



# COMMUNICATIONS

United Methodist Communications

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## ‘We are not alone: Pentecost 2020’ discussion starters

The video “[We are not alone: Pentecost 2020](#)” can be a great tool to begin a discussion about Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost may be one of our lesser-known holy days, but it is an important one. This special visitation of the Holy Spirit initiated what would become the church and was a catalyst that led the disciples out of Jerusalem to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world.

For answers to questions about Pentecost, see “[What is Pentecost?](#)” on [UMC.org](#).

**Bible Text:** [Acts 2](#)

How would you answer Sophia’s question? What ordi-thrilling moments have you experienced during the pandemic?

- *Some ideas: baking, crafts, puzzles, games, sidewalk chalk murals, goofy television shows, and more.*

Before Sophia arrives, members of the group chat about things they’ve struggled to get used to, like masks and virtual meetings.

- What has been difficult for you to get used to?
- Are there things you are doing differently that you are enjoying?

The group relates to the disciples being “home” for a long period of time. It’s interesting to note that the word *quarantine*, comes from the Italian word for 40 and the word *Pentecost*, means 50<sup>th</sup> in Greek (the holiday occurs on the fiftieth day after Passover).

- What is one thing you are looking forward to doing with others when the restrictions are lifted and we are allowed to be “together in one place” again? Church? Friends? Movies? Shopping?
- What do you think will be different?

The Holy Spirit comes to the disciples with “a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind” and “what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them.”

- What are some ways you’ve experienced the Holy Spirit in your life?

Derrick talks about feeling alone during the pandemic.

- Can you relate? Have you ever felt lonely?
- How do you know that God is with you?

Sophia says that Pentecost reminds us that “the Holy Spirit is our companion when we’re apart, and encourages us to be there for one another—to be the church.”

- What does she mean by that?
- How can we *be* the church for one another?

*All Bible quotes are from the [Common English Bible](#) (CEB), Copyright © 2011 by [Common English Bible](#)*