

Making God Real - Part Vc
God's Plan - The Day of Pentecost
(Family Study Guide)

Memory Scripture:

1 John 5:3 *"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome."*

Objectives:

- Define the meaning of the word "Pentecost."
- Compare and contrast the Old Testament and New Testament Pentecost.
- Describe what Pentecost pictures and how it fits into God's plan of salvation.
- Explain why we need God's Holy Spirit and identify the benefits of this special gift.
- Explain why Pentecost affects the way we live our lives—including our relationships with God and people.

1. Review God's Plan.

- a. What does God want? He wants a family!
 - To bring many sons to glory (**Hebrews 2:9-11**).
 - We are children of God (**Romans. 8:15-17**).
- b. What steps does God provide for us to understand His plan and how we can become a part of His family?
 - The Feasts of the Lord, the Holy Days (**Leviticus 23**).
 - His Law - The 10 Commandments (**Exodus 20:1-17**).

2. The Day of Pentecost

a. What does Pentecost mean?

- Pentecost comes from the Greek word "pentekoste" which means fiftieth.
- Pentecost is sometimes called The Feast of Weeks or The Feast of First Fruits.

1. Why would Pentecost be called the Feast of Weeks? (Exodus 34:22)

- a. We are told this: *"And you shall count to you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths (7 weeks) shall be complete: ¹⁶ Even to the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall you number fifty days...."* (**Leviticus 23:15-16**)
- b. Why would Pentecost be called the Feast of Fruit Fruits?
- c. God uses the physical to help us understand the spiritual. God's Holy Days, His plan of salvation, centers around the physical harvest seasons. What is a harvest?
- d. How many harvest seasons are there? When are they?
 - i. In the land of Palestine where the ancient Israelites lived, there were two harvest seasons, one that was early and one that was later in the year.
 - ii. The early harvest was a small harvest compared to the later harvest. It represented the first fruits, the first of what was to come later.

b. What does the Day of Pentecost picture?

- Pentecost pictures those God is calling to be a part of His family now. God is "harvesting" people for eternal life in His Kingdom.

- Those God is calling now are called first fruits because they are a part of the smaller, first harvest. God will call a much greater number of people to be a part of His family during the second, larger harvest.
- Jesus Christ, our older brother, is called the first of the first fruits because He is the first Son to be resurrected into the family of God (**1 Corinthians 15:20**). He is the firstborn of many brethren (**Romans 8:29**).

c. God gave some special gifts on the Day of Pentecost.

- After the Israelites left Egypt and camped at Mount Sinai, He gave the people His Law in codified, written form on the Day of Pentecost. What is His Law?
- On the first Pentecost after Jesus Christ was resurrected, God gave His Holy Spirit to those who obeyed and believed (**Acts 2:1-4**). What is the Holy Spirit?
 1. No matter how hard we try, we are going to sin. God's Holy Spirit helps us have more Godly thoughts, attitudes, and actions.
 2. Because God's law is all about love (**Romans 13:8-10**), God, through His Holy Spirit, helps us to keep His law and love one another as He commands us to do (**Matthew 22:37-39**).
 3. God's Holy Spirit sets us apart. Anyone who is called and chosen by God is included with Christ as God's first fruits (**James 1:18**).
 4. The Holy Spirit is given to those who repent and are baptized (**Acts 2:38-39**).

3. How do we observe The Day of Pentecost?

- a. **Leviticus 23:21** tells us that Pentecost was commanded to be observed throughout all generations.
 - i. **Lev 23:21** *Your descendants are to observe this regulation for all time to come, no matter where they live.* (Good News Translation)
- b. Pentecost is an annual Sabbath, sanctified (made holy) and set apart by God.
- c. We are to gather together so that we can learn more about God's plan and His law.
- d. We are to bring an offering.

QUESTIONS FROM UCG FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS

These questions are intended to check parents and older teen's understanding of the topic. There is one best answer to each question; select that best answer.

- 1. The following happened on the day of Pentecost:**
 - a. The Israelites received the Commandments
 - b. God gave His Holy Spirit after the resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - c. Both a and b
- 2. Pentecost represents:**
 - a. The first spiritual harvest of mankind—The Church
 - b. Jesus Christ as the first of firstfruits
 - c. Both a and b
 - d. The only harvest in God's plan of salvation
- 3. The Holy Spirit is:**
 - a. A person that helps us to live God's way
 - b. God's power—a gift - within us from laying on of hands at baptism
 - c. Part of the Trinity
 - d. An animal
- 4. The Holy Spirit:**
 - a. Is a gift
 - b. Helps us to develop Godly fruit
 - c. Helps us to obey God's commandments
 - d. Is essential to being identified as a child of God
 - e. All of the above

Additional resources you can use for your family studies:

UCG Booklets:

God's Holy Day Plan

- [The Feast of Pentecost: The Firstfruits of God's Harvest](#)
- [God's Festivals in the New Testament](#)

The Power of the Holy Spirit

Beyond Today Videos:

[Pentecost: The Power of God in Your Life](#) by Darris McNeely

[God's Holy Day Plan: Blueprint for Salvation](#) by Beyond Today Team

UCG Articles:

[The Feast of Pentecost and Its Meaning for All Mankind](#) by Arthur Suckling

[What Is the Holy Spirit?](#) by Peter Eddington

[The Remarkable Lesson of God's Feast of Firstfruits](#) by Bill Bradford

[The Biblical Feast of Firstfruits: How It Explains a Great Mystery](#) by Bill Bradford

UCG Sermons:

[Change and Live](#) by Darris McNeely. *Becoming a true Christian requires change.*

[Will You Be Gods?](#) by Peter Eddington. *Can you become a Christian if you deny the Trinity? The Trinity denies the greatest truth we can know - that God is a growing family of which we can become a part.*

Instructor's Notes and Resources

Pentecost -- Think-Tac-Toe

Post a collection of activities from which students can choose to do to demonstrate their understanding of Pentecost. It is presented in the form of a nine square grid similar to a tic-tac-toe board and students may be expected to complete from one to "three in a row". Children can work individually, in pairs, or in groups. Circulate among groups as they complete the activities and provide feedback. It would be helpful for more knowledgeable children to pair with some who are younger or may not have a firm grasp of the topic. Have each group share a minimum of one completed activity with the class at the end of the lesson.

Pentecost Think-Tac-Toe

<p>3-2-1</p> <p>3 differences between Pentecost and the other Holy Days</p> <p>2 effects of the Holy Spirit on our lives</p> <p>1 question you still have about the topic</p>	<p>Stop and Reflect</p> <p>I became more aware of...</p> <p>(Share any new learning you had about Pentecost.)</p>	<p>Misconception Check</p> <p>Name one or more common misunderstandings about the Holy Spirit. What does the Bible say about the Holy Spirit that is different than what someone may think?</p>
<p>"Post-It"</p> <p>Take 5 sticky notes. On each sticky note, write an important thing to remember (something you would post) about Pentecost and why it's important. Post it for others to see.</p>	<p>Three W's</p> <p>Discuss or write</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · What did we learn about Pentecost? · So What?(relevancy, importance, usefulness) · Now What? (how does this fit into what we are learning, does it affect our thinking, can we predict where we are going) 	<p>Stop and Reflect</p> <p>I was surprised about...</p> <p>(Did anything you study stand out as interesting or surprising?)</p>
<p>Stop and Reflect</p> <p>I connected my learning about Pentecost to... (Share a sermon, reading, or Bible passage).</p>	<p>What was the "muddiest point" in your learning about Pentecost?</p> <p>What do you find unclear about this Holy Day and its meaning?</p>	<p>Study Up</p> <p>Prepare a "study sheet" with 2-3 key scriptures that would be useful for studying during a quiz over the topic of Pentecost. Why are they important?</p>