

# CONNECT GROUP GUIDE

# T R I P E N T E C O S T I T Y



## **PENTECOST**

Ten days after the ascension of Christ and fifty days after his resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples on the day of Pentecost.

Pentecost was an established Jewish festival also known as the Feast of Weeks, which was a harvest festival. It drew people from many nations back to Jerusalem (Leviticus 23:15-21; Deuteronomy 16:16).

Pentecost symbolises a new beginning. It celebrates the unleashing of the Holy Spirit on the world and the empowering of the church to reach the world with the gospel.

Pentecost is a great festival of the Church.

We celebrate:

- our gratitude for the faithfulness of Christ in fulfilling his promise to send "another counsellor" (John 14:16);
- the work of the Spirit in renewing all of creation;
- the Spirit's power for the mission of reaching the world with the Gospel.

The traditional colour for Pentecost is red, after the flames described in Acts 2:3

## **TRINITY**

While every Christian worship service is a wonderful celebration of the Trinity, Trinity Sunday focuses explicitly on the mystery, power and beauty of the triune God. Our Christian identity and mission are given to us as we are baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Our worship is directed to the Father, mediated through the Son, and prompted by the Holy Spirit. At its best, our worship is also an expression of the unity and common purpose of the church, which Jesus prayed would reflect the unity between himself and God (John 17:20-21).

Trinity Sunday, celebrated one week after Pentecost, marks the acknowledgement that all three persons of the Trinity exist together from eternity to eternity. This is a celebration linked with a doctrine rather than an event (like Christmas or Easter), which is a summary of scriptural teaching about God's being.

# MAY 19

# P E N T E C O S T

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*... the coming of the Holy Spirit*

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## INTRO

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Has there been a time when you surprised yourself by doing something that you never thought you would be able to do?

**Read Acts 2:1-24, 36-41**

1. What does this passage teach us about mission?
2. What is the extent of the outpouring of the Spirit?
3. Dreams, visions and prophecy. What does this mean in practical terms today?

# SERMON NOTES

4. Put in your own words what you see as the heart of Peter's gospel message.

5. What response is required to the gospel message?

6. What does Peter say are the benefits of receiving the gospel message?

7. What does this passage teach you about being a witness for Christ today?

### EXTENSION QUESTIONS

8. On a Bible map look up the locations from which the Jews in the diaspora had travelled to be in Jerusalem.

9. How does Peter bring together both God's sovereignty and human responsibility in his message?

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*Pray*

- Pray for the church to know the power of the Holy Spirit for its witness today as on the day of Pentecost
- Pray for clarity of vision for what God has called you to do to promote the Kingdom of God
- Pray for revival in our day prompted by the Holy Spirit

# SERMON NOTES





# SERMON NOTES

3. Why is Matthew 28:18 an important passage for establishing the doctrine of the Trinity?

4. What are the strengths and limitations of illustrations of the Trinity? e.g. 3 leaf clover, H<sub>2</sub>O being ice, water and steam? Is there one illustration that has particularly helped you?

5. Who do you find easiest to relate to in the Trinity - Father, Son or Holy Spirit? Which member of the Trinity would you like to get to know better?

6. What other passages in the Bible help you to better understand the Trinity?

#### EXTENSION QUESTION

7. Read the Athanasian Creed (*at the back of "A Prayer Book for Australia", or use the link below.*) Does this change any of your current thinking about the Trinity? Which sentence in that Creed is key for your understanding of the Trinity?

<https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/109017/Athanasian-Creed.pdf>

*Pray*

- Take time to be still and contemplate the holiness of God and the mystery of God being three persons yet only one God
- Pray for those sects which don't accept the beauty, mystery and truth of the Trinity
- Pray for everyone in the church to come to a bigger understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

# SERMON NOTES



*Living to Love and  
Proclaim Jesus*

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