



The American Anglican Council's "Anglican Traditions" videos are free for anyone to use. These facilitator notes are meant to act as an aid to getting the most out of the "Fire in the Fireplace" videos and are designed for small group use. The series is divided in to a prologue and 17 lessons with each having its own study guide and facilitator notes. Many thanks to Dolly McLemore of Christ Church Montgomery, AL, whose work forms the basis for these study guides. Find other videos at www.AnglicanTraditions.com.

These facilitator notes are for Lesson 7: The Holy Spirit Universalizes Missions

Canon Phil Ashley

Notes: Emphasize **bolded** text.

Acts 2:5-19 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. **4** **All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.**

5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. **6** And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. **7** **Amazed** and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? **9** Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretans and Arabs—**in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.** **12** All were **amazed** and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' **13** But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. **15** Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. **16** No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

17 "In the last days it will be, God declares,
that **I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,**
and your sons and your daughters shall **prophesy,**
and your young men shall see **visions,**
and your old men shall dream **dreams.**

18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days **I will pour out my Spirit;**
and they shall prophesy.

19 And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

20 The sun shall be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Canon Ashey states that all the nations were gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Weeks, or First Fruits/Pentecost.

1. Why does Canon Ashey say that Pentecost was the "reverse" of the curse of Babel?

Genesis 11 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)

11 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. ² And as they migrated from the east,^[a] they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. ³ And they said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.' And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. ⁴ Then they said, '**Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.**' ⁵ The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. ⁶ And the Lord said, 'Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; **nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.** ⁷ Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech.' ⁸ So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. ⁹ Therefore it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused^[b] the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

2. What did the people hear?
3. What are some of the ways people receive messages from the Spirit?
4. How was the prophecy in Joel 2 fulfilled?
5. What has been your personal experience with Holy Spirit?

Optional: I Believe in the Holy Spirit, Michael Green

Chapter 5 - The Spirit in Mission

The Spirit universalizes mission. (Page 81) "Luke clearly interprets Pentecost as the fulfillment of the prophecy of John the Baptist, which he quotes in Acts 1:5. It is the fiery baptism of Holy Spirit which John looked forward to. **Hence the emphasis Luke gives on the physical manifestation to the disciples of tongues of fire and rushing wind, which equipped them for their mission, just as the physical coming of the Spirit upon Jesus 'in bodily form, as of a dove' (Luke 3:22) equipped him for his ministry.** Once baptized in the fiery power of the Spirit which had been in Jesus, the disciples at once interpret it as the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy about the availability of the Spirit in the last days, and proclaim the good news to the representative crowd from 'every nation under heaven' which had gathered in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost."

Notes: Refer to the Old Testament manifestations of the Spirit. Fire: **Genesis 15:17, Exodus 13:21, Exodus 19:18, Exodus 24:17.** Wind: **Genesis 1:2**

6. What do the terms "mission" or "missionary" mean to you and what do you see as the role of the Holy Spirit in missions?