



ENTER God's presence

Psalm 27 (selected verses)

The Lord is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?

Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
even then I will be confident.

Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.

Pray: Holy Spirit of God, open our hearts as we gather together. Where we are fearful, uncertain, defensive or tired, meet us with your presence and power. Teach us again that bravery and courage are not about pretending we are stronger or more confident than we really are, but rather about trusting that you are at work in and through ordinary people like us. *Amen.*



SHARE life together

1. Spend some time sharing together the ways you have seen God at work in your life since you last met.
2. Who is someone you know that you think of as 'brave'. What makes you see them that way?
3. Which of the following do you find most difficult: Speaking up, stepping out, or surrendering control? Why do you think that is?

Most people think bravery means fearlessness. Loud confidence. Big personalities. Strong certainty. But the disciples in Acts 2 don't begin as fearless heroes. They begin waiting behind closed doors — uncertain, vulnerable, and dependent.

Pentecost is not the story of naturally courageous people becoming spiritual superheroes. It's the story of what God does through ordinary people who make room for His Spirit.



VERSE for the week

"Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom your crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

Acts 2:36



REMEMBER this week

"Being brave means letting God be God, trusting Jesus as your saviour, and allowing the Holy Spirit to empower and guide you."

And maybe that raises an important question for us: What if bravery is not about becoming fearless... but about surrendering ourselves to God even while fear is still present?



LISTEN attentively

Read Acts 2:1-42 in your Bible or [HERE](#)

4. As you reflect on the story of Pentecost, what stands out to you in this moment?
5. Think about the character of Peter in this story. How is what you see here, different from the Peter you hear about in the story of Jesus arrest and crucifixion? (see Luke 22:54-62 for that story)
6. Are there any parts of Peter's address to the crowd, that seem particularly bold or courageous to you?
7. Try to imagine yourself in the place of one of the disciples in this story. What would your first reaction to these events be? How would you understand or try to explain what was happening?

At times it can be easy to forget that we have around 2,000 years worth of Christian history since the days in which Jesus physically walked the earth and the events of the day of Pentecost. We have thousands of years worth of dedicated and prayerful theological reflection on those events and endless commentaries and scholarly opinions about how these things should be understood. However, for Peter and the first apostles – there was no precedent, no example to follow when it comes to what to do after the Messiah is raised from the dead. No manual on how to ensure 'good order' when the Holy Spirit descends on a large group of people in a powerful way. The only thing the disciples had, was complete faith and trust in Jesus and his promises, and on that day of Pentecost, they were filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit to guide and the faith to follow his lead just those two things and yet that was enough to completely transform them.



GROW deeper

8. Why do you think the disciples needed the Holy Spirit before stepping into Jesus' mission?
9. What do you think is the difference between self-confidence and Spirit-led confidence? How might you tell the difference?
10. What 'fears' do you think most commonly stop Christians today from speaking, serving, inviting, praying, or stepping out in faith to proclaim Jesus today? How are they similar or different to what you imagine the first disciples felt at Pentecost?
11. On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were obviously granted wisdom by the Holy Spirit, to explain clearly to the crowds everything God had done through Jesus' death and resurrection. However, a while later in Acts 10, Peter – the same one preaching to the Pentecost crowds – is stuck and struggling to understand an important truth. What does Peter's experience suggest to you about the way the Holy Spirit equips us?



LIVE purposefully

The thing about bravery is that not every moment of every days requires it. Some days are mundane and routine. While those days are often a welcome reprieve from the more difficult and challenging ones, they also hold a hidden danger. It's in those times that we can begin to believe that we have everything under control ourselves and forget that we have a helper – one who is there not just for the tough times but also for the good ones, there to help us rest and be restored by the power and love of God for whatever God has in store for us next. It can be even harder to hand over those quiet restful times and surrender to God even there, so that he has you ready and prepared to trust him, not your own power and understanding when the tough time hits and it's time to get brave. And maybe the bravest thing a person can do is stop trying to stay in control long enough to say, "Holy Spirit, lead me."

12. Where do you most often feel hesitant, fearful or inadequate in your faith? Where do you think these feelings come from?
13. Is there an area of your life where you feel God might be asking you to surrender control and be lead more directly by Him? How might you set up a way to be accountable to someone in that area in the coming weeks?
14. Paul did not get up on the day of Pentecost and preach the gospel on his own – all the disciples were there together. Who is someone you could encourage, support or pray for this week so that you can be brave and courageous for God together?



PRAY intentionally

You might like to spend some time praying for one another and the areas you shared are a struggle for you in your journey of following Jesus as the moment. Alternatively, you can pray together the following prayer or use the Lord's prayer. Maybe praying out loud together is a way for you all to be brave and do something you usually find uncomfortable. However your group decides to do it, spend some time in prayer and ask Jesus to fill you with the Holy Spirit to equip you to follow wherever he leads you.

- ***Holy Spirit, Thank you that you work through ordinary people. Where we are fearful, make us faithful. Where we are hesitant, make us willing. Where we cling to control, teach us surrender. Give us courage not simply to appear strong, but to trust that you are strong and that you are present and at work within us. Lead us to live boldly in the name of Jesus, Amen***



BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross in the air as you say...

[Name], Be strong and courageous, for the Holy Spirit of God is at work in you. Amen