

# Lesson 7

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# The Day of Pentecost

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## The Day of Pentecost

### **Objectives:**

- Define the meaning of the word “Pentecost.”
- Compare and contrast the Old Testament and New Testament Pentecost.
- Describe what Pentecost pictures and how it fits into God’s plan of salvation.
- Explain why we need God’s Holy Spirit and identify the benefits of this special gift.
- Explain why Pentecost affects the way we live our lives—including our relationships with God and people.

### **Memory Scripture:**

*Acts 2:38-39 (NIV) Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call.*

### **Review God’s Plan**

- What does God want? He wants a family!
- To bring many sons to glory (**Hebrews 2:9-11**)
- We are children of God (**Romans. 8:15-17**)

What steps does God provide for us to understand His plan and how we can become a part of His family?

- The Feasts of the Lord, the Holy Days (**Leviticus 23**)
- His Law—The 10 Commandments (**Exodus 20:1-17**)

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## THE DAY OF PENTECOST

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### What does Pentecost mean?

- Pentecost comes from the Greek word *pentekoste* which means fiftieth.
- Pentecost is sometimes called The Feast of Weeks or The Feast of First Fruits.

### Why would Pentecost be called the Feast of Weeks? (Exodus 34:22)

- We are told to count 50 days to the day after the seventh Sabbath (**Leviticus 23:16**). The Day of Pentecost is 50 days after the Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

### TO DO

Use a calendar and count 50 days from the Sabbath after the first day of Unleavened Bread.

#### How many weeks?

### Why would Pentecost be called the Feast of Fruit Fruits?

- God uses the physical to help us understand the spiritual. God's Holy Days, His plan of salvation, centers around the physical harvest seasons. What is a harvest?
- **How many harvest seasons are there? When are they?**
  - In the land of Palestine where the ancient Israelites lived, there were two harvest seasons, one that was early and one that was later in the year. The early harvest was a small harvest. It represented the first fruits, the first of what was to come later. The later harvest was larger.

### What does the Day of Pentecost picture?

- Pentecost pictures those God is calling to be a part of His family now. God is "harvesting" people for eternal life in His Kingdom.
- Those God is calling now are called first fruits because they are a part of the smaller, first harvest. God will call a much greater number of people to be a part of His family during the second, larger harvest.
- Jesus Christ, our older brother, is called the first of the first fruits because He is the first Son to be resurrected into the family of God (**1 Corinthians 15:20**). He is the firstborn of many brethren (**Romans 8:29**).

## **God gave some special gifts on the Day of Pentecost**

- After the Israelites left Egypt and camped at Mount Sinai, He gave the people His Law in codified, written form on the Day of Pentecost. What is His Law?
- On the first Pentecost after Jesus Christ was resurrected, God gave His Holy Spirit to those who obeyed and believed (**Acts 2:1-4**). What is the Holy Spirit?
  - No matter how hard we try, we are going to sin. God's Holy Spirit helps us have more Godly thoughts, attitudes, and actions.
  - Because God's law is all about love (**Romans 13:8-10**), God, through His Holy Spirit, helps us to keep His law and love one another as He commands us to do (**Matthew 22:37-39**).
  - God's Holy Spirit sets us apart. Anyone who is called and chosen by God is included with Christ as God's first fruits (**James 1:18**).
  - The Holy Spirit is given to those who repent and are baptized (**Acts 2:38-39**).

## **How do we observe The Day of Pentecost?**

- **Leviticus 23:21** tells us that Pentecost was commanded to be observed throughout all generations. *Your descendants are to observe this regulation for all time to come, no matter where they live* (**Leviticus 23:21**, Good News Translation).
  - Pentecost is an annual Sabbath, sanctified (made holy) and set apart by God.
  - We are to gather together so that we can learn more about God's plan and His law.
  - We are to bring an offering.

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## Questions From UCG Fundamental Beliefs

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*These questions are intended to check parents and older teen's understanding of the topic. There is one best answer to each question; select that best answer.*

### **The following happened on the day of Pentecost:**

- A. The Israelites received the Commandments
- B. God gave His Holy Spirit after the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- C. Both a and b

### **Pentecost represents:**

- A. The first spiritual harvest of mankind—The Church
- B. Jesus Christ as the first of first fruits
- C. Both a and b
- D. The only harvest in God's plan of salvation

### **The Holy Spirit is:**

- A. A person that helps us to live God's way
- B. God's power—a gift - within us from laying on of hands at baptism
- C. Part of the Trinity
- D. An animal

### **The Holy Spirit:**

- A. Is a gift
- B. Helps us to develop Godly fruit
- C. Helps us to obey God's commandments
- D. Is essential to being identified as a child of God
- E. All of the above

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## Additional resources you can use for your family studies

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### **UCG Booklets**

- [The Feast of Pentecost: The Firstfruits of God's Harvest](#)
- [God's Festivals in the New Testament](#)

### **Beyond Today Videos**

- [Pentecost: The Power of God in Your Life](#) by Darris McNeely
- [God's Holy Day Plan: Blueprint for Salvation](#) by Beyond Today Team

### **UCG Articles**

- [What Is the Holy Spirit?](#) by Peter Eddington
- [The Remarkable Lesson of God's Feast of Firstfruits](#) by Bill Bradford
- [The Biblical Feast of Firstfruits: How It Explains a Great Mystery](#) by Bill Bradford

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## INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE: PENTECOST DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Here are some possible questions that are especially suitable for older preteen and teens.

### **Objectives**

- Explain why we need God's Holy Spirit and identify the benefits of this special gift.
- Explain why Pentecost affects the way we live our lives—including our relationships with God and people.

Pentecost is a time of gifts from God to His people. It commemorates the giving of God's Law and the giving God's Holy Spirit to the Church.

### **Why is Pentecost important for youth in the Church?**

- It gives us purpose. Pentecost pictures those God is calling to be a part of His family now. God is "harvesting" people for eternal life in His Kingdom (**Romans 8:29, 1 Corinthians 15:20**).
- This calling extends to children and grandchildren of those who have received the Holy Spirit. (**Acts 2:38-40**)

### **What is the Holy Spirit and why do we need it?**

- The Holy Spirit is God's power. It helps us to keep His commandments, produce the fruit of the Spirit, and do His will. Think of a cell phone (us) with or without a charged battery or network connection (HS). It is useless without a power source or network, but can do amazing things when connected.

### **Why would Pentecost affect the way we live our lives right now?**

- Relationships with God—gives understanding, helps us keep commandments, produce fruit (**Galatians 5:22**). We make different choices when we know God's plan for us.
- **Romans 8:14, James 1:18** God's children/ first fruits are led by His Spirit.