading (5 minutes)

Have someone read aloud:

- **\*\*Acts 2:1-4, 37-42\*\***

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### ## Discussion Questions

#### ### **\*\*1. Understanding the Gift \*\***

- The sermon emphasized that God wants to be more than just a "story" we know—He wants a personal relationship with us. Where are you on that spectrum right now? Is God more of a story to you, or a living presence?

- Jesus said it was *\*better\** for Him to leave so the Holy Spirit could come (John 16:7). Why do you think having the Holy Spirit within us is better than having Jesus physically present?

#### ### **\*\*2. The Gift Is For You \*\***

- Acts 2:39 says the promise of the Holy Spirit is "for you and your children and for all who are far off." What barriers (doubt, past mistakes, feelings of unworthiness) might keep someone from believing this gift is truly for them?

- Have you personally received the gift of the Holy Spirit? If so, when and how did that

happen? If you're unsure, what questions do you have?

### ### \*\*3. Devotion Produces Results\*\*

The early church was devoted to four things (Acts 2:42):

- **The apostles' teaching** (God's Word)
- **Fellowship** (community with believers)
- **Breaking of bread** (communion/shared meals)
- **Prayer** (communing with God)

**Discuss:**

- Which of these four areas feels strongest in your life right now? Which feels weakest?
- The sermon said, "A church on fire is characterized by devotion—not hype, not energy, but deep abiding devotion." What's the difference between hype and genuine devotion?
- What tangible results did devotion produce in Acts 2:43-47? (Awe, unity, generosity, hospitality, praise, salvations) Which of these results do you most want to see in your own life or in our church?

### ### \*\*4. When Devotion Is Diminished\*\*

- The sermon acknowledged that "your devotion can be diminished by distractions, attacks, darkness, and sin." What are some common things that diminish devotion in today's world?
- If someone's fire for God has grown cold, what would it look like practically for them to "come back" and ask God to renew their devotion?

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### ## Personal Reflection

Take a moment of silence for each person to reflect:

- \*Where is my devotion diminished right now?\*
- \*What is one specific step I can take this week to grow in devotion to God?\*

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### ## Closing Prayer

- Invite anyone who wants fresh fire from the Holy Spirit to share briefly (optional)
- Pray together for renewed devotion, for the Holy Spirit to fill each person afresh, and for your group/church to be "on fire" for God

- Pray specifically for anyone who gave their life to Christ during the sermon

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### ## This Week's Challenge

Choose **one** of the four areas of devotion (teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayer) that feels weakest in your life. Commit to one concrete action this week to strengthen it:

- **Teaching:** Read a chapter of Scripture daily
- **Fellowship:** Reach out to another believer for encouragement
- **Breaking bread:** Share a meal with someone and talk about what God is doing
- **Prayer:** Set aside 10-15 minutes daily for focused prayer

Share your commitment with one other person in the group for accountability.

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### ## Additional Resources

- Read the full account of Pentecost: Acts 2:1-47
- Study Jesus' teaching on the Holy Spirit: John 14-16
- Reflect on the Old Testament fire imagery: Exodus 3 (burning bush), Exodus 13 (pillar of fire), 1 Kings 18 (Elijah and fire from heaven)