

AstepFURTHER

DIVING DEEPER INTO SUNDAY'S SERMON

A resource of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale for individuals, families, and small groups that offers deeper insights into the previous Sunday's scripture text and sermon.

From the Sermon on 6/8/25 "Embracing God's Grace at Pentecost"

Scripture: Acts 2:2-21

Opening Prayer: "God of transformation, we gather today with open hearts and minds, seeking to understand your Word and the movement of your Spirit in our lives. As we study the events of Pentecost, may we be reminded of your unending grace and the call to live out your purposes. Guide our thoughts and discussions and fill us with your Spirit. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Understanding the Context: (Explore aspects of the passage like place, adjacent scripture, and other elements)

1. What was the significance of the festival of Pentecost for the Jewish people, and how does it relate to the events in Acts 2?
2. How can we remain open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives?

Key Themes: (Embracing God's Grace at Pentecost)

1. How does Peter's transformation from denial to proclamation illustrate the theme of redemption?
2. What does the pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost signify about God's relationship with His people?

Application and Action:

1. In what ways do we sometimes feel disqualified from God's purposes, and how can the story of Pentecost encourage us?
2. How can we remain open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives?
3. What steps can you take to embrace God's grace and allow Him to use your past failures for His purposes?
4. How can you actively participate in the mission of the Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit?

Group Discussion:

If you are studying with others, discuss your reflections and insights.

1. Share a time when you felt restless waiting for God's activity in your life. How did you respond, and what did you learn from that experience?
2. Discuss how the concept of grace challenges or affirms your understanding of God's expectations for holiness and obedience.

Closing Prayer:

“Gracious God, thank you for the gift of your Spirit and the reminder that your grace is always reaching out to us. As we leave this study, may we carry the lessons of Pentecost in our hearts, living as witnesses of your love and redemption. Empower us to be vessels of your grace in the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.”

Journal Prompt: Reflect on a moment in your life when you felt you had gone too far for God's grace to reach you. Write about how the story of Pentecost and Peter's redemption speaks to that experience and what it means for your journey of faith.

