

TAKE-HOME • SESSION 7

Pentecost**What We Found**

Six weeks of promises landed on one morning. A sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind: the ruah of Genesis, the four winds of Ezekiel's valley, the breath of Easter evening, arriving at gale force. Tongues as of fire were distributed and RESTED on EACH ONE of them: the abiding the prophets promised and the Jordan revealed, now one flame per person in a company that included the women and Mary (Acts 1:14). Peter stood up and quoted the passage we found three weeks ago, and said the words that resolved everything: "this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel." Moses wished it; Joel promised it; Peter pointed at it. And we discovered the mountain underneath the morning: Pentecost fell on the feast that Jewish tradition links with the Law given at Sinai, and the Church has long read the two days together. Fire on the mountain then, fire on each head now; law on stone then, the Spirit writing on hearts now; three thousand fell at the golden calf, three thousand were baptized at Pentecost. The letter kills; the Spirit gives life. And Peter's offer reached across every table in our room: the promise is to you, and to your children.

Voices of the Church**VOICES OF THE CHURCH**

St. Augustine of Hippo (*On the Spirit and the Letter*)

At Sinai the law was written on stone outside the people, and about three thousand fell for breaking it. At Pentecost the Spirit was given, writing the law on hearts, and about three thousand came to life. Same God, same law, new address, opposite result. The letter kills; the Spirit gives life.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. John Chrysostom (*Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles*)

The Spirit came upon disciples who were together, of one accord, persevering in prayer. And the one gift arrived divided into tongues, one resting on each, so that no one could doubt that each person, not just the group, had received their own share of the one Spirit.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Cyril of Jerusalem (*Catechetical Lectures, Lecture 17*)

At Pentecost the Spirit came in fire, but a fire that does not destroy: tongues of fire, not to burn but to save, giving light and warmth without consuming what they touched. The apostles were not scorched; they were kindled.

Live It This Week

Parent and candidate together. Pray this beloved traditional prayer to the Holy Spirit together once a day, until you both know it by heart: "Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth."

Memory Verse

"For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him." (Acts 2:39)

Table Talk

One question for the drive home or the dinner table: The fire rested on each one, and the one Spirit made the many into one Church: both at once. If a flame with your name on it landed tomorrow, what do you think it would be for?

Before Next Session

Read Acts 8:1-17, twice.

Catechism references for this session: CCC 696, 731, 732.