

Acts 2



Led By the Spirit & Gospel Power

Life Group Leaders should read through this material and choose a few questions to talk over in your group. Your group will not have time to cover all the material. The guide is for personal study and for choosing a few questions that you and your life group would like to discuss.

Read Aloud Acts 2:1-13

Before we break down this section of Scripture, describe what is happening in your own words. (Being able to summarize Scripture is a great way to see if we are comprehending what we have just read.)

Acts 2:1-4

1 The apostles were told to wait for God's promise.

While waiting, they were together in one place, trusting the Lord's promises together.

Titus 1:2 - "[I]n hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began."

God Cannot Lie - Sometimes waiting on His promises can be difficult, but He will always fulfill what He has said according to His will and timing.

? Is there a promise from God that you have been waiting on or meditating on? What makes it difficult to wait?

! Keep in mind that God's promises are found in Scripture. The Holy Spirit guides us on a daily basis, but it is important not to confuse our own desires and dreams with the promises of God found in Scripture.

2 Pentecost was celebrated 50 days after the celebration of the Passover.

God was speaking through the timetable of the feasts appointed in the Old Testament to declare His New Covenant to the world.

1 Corinthians 5:7b "For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

Jesus ate the Passover on Thursday then was crucified on Friday. He was the ultimate Passover Lamb. Pentecost is a New Testament name for the Feast of Weeks or Harvest found in Exodus 34:22-23, 23:16. At this celebration, the Jews would offer their sacrifice of "fruit fruits." This aligned with God's outpouring of the New Covenant. It had been 50 days since the true Passover Lamb was slain, and now the first fruits of the New Covenant were to be born by the Spirit of God at Pentecost.

3 The Spirit of God rushed into the room like the sound of wind.

The Hebrew and Greek words for wind, or breath, are often interchangeable or related to the word "spirit." This rushing wind at the coming of the Spirit of God connects to stories

in the Old Testament:

- The Spirit/wind of God hovering over the waters in Genesis 1
- The breath of God as He gave life to man in the garden
- The rushing of God's presence before Moses on the mountain
- The wind of God's Spirit in the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel
- The presence of God's Spirit as He rested on the prophets (and later on Christ)

The Spirit/wind of God brings us life! God also sent them tongues "as of fire." This phrase means the tongues were not literal fire, but it describes the scene that occurred at Pentecost. These two forms of nature — wind and fire — are often pictures of God's presence, especially with the prophets. Fire was used to guide Israel in the wilderness, Mount Sinai smoked with fire and lightning, and Elijah called down fire from heaven. The picture painted by wind and fire is clear: God is present.



The believers all spoke with "new tongues."

As we continue, we find that the believers at Pentecost were speaking specific languages that they did not previously know and were communicating the wonders of God and the Gospel so that those in Jerusalem could each understand in his/her own language!



While God does not typically send His Spirit in the same dramatic fashion today, the receiving of the Spirit of God is a powerful experience. Did people notice the impact of God pouring out His Spirit on your life? If so, how? If not, why do you think that is the case?

Acts 2:5-13

The Spirit of God brought a powerful sense of unity at Pentecost that had not happened for thousands of years. People of different nations, cultures, and languages were all united by the power of the Gospel and the working of God's Spirit. The last time the people of the earth were unified like this was after the Great Flood.

The Tower of Babel is found in Genesis 11:1-9. God had begun to allow man to repopulate the earth and had given them a command to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. However, they did not want to scatter and fill the earth as God had commanded; they wanted to build a name for themselves by building a city. Because of their selfishness and rebellion, they were confused and scattered by God. We are not created to glorify ourselves!

The day of Pentecost is the exact opposite. Many different cultures gathered, and they were not united. Yet, by the Spirit of God, they received a universal message and were united by the One True God and His Messiah, Jesus Christ. God allowed this unifying effort because the believers in Jesus were not trying to promote themselves but rather glorify God.

Ephesians 2:11-22 tells us that one of the most essential impacts of the Gospel is bringing unity to the people of God. The Gospel breaks down cultural, ethnic, economic, and preference-based barriers so that we can become the temple of God. This unity occurs because we are all seeking to glorify God according to His Word.



What are ways you can fight for unity in God's church while also bringing a unifying effort to His people? Also, how can you bring a unifying effort to people different from you in our community?

Read Aloud Acts 2:14-41

Before we break down this section of Scripture, describe what is happening in your own words. (Being able to summarize Scripture is a great way to see if we are comprehending what we have just read.)

Acts 2:14-41

Due to the length of this section of Scripture, we will break it down into two key themes: 1) Peter's sermon being rooted in the Scripture and 2) the response to Peter's message.

1

Peter's Sermon Was Rooted in the Scriptures

Peter quotes three key passages from the Old Testament to teach how the recent events were predicted.

Joel 2:28-32 This prophecy emphasizes the "last days," a term the prophets used to describe the time period in which the Messiah would establish His kingdom. Jesus was and is establishing His kingdom by His Spirit and will soon return to establish His eternal kingdom on earth.

This prophecy also emphasizes that the Spirit of God is given not only to prophets and kings but also to common folk and anyone who calls upon the Lord Jesus.

Q

Do you deal with insecurities that keep you from believing that God could/will pour His Spirit on you to help prepare the way for His eternal kingdom?

Psalm 16:8-11 This Psalm is connected to Psalm 22. Although David wrote these Psalms, they had "dual fulfillment" meaning David experienced them, but their ultimate purpose was foretelling the Messiah. Just like King David, Jesus would look rejected and destroyed, yet God would not abandon Him, but rather lead Him to victory.

Q

There are over 300 clear prophecies that Jesus fulfilled in the Scripture. This is staggering evidence that Jesus was exactly who He said He was. How comfortable would you be, on a scale of 1-10, in helping to show someone in the Bible how Jesus fulfills the prophecies of the Messiah and how the entire Scripture points to Him?

Reach out to a leader or pastor if you would like help with this. This can be an extremely powerful tool as this argument for who Christ is is grounded in thousands of years of prophecy and ultimately points people to God's Word for their foundation of belief.

Psalm 110 Peter finishes with Psalm 110 to prove that it is Christ, and not David, who is at the right hand of God. This is a Psalm of final victory and Lordship of the Messiah that Jesus was greater than simply a man.

Jesus is King, and we can trust that we serve a God who has ultimate authority! Not only does God interact with us personally, but He has given us over 300 clear prophecies to show us that Jesus Christ is indeed the promised Messiah and King.

2

The Response to the Gospel

The Holy Spirit convicted those listening to Peter's message that what he was saying was true. This conviction did a few things:

First, it moved them to action. They asked, "What do we do?"

Secondly, it moved them to repentance, to turn away from their sin

Thirdly, they trusted in Christ for salvation and in His power to forgive and save them

Finally, they received the Holy Spirit and decided to be baptized

Responding to the Gospel is much more than a one-time prayer, attending church, being born into a Christian home, or a swelling of emotions at a Christian event. Those who responded to the Gospel at Pentecost knew that they could be killed for their faith. They were trusting in Jesus who had just been crucified! This was a bold move.



The individuals who responded also changed their behavior. They made a public confession in the midst of persecution that Jesus was truly the Messiah. They were willing to be separated from the “wicked and perverse generation.”



Are there areas of your life that you have a hard time giving up for Christ? Often, the issues we hold on to are much smaller than those the early believers faced. What could help you change your mindset to be all in with sacrificial obedience to Christ?

Weekly Challenge

A theme of chapter 2 is to wait and trust God's Word and power. The Scriptures were fulfilled, the Spirit of God moved, and people were saved. What an awesome God we serve! Two ways we can go deeper in our experience of God's power are to use our spiritual gifts and to sacrifice our own comfort for the sake of the Gospel. Take some time to consider what your spiritual gift is and how you can serve at MBC or in our community. If you do not know your gift, you can reach out to the staff about SHAPE class (or take the Spiritual Gifts Assessment here: mitchellberean.com/core) or the spiritual gifts class at MBU. Secondly, evaluate your life with your spouse or a close friend. Do you seek your own comfort over taking steps of faith that could bring God glory?

Memory Verse

Acts 9:31 ESV

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.