



“Purposeful Fire” **Acts 1:4-8**

Introduction

Pentecost was the birthday of the church. The apostles were gathered together in a room when the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as Jesus had promised. What happened after that has literally changed the world. The church (the gathered people of God empowered by the Holy Spirit) was born. We continue in that same power today – “Come Holy Spirit, come!”

Discussion

- Do you enjoy celebrating your birthday? Why or why not?
- If you planned a birthday party for the church, what would it look like?

Going Deeper¹

- Read Acts 1:4-8. What stands out to you about the passage?
- Why do you think Jesus wanted them to stay in Jerusalem? Couldn't the Spirit fall on them anywhere?
- What does Jesus mean by “you will receive power” (vs. 8)?
- What is the connection between the Holy Spirit and being Jesus' witnesses?
- What do we know about the Spirit's work? (Hint: look at John 16)
- Why is the giving of the Holy Spirit considered the birth of the church?

Application

- Do you give much thought to the work of the Spirit in your life? Why or why not?
- Do you know what gifts of the Spirit you have? If so, would you share them with the group?
- What one thing could you do this week to listen more for the leading of the Spirit?
- How can we be in prayer for you?

¹ Scripture references are from the NIV.