

2006-07 BSP#2 Group Time Discussion

(A) Questions on the Text (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

1. Read the following ICSB footnote on the Pentecost:

One of three pilgrim feasts that required the adult men of Israel to travel to Jerusalem (Deut 16:16). It was a harvest festival celebrated 50 days after Passover, when the first loaves of bread from the spring wheat crop were dedicated as a first fruits offering to the Lord (Lev 23:15-17). Over time, theological significance was added to its agricultural focus: Pentecost became a celebration of the Torah given to Israel on Mt. Sinai, with lectionary readings taken from Ex 19-20. For Christians, Pentecost celebrates the new law of the Spirit (Rom 8:2), written on the hearts of believers (Jer 31:31, 2 Cor 3:4-6), which surpasses the Law of Moses, inscribed on stone tablets (Ex 31:18).

2. What was the meaning of the feast of Pentecost for Jews? What does it mean for Christians?
3. In Acts 2:16-32, what does the prophet Joel say will happen in the Messianic age? How does Peter link the “wonders and signs” in Joel’s prophecy with the person of Jesus?

Acts 宗徒 大事錄 2:16-32	<p>¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ 'It will come to pass in the last days,' God says, 'that I will pour out a portion of my spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ Indeed, upon my servants and my handmaids I will pour out a portion of my spirit in those days, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will work wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below: blood, fire, and a cloud of smoke. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the coming of the great and splendid day of the Lord, ²¹ and it shall be that everyone shall be saved who calls on the name of the Lord.' ²² You who are Israelites, hear these words. Jesus the Nazorean was a man commended to you by God with mighty deeds, wonders, and signs, which God worked through him in your midst, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him. ²⁴ But God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it. ²⁵ For David says of him: 'I saw the Lord ever before me, with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. ²⁶ Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted; my flesh, too, will dwell in hope, ²⁷ because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.' ²⁹ My brothers, one can confidently say to you</p>	<p>¹⁶反而這是藉岳厄爾先知所預言的：¹⁷『到末日——天主說——我要將我的神傾住在所有有血肉的人身上，你們的兒子和女兒都要說預言，青年人要見異像，老年人要看夢境。¹⁸甚至在那些日子裏，連在我的僕人和我的婢女身上，我也要傾住我的神；他們要講預言。¹⁹我要在天上顯示奇蹟，在地下顯示徵兆：血、火和煙氣。²⁰在上主的偉大和顯赫的日子來臨以前，太陽要變成昏暗，月亮要變成血紅。²¹將來，凡呼號上主名字的人，必然獲救。』²²諸位以色列人！請聽這些話：納匝肋人耶穌是天主用德能、奇蹟和徵兆——即天主藉他在你們中所行的，一如你們所知道的——給你們證明了的人。²³他照天主已定的計劃和預知，被交付了；你們藉著不法者的手，釘他在十字架上，殺死了他；²⁴天主卻解除了他死亡的苦痛，使他復活了，因為他不能受死亡的控制，²⁵因為達味指著他說：『我常將上主置於我眼前；我決不動搖，因他在我右邊。²⁶因此，我心歡樂，我的舌愉快，連我的肉身也要安息於希望中，²⁷因為你決不會將我的靈魂遺棄在陰府，也不會讓你的聖者見到腐朽。²⁸你要將生命的道路指示給我，要在你面前用喜樂充滿我。』²⁹諸位仁人弟兄！容我坦白對你們講論聖祖達味的事罷！他死了，也埋葬了，他的墳墓直到今天還在我們這裏。³⁰他既是先知，也知道天主曾以誓詞對他起了誓，要從他的子嗣中立一位來坐他的御座。³¹他既預見</p>
---------------------------	---	---

	<p>about the patriarch David that he died and was buried, and his tomb is in our midst to this day.³⁰ But since he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne,³¹ he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that neither was he abandoned to the netherworld nor did his flesh see corruption.³² God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses.</p>	<p>了，就論及默西亞的復活說：『他沒有被遺棄在陰府，他的肉身也沒有見到腐朽。』³²這位耶穌，天主使他復活了，我們都是他的見證人。</p>
--	---	--

(B) Session Review (Suggested time: 20 minutes)

Review today's session outline for the Navigator's Time, particularly the summary (item G). What is the most important point you learned from today's session? Why? Are there any issues discussed in today's Navigator's Time that you don't understand? Discuss them with your group members and see if they can help you. If satisfactory answers are not readily available, put the issues or questions on paper. Either bring them up during Q&A or submit them to the navigator for post-session response.

(C) Optional Application Question (Suggestion: Do this question only if you have at least 5 minutes left.)

In Acts 2:40, St. Peter asked his listeners to "save yourselves from this corrupt generation". What about our own generation? Is it also a corrupt generation? In what ways? What have you done to "save yourselves from this corrupt generation"?

<p>Acts 宗徒 大事錄 2:40</p>	<p>⁴⁰ He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."</p>	<p>⁴⁰他還講了很多別的作證的話，並勸他們說：「你們應救自己脫離這邪惡的世代。」</p>
---------------------------------	--	--