

Passion of the Holy Spirit

Caller

Acts 2

Participant's Guide

Passion! What are you passionate about? What stimulates and moves your heart? Is there a song, a Bible verse, a prayer, a poem, a movie that reaches so deep into your soul that you cannot let go? How does the Holy Spirit call your name? Think about passion as the Holy Spirit calling you to Himself. Think about passion as the Holy Spirit calling you to truth. Think about passion as the Holy Spirit calling you to action.

The Feast of Pentecost

“You shall count seven weeks...Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God.”

Deuteronomy 16:10.

Seven weeks times 7 days in a week is 49 days. This is traditionally the number of days from the Passover meal in Egypt until the Jews arrived at Mount Horeb. The next day (Day 50) Moses went up to the mountain to receive the Ten Commandments—the monumental gift of God’s covenant

with His people, Israel. Pentecost (*pentecosta*) in Greek means fifty.

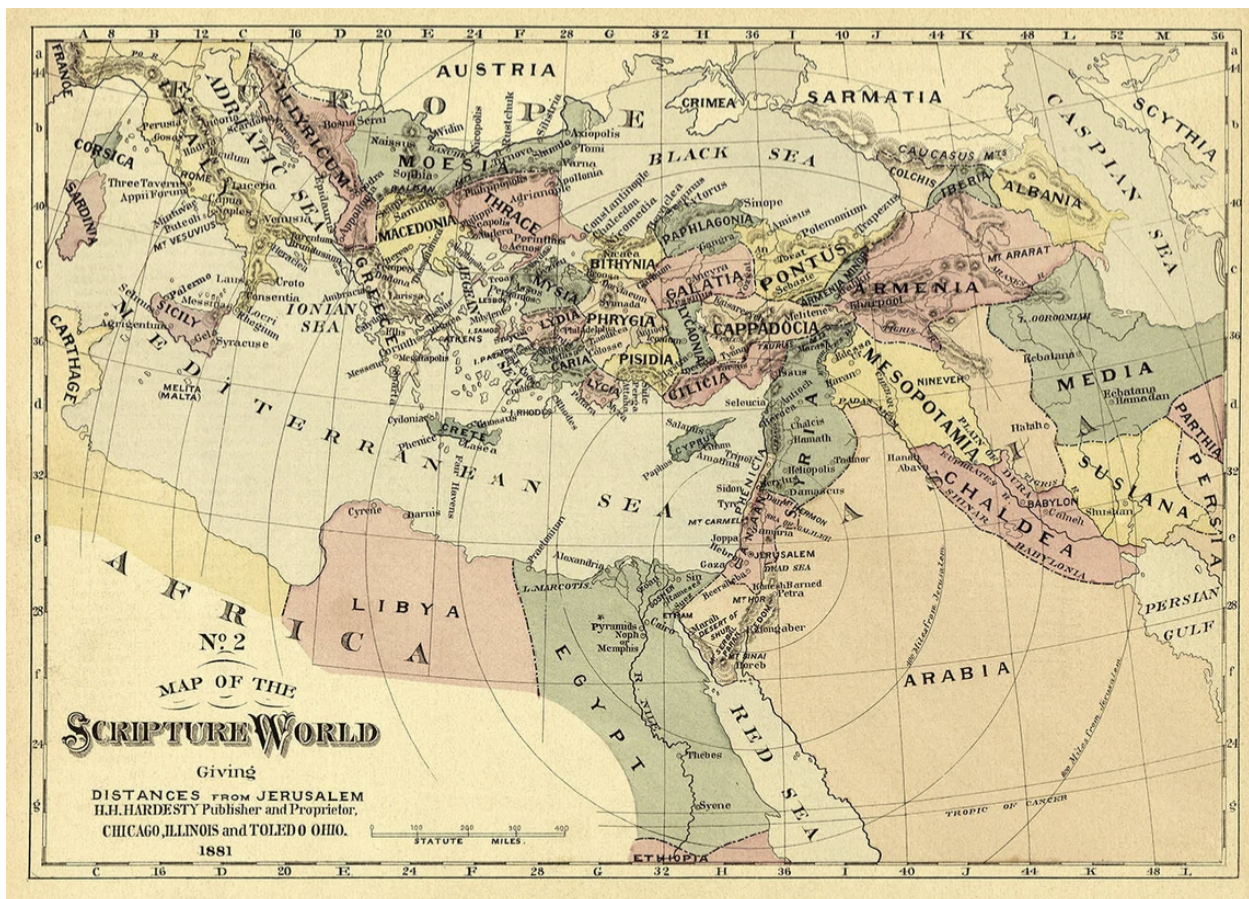
For the Jews of the first century, this was an important holiday. The Feast of Shavu’ot (Feast of Weeks) celebrated not only the gift of the covenant but also the beginning of the wheat harvest. Without a good harvest of wheat, famine and starvation would follow.



Sacrifices of the first fruits of the wheat harvest were made at the temple. There was music and flower parades and dancing and feasting. Jews traveled from far away lands to celebrate in Jerusalem. The city was overflowing with joyous people celebrating God with family and friends. The Jewish followers of Jesus were no exception. They, too, had come to celebrate as a group.

Read Acts 2:1-13.

- How did the Holy Spirit use sound and sight to manifest its presence with the people?
- We know that wind is often used to represent the Spirit. How does this new dimension of fire help us to understand the Holy Spirit better?
- What miraculous gift did those present receive? Remember that the word *glossa* in Greek means both tongue and language.
- How did the crowd outside witness this miracle? Where were the people in the crowd from? Look at the map and describe the extent of the countries involved.
- Why were they baffled and confused?
- How did some naysayers explain what was happening? How do Christians explain what was happening?



The Sermon

Peter may have been a knowledgeable fisherman, a passionate believer, and a truly devoted follower but preaching wasn't one of his strengths. However, just as Jesus had changed him, now the Holy Spirit was changing him, too. He was about to give the most important message of his life.

Read Acts 2:14-36.

- How does Peter explain what had just occurred that day with the help of the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-32)? What other events surrounding Jesus are connected to Joel's prophecy?
- Peter quotes two psalms by David, Psalm 16:8-11 and Psalm 110:1. What points is he making about Jesus when he quotes these familiar psalms?
- In verse 23 Peter acknowledges the participation of the Jews in the death of Jesus but also indicates that God was already aware of what would happen. When you participate in something you later regret, how does knowing that God already knew you were going to make that mistake affect you emotionally? When do you feel strong emotions about faith? Explain.
- This was a passionate message delivered by a passionate man. You could say he was "on fire" like a prophet of old. How do you feel when you hear a sermon that is delivered in a passionate way by a preacher that is "on fire"?
- When we speak to others about Jesus, how do we demonstrate our passion, our fire, to those listening?

Passion in Action

Through the passion of Peter's message, the fire of the Holy Spirit ignited the hearts of the listeners. The power of the Holy Spirit moved through the crowd to energize them and change their lives. United in the passion of the Spirit they spread the Word throughout the world.

Read Acts 2:37-47.

- The listeners were moved by Peter's message. When they asked what they could do, what was Peter's response?
- According to the scriptures, how many people were transformed by his words?
- What did the new believers do differently after being baptized and receiving the Holy Spirit?
- How did the lives of the apostles and believers change when they acted on their

passion for the teachings of Christ?

Ignite

Peter used the passion of the Holy Spirit to supercharge the message he gave to the onlookers in Jerusalem on that day of Pentecost. Do you need to supercharge your walk with God? How can we ignite the passion we receive from the Holy Spirit into actions that use our own personal gifts from the Spirit?

- Is your passion for Christ a slow burning ember, a warming flame, or a roaring fire? Or would you describe it differently?
- How can the way you live your life demonstrate the passion of your beliefs to those around you? What could you change to make your commitment more obvious?
- How does spending time in prayer help ignite the Spirit within you? In what way could you improve your prayer life?
- Listen to the songs below. Which of them stimulates the passion you have for Jesus - or is there another you would add to the list? Why not make a playlist that brings out your passion so you can play it when you need to energize?

Songs

▶ Way Maker (Live from Passion 2020) ft. Kristian Stanfill, Kari Jobe, Cody Carnes

▶ No Longer Slaves (Official Lyric Video) - Jonathan David and Melissa Helser | We ...

▶ Here I Am To Worship | Maranatha! Music (Lyric Video) composed by Tim Hughes, 2001.

▶ Holy Spirit - Lyrics - Jesus Culture - Kim Walker-Smith - in HD

▶ Hallelujah Chorus by Handel-Lyrics Composed by George Frideric Handel, lyrics by Charles Jennes, 1741.

▶ Amazing grace | latest | best version | with lyrics |original composed by Rev. John Newton, 1773.

▶ ODE TO JOY-JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE at ROYAL ALBERT HALL,LO...
tune "Ode to Joy" composed by Ludwig Van Beethoven, 1824, lyrics in English by Henry Van Dyke, 1907.

- Consider doing a daily devotional that speaks to you and relates to this lesson. Some suggestions are below, but there are many others.

Devotional Plans from YouVersion Bible app

The Holy Spirit Today by John Siebeling

Are We Flammable or Fireproof? By Reinhard Bonnke

Passion: Worthy of Your Name Devotional by Passion 2017

Prayer Changes Me by Andrea Rodriguez

Resources

Books

- Brand, Draper, England, ed., *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003)
- Gregory, S.W and Gregory, D., *Getting to Know the Holy Spirit: Study Guide* (Evansville: Vortex Publishing, 2017)
- Ryrie, Charles C., *The Holy Spirit* (Chicago: Moody Publishing, 1997)
- Strong, James, *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance Of the Bible* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996)
- Swindoll, Charles R., *Flying Closer to the Flame* (Dallas: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993)

Online

- <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/browse/search?query=Holy%20Spirit>
- <https://bible.knowing-jesus.com> (search on "Holy Spirit + prayer")
- <https://www.gotquestions.com> (search What is day of Pentecost)
- www.bible-history.com