

# Life Group Lesson

Hope-God Makes Sense out of Nonsense • Week of May 31

1. Have you ever flown a kite? Briefly share an experience with wind that left an impression on you.

Victorious over death, Jesus tells His disciples:

*“And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven” (Luke 24:49).*

God’s redemption of the world has been in place from the beginning. Each key event fulfilled by God’s Christ – His physical birth, the cross, the resurrection, and the birth of the church—were not after-thoughts, or impulsive reactions to the plight of humanity. From the beginning, God has been in control. The ransom for sinners was chosen before planet earth took form and the clock began ticking—

*“God chose Him as your ransom long before the world began, but He has now revealed Him to you in these last days” (1 Peter 1:20).*

Whether it’s a gentle breeze that cools and refreshes, or a mighty wind-storm that causes severe damage—the wind is powerful. This weekend, we celebrate the fourth event of the Four Key Events in the New Testament—Pentecost. Wear your red because a new wind is blowing! Put up the sail, harness the power, and move swiftly forward with the glorious Gospel Message:

*“So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking Him, ‘Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?’ He replied, ‘The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and time, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth’” (Acts 1:6-8).*

**Read Acts 2:1-21**

For ten days, one hundred-twenty people prayed in the upper room in preparation of God’s Spirit. The Holy Spirit came like a mighty windstorm and ‘filled the house where they were sitting’ (v2). But often, when the Lord is working miracles, skeptics misjudge: ‘They’re just drunk, that’s all.’ Peter quickly interrupts and speaks truth: “Make no mistake about this... What you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel... ‘In the last days, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophecy, your young men will see vision and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophecy” (vv17-18).

2. Joel 2:28-29 is still being fulfilled. Discuss with your Life Group how a ‘new wind’ of God’s Spirit is blowing today – in your life personally, in your family, and in the church (not the institutional church but the *living* church, the Bride of Christ).

Name at least *one way* we can raise our sail and harness the Spirit’s power.

As we harness the Spirit’s power we go in the Spirit’s direction. Jesus tells us to remain in the Vine (John 15:4,6). Initially, we feel independent when we do our own thing and go our own way, but a branch not surrendered to Christ (the Vine) is not free, it is dead (see 365 Days with E. Stanley Jones, p.109). In Acts 2:2, once the Spirit comes into the house, the Spirit moves the disciples *out* to be witnesses. Just as the Spirit drives Christ into the desert to be tested (Mark 1:12) the Spirit will drive us into wilderness testings. Just as Peter steps out of the boat to be with Christ, we must step upon uncharted waters where our only hope is His Presence.

3. Where is the Lord calling you to go? What is Christ asking you to do?

Many of us, without even realizing it, have allowed ‘tolerance’ to become a god. We must remember that injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere. And whether our crime is a sin of commission (volatile expressions of anger) or a sin of omission (remaining silent, indifferent, or apathetic) – Christ will one day call each one of us into account (see John 5:25-30).

Before you *go* or *do*, remember to wait until you receive power from Heaven. Pray. Be bold. Ask the Lord now to reveal His assignment, even immediate instruction, to you and perhaps a team of other brothers and sisters. Remain in the Vine. Remember Jesus sends disciples out in pairs or teams. Look up. Listen. What is His Spirit telling you?

**Read Acts 2:32-41**

4. Close by praying for our nation and our world. Jesus Christ is the only answer. When the Gospel is proclaimed (and lived out!) the new wind of God's Spirit will blow. Racism and elitism will bow. Pride and arrogance will kneel. Lustful thoughts, worldly desires, and uncontrollable appetites will diminish and come into proper perspective. The Lord Jesus Christ alone will save us and bring *new* life.

*“Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’ Peter replied, ‘Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’”*  
(Acts 2:37-38).

**One Year Bible Reading**

May 31: 2 Samuel 17:1-29, John 19:23-42, Psalm 119:129-152, Proverbs 16:12-13  
June 1: 2 Samuel 18:1-19:10, John 20:1-31, Psalm 119:153-176, Proverbs 16:14-15  
June 2: 2 Samuel 19:11-20:13, John 21:1-25, Psalm 120:1-7, Proverbs 16:16-17  
June 3: 2 Samuel 20:14-21:22, Acts 1:1-26, Psalm 121:1-8, Proverbs 16:18  
June 4: 2 Samuel 22:1-23:23, Acts 2:1-47, Psalm 122:1-9, Proverbs 16:19-20  
June 5: 2 Samuel 23:24-24:25, Acts 3:1-26, Psalm 123:1-4, Proverbs 16:21-23  
June 6: 1 Kings 1:1-53, Acts 4:1-37, Psalm 124:1-8, Proverbs 16:24

# Hope

God Makes Sense out of Nonsense

Text: Acts 2:1-8, 32-41

## A New Wind is Blowing...

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## Plain Truth

Without open \_\_\_\_\_ we miss the  
\_\_\_\_\_.

May 30 & 31, 2020