



PENTECOST SUNDAY

featuring THE SERVICE OF
CONFIRMATION

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

May 19, 2024

Pentecost / Confirmation Sunday

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for choosing to involve us in building your kingdom. Thank you for the people you've used in our lives to help us grow in our faith. Today we pray that you would help us remember that you have strategically placed us where we are so that we can protect and direct. We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV)

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

May 19, 2024

Pentecost / Confirmation Sunday

INTRODUCTION

This small group guide was originally used with the “Come and See” sermon series in June 2019.

Most of us wound up at church because someone invited us. That dynamic has been in place since the earliest days of the church. People are drawn into relationship with Jesus when someone invites them to come and see. Over the past two thousand years, the church - the life-changing, world-altering movement kicked off by Jesus - has grown and grown because when we experience something great, we invite others to experience it too.

There is a difference between your faith being personal and your faith being private. A relationship with Jesus is deeply personal, but it's not meant to be hidden. That's because other people come and see Jesus for themselves and enter into a deeply personal relationship with him when they see others' relationships with him. We've been given a tremendous opportunity to be a living example; to point others toward a Savior who loves them.

QUESTIONS

1. When you hear the word “church” do you tend to think of a place or people? What factors have shaped the way you view the church?
2. Think about a time when you changed something you believed. Did the change happen because someone convinced you with words or because of a personal experience? Explain.
3. Read Matthew 5:13-16 (on page 1). What are some practical ways that you are “salt and light” in the lives of people in your circle of influence?
4. Talk about a person God placed in your life in order to draw you into relationship with him. In what ways did that person's influence provide you with protection and direction?
5. Have you ever been around people who seemed so far from God that being salt and light in their lives felt like a waste of time? What did you do? What happened?

FINAL APPLICATION

In what area of life are you tempted to be foolish? What is one thing you can do to better position your light for maximum influence on the people around you?