

“The Outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost”

Acts 2:1-41

Introductory Question – Choose One

Q¹ – Have you ever traveled where you did not speak the language? What happened?

Q² – What are you usually doing at 9:00 am in the morning on a Saturday? A Sunday? A weekday?

Discussion Questions

- 1) **Read Acts 2:1-13.** Who was “all together in one place” and how many of them were there (see 1¹³⁻¹⁵)? Explain in your own words what happened (vv.2-3)?
- 2) Another name for “Pentecost” in the Old Testament is the “Festival of Weeks” (Ex. 34²²⁻²³; Num. 28²⁶; Deut. 16⁹⁻¹²). Why were so many “God-fearing Jews from every nation” staying in Jerusalem (v.3)?
- 3) Why do you think God waited until Pentecost to “pour out” his Holy Spirit? And why like this?
- 4) **Read Acts 2:14-36.** How did Peter’s basic explanation of what was happening (vv.15ff.) compare to other people’s interpretations of it (vv.12-13)? What is the main point that Peter wants the people to understand about what is happening? What indications are there that Joel’s prophecy had come true?
- 5) How familiar do you think Peter’s audience was with Jesus? What important points does he underline about Jesus? What “missing pieces” does he fill in for them about Jesus and why is this important?
- 6) What does the average person in our culture know about Jesus? What are the “missing pieces” and what difference does it make to have the whole story about who Jesus is (v.36)?
- 7) Who and/or what convinced you of your need for Jesus?
- 8) Have you had an opportunity (past or recent) to tell someone about Jesus? What happened?
- 9) **Read Acts 2:37-41.** What do you make of the response people had to Peter’s interpretation of these events and his message about Jesus?
- 10) What is Peter’s response to their response (v.38-40)? What is the relationship between repentance, baptism, the Holy Spirit, and being “added to” the community of faith? Are any of these optional?
- 11) Remembering where these 3,000 came from (vv.8-11), in what way was 1⁸ being fulfilled? If you were one of these 3,000, what would you say to your friends about what happened on your holy days in Jerusalem?
- 12) What was memorable about your coming to faith and baptism?