MIDDLE SCHOOL DISCUSSION

TONGUES OF FIRE

SEASON 2, EPISODE 1

45 Minutes

This discussion format is timed as a suggested guideline. Feel free to spend more time (or less) on specific questions. If you choose not to have students research the two apostles, the session may run only 30 minutes.

This discussion is based on Acts 2:1-4

BREAD & SALT

TONGUES OF FIRE

MIDDLE SCHOOL DISCUSSION

10 minutes

INTRO

Today we'll be looking at a brief video, Tongues of Fire, part of the Bread & Salt series produced by our Diocese. It's mostly about Pentecost and the first apostles to Armenia, Sts. Thaddeus and Bartholomew. But you'll see it's also about communication, about our values, and about what it means to truly follow Christ. Let's watch and then we'll talk.

View the video. After watching the video, ask what struck them about the video? What did they like?

10 minutes

QUESTION 1

The disciples were gathered in Jerusalem for the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, a harvest festival. Jesus had told them before He was taken up into heaven (ref: Acts 1: 4-8) that they should wait for Him in Jerusalem and the power of the Holy Spirit would come upon them. We hear in the video that the disciples were frightened, uncertain. Why do you think they felt this way?

QUESTION 2

Let's look at what happens next in the Bible, Acts 2: 1-4. Read together. What sights and sounds surround them, as so beautifully depicted in the video?

Then ask: The video refers to this as "the day the Church was born." Do you remember the reason given for this? *Because this was the day that the small band of Jesus' followers went out into the world and grew their numbers into the thousands and the hundreds of thousands and into the millions of today.*

QUESTION 3

What gift do they receive? *The ability to speak a foreign language.* Then ask, how have they changed and what are they supposed to do next? *They have gone from disciple to apostle to spread the Good News throughout the world.* Then ask, how does it help to know the language of a foreign country when you visit?

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QUESTION 4

The story of the Tower of Babel reveals how humankind's pride divided them into different languages, unable to communicate. The narrator tells us: "They crafted their own idols." What does this mean? What do we worship today instead of God?

QUESTION 5

The video narrator tells us: "We are cursed with a failure to communicate." What do you think that means, even though we have cell phones, social media, computers, etc.?The video depicts the two apostles we call the first Enlighteners of Armenia. Who were they and why that title? Who was the Second Enlightener? (St. Gregory)

QUESTION 6

Although we see them traveling together to Armenia and this is a beautifully imaginative way to picture their mission, they actually went to Armenia at two different times (1st century). We hear that they went on foot, that it got colder, more mountainous and we see them stumbling over rocky terrain. What other difficulties would they have experienced? *Finding food, wild animals, encountering enemies, getting lost.*

15 minutes

Google St. Thaddeus and Bartholomew and let's see what more we can learn about them.

QUESTION 7

With the spreading of the Good News of Jesus Christ into the world, God was reestablishing communication with His children, "healing the fractures that divide us."