Acts 2:1-13 Discussion Questions

- Wesley began the sermon by listing a number of modern human achievements (technology, ingenuity, etc). Why does human ability fall so short when it comes to spiritual matters?
    - What did the Holy Spirit come to do that we could never do on our own?
- Did the disciples summon the Holy Spirit? Or did they receive Him on God's initiative?
    - What are some mistaken ways we might be tempted to manufacture the Holy Spirit's presence?
    - What is the difference between an emotional experience and being truly filled with the Spirit?
- What does it mean that the Spirit is personal, rather than an impersonal force that we can access?
    - Is it significant that He is called the "Spirit of Christ" in the New Testament? How does this shape the nature of His work within us?
- How does receiving the Spirit change our relationship with God? With the world? With our sin?
- Our culture often sees problems as being primarily outside of us, not within us. What is wrong with this mindset? How does Pentecost challenge it?
- How does the temple in the Old Testament point forward to Pentecost? (see 2 Chronicles 7:1-2)

- The text says the disciples were “filled with the Holy Spirit.” What does it mean to be “filled” with the Spirit? Is this different from simply having the Holy Spirit? (see Eph. 5:18; 2 Tim. 1:6)
- What miracle occurs when the disciples receive the Spirit? What was the purpose of this miracle?
    - Compare this with the Tower of Babel story in Genesis 11. How is Pentecost fundamentally different?
    - What is the purpose that God gives His spiritual power for? (being His witnesses)
    - Is it possible to use God’s power apart from His purpose? Why might we sometimes be tempted to want His power apart from His purpose?
    - How should this affect the way we pray for God’s power?
    - What does being a witness look like in your life right now?
- The text says some people wrote off the disciples as being drunk. How is it possible that people could deny the work of God happening right in front of them?
    - How should this inform the way we evangelize? (see Luke 16:31; 1 Cor. 1:18)
- Pentecost reminds us of our total dependence on God’s power to do God’s work. How would you describe your current level of dependence on Him?
    - Are there areas of your life where you’re trying to accomplish something only God can do? What would it look like to depend fully on the Spirit?

- What are some things we tend to rely on instead of God's Spirit (personality, gifting, strategies, etc)?
- Wesley asked in his sermon: "Do you long to be filled by the Spirit?" How would you honestly answer that question? What might increase or decrease your desire to experience His work in your life?
- Wesley closed with 3 takeaways from the text: (1) Depend on the Spirit for what only God can do, (2) ask the Spirit to do what only God can do, and (3) use the Spirit's power for God's purposes rather than our own. Which of those is most challenging for you right now, and why?
- What would it look like to receive a greater measure of God's Spirit this week? How can we pursue this? (see Luke 11:13; Eph. 3:19-20)