

PENTECOSTAL LIFE

SMALL GROUP

Facilitator's Guide

Bumper Stickers, Kool-Aid, and Submission

QUESTION AUTHORITY

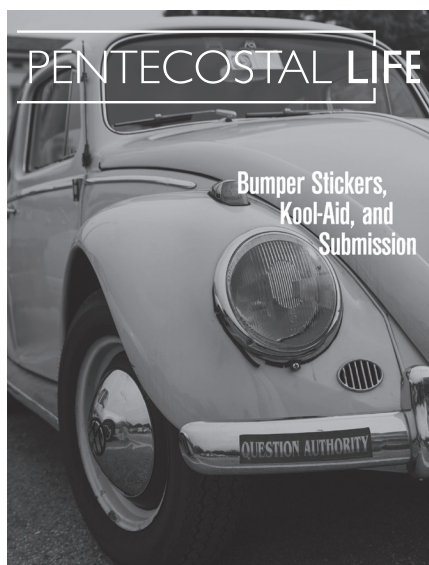
JUNE 2018

PENTECOSTALLIFE.COM

SMALL GROUP

Facilitator's Guide

Welcome to *Pentecostal Life's* small group study, *Keys to Apostolic Life*. Thank you for providing leadership for this four-session study. Your enthusiasm for the study will inspire your group members to experience abundant life with Jesus Christ.



Keys to Apostolic Life—Small Group Overview

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Session:	Session Name / <i>Pentecostal Life</i> article:
Session One	Bumper Stickers, Kool-Aid, and Submission <i>Read "The Benefits of Fasting"</i>
Session Two	The Benefits of Fasting <i>Read "Worship: In Spirit . . . In Truth"</i>
Session Three	Worship: In Spirit . . . In Truth <i>Read "Go to the World"</i>
Session Four	Go to the World

HOW TO REACH US

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OUR VISION

The *Pentecostal Life* in every Pentecostal home

OUR MISSION

To publish a Pentecostal magazine that strengthens the hands of Pentecostal pastors, encourages and challenges Pentecostal believers, and reaches beyond the doors of Pentecostal churches

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Launching the Study

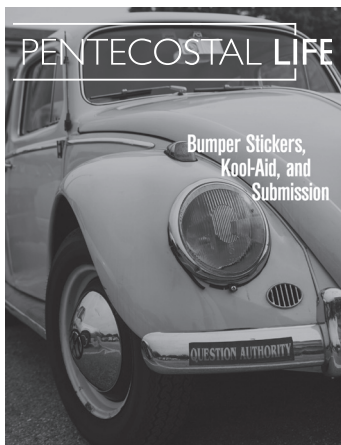
This study focuses on some of the keys to living an Apostolic life. It uses the four ENGAGE articles in the June 2018 issue of the *Pentecostal Life*. Every member of your group should have a copy of the magazine. As a leader, you will need the magazine and the downloadables from pentecostallife.com.

Before the Study

- Pray that you and the members of the group will be ready to receive what God wants to reveal to them through this study.
- Make sure your group size is small enough to encourage interaction by all participants; if it is too large, consider breaking up into several study groups.
- Set up a circular area where all participants have a seat that allows them to see each other.
- Place an extra chair in the circle to remind the group of the evangelistic nature of the study group. The group members can be encouraged to bring visitors and to pray for their salvation.
- As the facilitator, you should read the four ENGAGE articles to become familiar with the scope of the study.
- Each week, read the discussion questions and think through the answers you anticipate will be given. Prepare to lead the conversation and make notes on the direction you will take.
- Make certain each member of the study group purchases or has access to the June 2018 issue of the *Pentecostal Life* magazine. *Pentecostal Life* is available in single or bundle subscriptions at pentecostallife.com.
- Each week, instruct your study group members to read the appropriate ENGAGE article for the following week's discussion.
- Make a copy of the Study Guide for each student. They, as well as this Facilitator's Guide, are available as a download at pentecostallife.com in both Word document and PDF formats.

During the Study

- **Focus.** It is easy for small group discussions to veer away from the goal of the study. Gently encourage group members back to the question at hand if this happens.
- **Include.** Ask specific questions of those who are more hesitant to participate to encourage them to join the discussion.



SESSION ONE

Bumper Stickers, Kool-Aid, and Submission

Objective

To enable us to think through issues related to authority and submission

Opening

1. Consider the story of the Volkswagen Beetle and the bumper sticker. What do you know about the questioning-of-authority sentiment of that era?
2. Consider the story of Jim Jones and his followers in Guyana. What do you know about the followers' blind faith and obedience to their leader?

Key Scriptures

Genesis 2:17; 3:1–19; Exodus 23:20–22;
Deuteronomy 28:1, 15; I Samuel 15:22–23;
Psalm 91:11; 105:15; Matthew 4:5–6;
Ephesians 4:11; II Thessalonians 1:7–9;
Hebrews 2:1–3; 13:17; I Peter 5:1–3

**“Deviation from the declaration of
God’s Word disqualifies one from being
a spiritual leader.”**

SESSION ONE (CONT.)

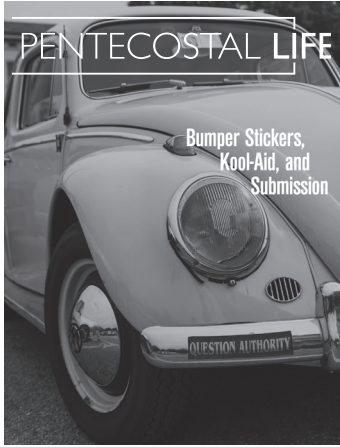
Bumper Stickers, Kool-Aid, and Submission

Discuss the following questions:

1. How can we be sure our spiritual leaders are living a life of faith?
2. We must submit to spiritual leadership based on Scripture. How can we determine this is the kind of leadership we are receiving?
3. How do you feel about the following statements?
 - Disobey commands that violate Scripture.
 - Disobey persons without faith who attempt to provide spiritual leadership.
 - Disobey those who narrow Scripture to one verse.
 - Disobey commands not found in Scripture.
 - Question authority.
 - *Don't drink the Kool-Aid.*
4. Why is obedience better than sacrifice?
5. How does a person "obey the gospel"?
6. Why is rebellion described as the "sin of witchcraft"?

Assignment

Read "The Benefits of Fasting" before next session.



SESSION TWO

The Benefits of Fasting

Objective

To discover that fasting is crucial for the person desiring to fulfill his or her purpose

Opening

1. Think about your personal times of fasting. What stands out in your memory?
2. What is easier for you—individual fasting or cooperate fasting?

Key Scriptures

Matthew 4; 6:16

“Fasting helps us align with His purpose for our lives and keeps us aligned with that purpose.”

SESSION TWO (CONT.)

The Benefits of Fasting

Discuss the following questions:

1. Why is fasting so difficult?
2. What are some common temptations that keep us from fasting?
3. What are some differences between nonspiritual fasting and spiritual fasting?
4. How is fasting beneficial in achieving God's purpose for our lives?
5. How does fasting benefit our prayers?
6. When it comes to fasting, why does motive matter?
7. What is one of the greatest motives for fasting?
8. What are some various types of spiritual fasts?
9. What is something that might keep you from fasting? And how might your work around it?
10. How much do you want to fulfill God's purpose in your life? Do you want it enough to fast?

Assignment

Read "Worship: In Spirit . . . In Truth" before the next session.

SESSION THREE (CONT.)

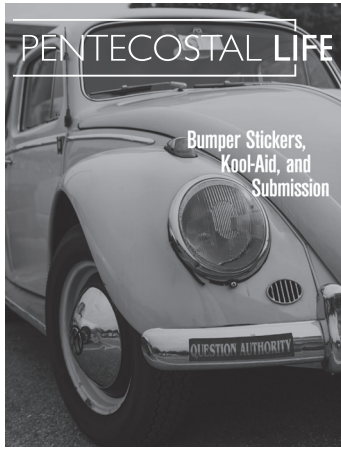
Worship: In Spirit . . . In Truth

Discuss the following questions:

1. Is it easy for you to worship outside of the context of music? Does music become our worship crutch? How and why?
2. Consider the phrase “worship service.” Does this phrase help or hinder our understanding of worship?
3. What do you think Paul meant when he said to “sing with the spirit?”
4. What do you think Paul meant when he said to “sing with the understanding?”
5. How does our modern media-driven culture challenge our ability to engage in worship as a lifestyle?
6. Do you struggle more to be a private worshiper or a public worshiper? What scriptural passages can you take on as a personal challenge to grow in this area?
7. How do we keep our worship from being a negative public display as mentioned in Matthew 6?
8. What does “vertical” worship look like to you?
9. Consider your own worship environment. How are you including psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs in your worship life?
10. After completing this study, has your perspective on worship changed? If so, how?

Assignment

Read “Go to the World” before the next session.



SESSION FOUR

Go to the World

Objective

To take the church out of the building and into the world. The church is not a building of brick and mortar, but rather we are the temple of the living God, called to reach a lost and dying world. (See II Corinthians 6:16.)

Opening

1. What/who does your “world” consist of?
2. You have a network of people within your own life that your pastor will never reach, yet you see them daily. From your Starbucks trip to the cubicle at the office, who is in your world?

Key Scriptures

Ezekiel 2:5–7; 3:18–20; Mark 9:24; 16:15–17;
Luke 14:23; 15:2; 24:49; Acts 1:8; 2:46–47;
5:42; 16:5; II Corinthians 5:17; 6:16;
Ephesians 3:20

“The church is not a building of brick and mortar, but rather we are the temple of the living God, called to reach a lost and dying world.”

SESSION FOUR (CONT.)

Go to the World

Discuss the following questions:

1. How do you take the church to the world? (Hint: Look at how Jesus delivered the gospel to the lost.)
2. Define your comfort zone. What steps can be taken to break out of this box? (Application: It is time to become comfortable with the uncomfortable.)
3. In terms of your walk with God, what do you believe? What is your unbelief? God can't help your unbelief until you call it out, confess it, and place it in His hands.
4. Have you ever practiced the act of interceding for someone? Did it work? This should be a daily part of our time with God; praying in the Holy Ghost over lost souls.
5. On a weekly basis, do you have someone you are trying to disciple? Remember this may not mean inviting them to church, but building a relationship that will lead them to Christ.
6. Do you believe someone could be lost for not putting forth effort to spread the gospel and make disciples? Why? Why not?
7. How has evangelism affected you personally? If you were born in the church, how does your life affect first-generation Christians? This should provoke you to see your potential impact on someone else.
8. What is your desire in living for God? Do you desire for God to use you? And in what ways do you desire Him to use you?
9. Think of your personal talents and abilities. How can God use these?
10. What decisions can you make today that will allow God's power to work through you?