



Discussion Guide

Date: 6/8/2025

Sermon Title: Where can I find community?

Scripture: Acts 2:1-13

This discussion guide is a layout to be used with a group or class. We have included opening and closing prayers to start and end your group. The guide may be used for personal or family reflection as well.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and living God, as we gather, open our hearts to Your presence. Speak to us in ways we can understand. Make this time one of connection, grace, and transformation. Help us move from strangers to community, united by Your love and purpose. -Amen.

Opening Question: (choose one question)

1. Have you ever been delayed or waited while on a trip? Share your experience.
2. Think of a time when you traveled somewhere unfamiliar and ended up feeling surprisingly “at home.” What made the difference — what helped you feel welcomed and included?

Digging into the Word:

1. Read Acts 2:1–13 aloud together. What stands out to you in this passage — a word, phrase, or image? Why?
2. Imagine being in that crowd from every nation under heaven. What do you think it felt like to suddenly hear the story of God's mighty acts in your own language?
3. Verse 12 says the crowd was “amazed and perplexed.” What do you think was surprising or confusing about what was happening? What might have made it hard for some to believe?
4. Pentecost was a pilgrimage festival. People traveled from far away to worship — but what they experienced was far more than what they expected. How have you experienced unexpected transformation in your own journey of faith? Explain.
5. The Holy Spirit broke through cultural and language barriers to create shared understanding and belonging. What divides today might the Spirit still be calling the Church to bridge? How can we participate in that work? What divides FUMCR or what in our community could we help bridge our differences?
6. Consider further reading: Galatians 5:22-26 about the fruit of being filled with the Spirit as well as Paul's writing in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 on how are you using your gifts to build the church?

Wesleyan Perspective:

7. John Wesley believed that “Christianity is essentially a social religion... to turn it into a solitary religion is to destroy it.” How does this quote from Wesley connect with the Pentecost story? How does the Holy Spirit transform isolated individuals into a Spirit-filled community?
8. In the Wesleyan tradition, the Spirit’s work is both personal and communal — renewing hearts and forming a holy community. Where do you see that happening in your life or in our church today?

Sermon Questions:

9. To wait on the Lord is to trust on God’s timing according to Pastor Clayton. Have you ever waited for the Lord? Did you find that easy or hard? Why?
10. The sermon mentions Isaiah 40:31: "Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength." How have you experienced renewal through waiting on God?
11. What does it mean to you to be "filled with the Spirit"? How can we recognize the Holy Spirit's work in our lives?
12. In the sermon, Pastor Clayton quotes John Wesley, “Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion?” How can we embody this in our church and community? Do you think this is possible?

Applying it:

13. How can we cultivate patience and trust in God's timing when faced with unexpected delays or waiting periods in our lives?
14. How does this story challenge or inspire your understanding of the Church? What does it say about who belongs?
15. In what ways can we use periods of waiting to build community and find joy, like Clayton's father did in the airport?
16. How are you being encouraged to invite others into this community of FUMCR? What fears or hesitations do you face when it comes to sharing your faith?

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank You, God, for meeting us here through Your Spirit. As we go, bind us together in love and send us out to welcome others as You have welcomed us. Let our lives reflect the grace we’ve shared today. -Amen.

WAYS TO RESPOND (or challenges for you this week)

1. Look for opportunities to build community in unexpected places or situations. Be intentional about engaging with others, even during inconveniences or delays.
2. Identify one person in your life who is different from you (culturally, politically, or in beliefs). Make an effort to connect with them and find common ground.
3. Practice being more aware of the Holy Spirit's presence in your daily life. Keep a journal of moments where you feel God's love prompting you to action.