



## Is He Pentecostal? Robert Morris

**Focus** Pentecost in the Old Testament was a celebration of when God gave the law to Moses. In Acts 2, God gave the Holy Spirit to believers and wrote the law on people's hearts. You can still experience Pentecost today.

**Fun** What is your favorite movie and why?

**Review** Key Scripture: Acts 2:1–9

- **What is Pentecost?**

There were three primary feasts in the Jewish tradition: Passover, Pentecost, and Feast of Trumpets. Pentecost was a celebration of when God gave the law to Moses. Although the word literally means “fiftieth,” many people are afraid to talk openly about the truth and significance behind this event.

- **What happened at Pentecost?**

In the New Testament, new Christians were celebrating Pentecost. While they were praying, God poured out the Holy Spirit on them, and tongues of fire rested on each of them and they spoke in new tongues. In the first Pentecost of the Old Testament, there was a loud noise, a cloud descended, there was fire, the law was written on stone, and 3,000 people died. In the New Testament Pentecost, there was a loud noise, a cloud (the Holy Spirit) descended, there was fire, the law was written on hearts, and 3,000 people were saved!

- **Can you experience Pentecost?**

Today, most Christians would say you can experience Passover when you receive Jesus, the Passover lamb. You do this when you believe and receive

salvation by faith. In the exact same way, you can experience Pentecost when you believe and receive by faith. The Holy Spirit *does* come to live in us when we are saved. However, Pentecost (or the baptism of the Holy Spirit) allows us to experience the *fullness* of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Having fun is a non-negotiable. Nobody wants to be a part of a boring group. People relax and connect when they are having fun. Always take time to think of creative ideas to make your group a fun place to be. If this is not your strength, find someone in your group who is great at it and ask them to help.

**Discuss**

1. Did you grow up in a church environment that feared Pentecost and the Holy Spirit, or did you have a positive perspective?
2. Why do you think the enemy would work so hard to make people afraid of the Holy Spirit?
3. Read Acts 2:1–9. Imagine for a moment that you were gathered with the believers during Pentecost. What would have been your thoughts and reaction if you had lived through and experienced the Pentecost story in Acts 2?
4. What have been your personal experiences regarding Pentecost and the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Have they been positive, negative, or neutral?
5. What is the difference between the Old Pentecost when the law was written down on stone and the New Pentecost when God's law is written in our hearts? What does this look like in our lives today?
6. Read Matthew 7:7–11. What does this passage say God will give to those who ask? Why do you think Jesus would say this?
7. Have you fully received the Holy Spirit?

Take a moment for everyone in the group to bow their heads and reflect. Ask: Have you fully received the Holy Spirit? Have you had an experience where you have been baptized into the fullness of the Holy Spirit? If not, take a moment to ask God. Whether you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit or

not, take a moment to ask for the fullness of the Holy Spirit's work in your life.

### **Take Home**

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Pentecost just means "fiftieth" and is a celebration of when God gave the law to Moses.
- Pentecost in the New Testament was when God poured out His Spirit on believers.
- You can experience Pentecost today.

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving the gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Thank You for writing Your law on our hearts. We ask that You would allow us to experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** When following the discussion guide and asking questions, you may find that some questions spark great conversation and others don't. Feel free to ask other follow-up questions that are open-ended to get people talking about their own experiences. The goal is to have great interaction and for people to discover what the Holy Spirit is speaking to them. Also, don't feel pressured to ask every single question given. It is not a checklist but a guide to help the group engage in meaningful discussion around the topic.