

Student Make Up Work

February 26 - Lesson "Pentecost and the Early Church"

Parents, this make-up work should be done together with you and your student. There will be questions to discuss verbally and questions to answer in written format. Please sign the bottom of the sheet and return to the sermon note drop off box.

Read Acts 1: 12 - 26

- Disciples returned to Jerusalem because Jesus told them to before he ascended into heaven.
- They needed to replace Judas. 12 was a holy number, they wanted to preserve the group of twelve
- It was between Joseph called Barsabas and Matthias
- They decided to cast lots. They considered that God's decision and not theirs. It fell on Matthias

Casting lots was a method used by the Jews of the Old Testament and by the Christian disciples prior to Pentecost to determine the will of **God**. Lots could be sticks with markings, stones with symbols, etc., that were thrown into a small area and then the result was interpreted. There are many instances of casting lots in the Bible.

It seems to be used when important decisions needed to be made, but there was not enough guidance that had already been provided through wisdom and/or Scripture. Also, God never condemned the casting of Lots in the Bible.

In the New Testament, after Judas killed himself, the disciples cast lots to see who would be his replacement. The lot fell to Matthias, but this was before Pentecost. Since the New Testament does not have any instance of Christians casting lots to discern the will of God after Pentecost, we conclude that after the arrival of the Holy Spirit, we do not need to rely on that method but instead must rely on the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the further revelation found in the New Testament.

Read Acts 2: 1 -21 Day of Pentecost

Watch Video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOm1DMZJITs&feature=player_detailpage

- Pentecost represents fifty (Jewish festival that comes fifty days after Passover)
- Many Jews from all over would have come to Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost (15 languages listed in the Bible)
- Miracle was the many languages spoken by the disciples
- Peter gave a sermon
- Preached to repent, be baptized, three thousand were added (devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, breaking of the bread, and prayer)
- Considered the birth of the Christian Church
- Certainly the disciples met before this time to pray, share stories of Jesus, and enjoy fellowship of believers
- Wasn't until the coming of the Holy Spirit that they were considered to be "the church"

Read Acts 2: 43 - 47 Life among the Believers

- Followers were to sell their possessions and distribute all they had to those in need
- Early church spent time together, participated in Holy Communion, Praised God
- Lord added to their number

Answer Questions

1. What was different after they received the Holy Spirit?

2. What is the Holy Spirit’s job?

3. Why different languages?

4. How is the life of the Believers of the early church the same or different than for us today?

Small Catechism: Read the Third Article of the Apostle’s Creed and it’s meaning

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

5. What does Luther say the Holy Spirit can do?

6. In what ways do you feel the Holy Spirit working in your life?

Pentecost Activity

Draw a mural / picture of the different ways the Holy Spirit comes to work in our lives.

Parents and Students Discuss the following questions

7. How do we share our faith with others around us?

Give examples of wrong ways to share our faith

Give examples of right ways to share our faith

8. When was the last time you invited someone to worship?

9. Can you think of someone you would like to invite to church with you?

What is stopping you?

10. How can you use the Holy Spirit to help you invite others to worship?

Close in Prayer with one another.

Parent Signature: _____