

Word notes Sunday 31/5/09 John Hummersone
Living in the Spirit – Pentecost – The Birthday of the Church

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Acts 2:1-43 is Saint Luke the Doctor's account of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Christian Church – Happy Birthday Church! Here are some bullet points from John's message on Sunday:

- **Notice** – Although the disciples and others did not know exactly what to expect, Jesus had told them to wait until the Counsellor was given (John 14:15-31).
- **The Festival** – This Pentecost day was a Jewish festival coming at the end of the Festival of Weeks (50 days after the 2nd day of Passover).
- **The Arrival** – compare with the account in 1 Kings 19:11 onwards – when the Lord passed by Elijah there was wind, earthquake, fire and then a whisper. At Pentecost the coming of the HS was accompanied by wind and fire but also a deep change in those present. God may not speak to you in noisy ways but quiet ways. Seeing they apparent noise and hubbub some ridiculed but many were cut to the core – “What must we do?” They asked. This is typical of the mix of responses any population of people might make to any event, the question for us is: How do I respond to this gift of God?
- **The Preach** – Peter gets up and preaches “in the Spirit.” – which is how all preaching should be. It's the same with our everyday conversations with each other and those in the world. Peter picked out key verses from Scripture (he was speaking to Jews and converts to Judaism), amplified on them and made them relevant to those present and linked them to Jesus – whose life, death and resurrection many of those present had witnessed directly.
- **The Response** – People were deeply challenged, yet the promise that this gift of life was for them, their families and all who were far off (aside – a reference to Gentiles?) resulted in many taking up the offer and 3000 being added to the church.
- **The Result** – the Church. NB v 42 – they “devoted themselves”.

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

1, Does anyone in the group feel they need to make a clear response to God as the 3000 did on that Pentecost Day either to accept ‘this Jesus’ as their saviour or to reaffirm their commitment to follow him?

2, John challenged us to be “less concerned about how much of the Holy Spirit we have and more with how much He has of us”. Hand out some paper and pencils/pens. Ask each person to draw a large circle filling most of the page – this is a clock from waking to sleeping. Ask folk to colour in the segments of a typical day that they “give” to the Spirit. NB this could be prayer, quiet time etc but also keeping in touch - ‘touching-base” during a busy day – before a meeting, on the way to school, is the HS included when a difficult issue arises, when something joyful happens?

Ask each to say one or two things about their clock and what the segments mean. How we can change to increase the shaded areas into the blank ones? Can we do something about the sleeping time?

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Who are the people the Cell is seeking to reach and how? Devise an action plan for the time until Summer and into the holidays.