

SERMON GUIDES

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with the key questions, add in any optional scriptures and questions if needed, then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

BE LOVE | NLI Weekend

01.

INTRODUCTION

This week we hear a message from Rev. Tom Berlin, Lead Pastor of Floris UMC, as we seek to improve how we live out the Greatest Commandment personally and as a church.

02.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Acts 2:1-13

1. Rev. Berlin explained that he was blessed with the ability to spot talent and see things in people that others did not see. Do you believe that this type of vision is an ability, an intentional choice, or both? Explain. Has someone ever seen talent and potential in you when you and/or others did not see it or have you ever seen it in others? Describe the circumstances and impact on you and others.
2. The story and picture of a young child choosing to comfort a crying classmate was shared. Discuss your reactions and insights. Do you agree that "That moment is an instinct moment"? Why or why not? Discuss your reactions to the statement "I wish every Christian could be like that."
3. What had just happened in the weeks leading up to Pentecost described in **Acts 2**? Why had Jesus given instructions to stay together, and what would they have missed out on had they not obeyed His instructions? Explain and discuss your reactions to the F.O.M.O. (Fear of Missing Out) discussed by Rev. Berlin. What makes it so "everybody wants to belong to a new community?"
4. Discuss the importance and relationship of the first Pentecost and the Holy Spirit. What did the Spirit enable people to do that day, and why was this so amazing? What did people do with the Spirit-given ability to speak in other languages? (**v. 11**) What were the reactions of people seeing this miracle? (**v. 12-13**)
5. Discuss the relationship between the Holy Spirit coming at Pentecost and doing what the Lord calls us to do in fulfilling the Great Commission. (**Mathew 28:16-20**)
6. Explain the statement "We have to long to belong to the way of Christ" and your reaction to it. How does **Isaiah 40:3** relate? Do you long to belong to the way of Christ? Do you long to belong to the Lord?
7. What did the apostle Paul write in **Romans 12:5** about belonging as related to the body of Christ? Explain what "the way of Christ" looks like. Why would people have long to belonged to the new community of the 1st century church? Do you think people long to belong to the church today? Why or why not?

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Read Acts 2:36

1. Explain why Jesus being “both Lord and Messiah” is significant. What do the two terms mean? How are they different?
2. How are our beliefs and actions connected to these two descriptions of Jesus?

Read Acts 2:42-47

1. The word “devoted” was emphasized. Why was this word so important? What did people devote themselves to, and in what manner? Generosity was emphasized. How was it displayed?
2. Recall the four spiritual practices mentioned. Explain what these practices looked like in the first century church.
3. Rev. Berlin stated that if we want what the early church had, we have to do what they did. What needs to be done differently?
4. He stated his personal fear was that he'd go his whole life and miss out on the experience of being the church. Explain what it means to be the church. Explain an emphasis on community and devotion instead of solely a focus on beliefs.

03.

NEXT STEPS - NLI

1. Those in worship received a paper copy of the innovations and had the benefit of hearing an explanation from members of the NLI Team. If you could not be with us today, click [here](#) to read the innovations. Also, you can watch the service to hear Tom's message and the NLI presentation at woodlakeumc.org/livestream.
2. Woodlake will hold Town Hall meetings within the next 30 days to discuss this report and recommended innovations. The dates for these town halls are as follows:
 - Sunday, September 29 following 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services
 - Saturday, October 5 following the 5:30 p.m. service
 - Sunday, October 6 following the 9:30 a.m. service

The congregation will vote on this report at an official church conference led by the district superintendent on Sunday, October 20 at 2:00 p.m. The congregation is invited to stay for lunch following the 11 a.m. service.

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