



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

ACTS 2:14-41 / SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

Welcome! We are so glad you are joining us in studying through this book! Tonight we are in Acts 2. We will focus on Peter's sermon tonight and the responses of the people at Pentecost.

Pentecost means 50th. God's people (the Israelites) celebrated Pentecost as a feast of harvest that took place 50 days after they celebrated Passover, and people from all over would journey to Jerusalem for the feast.

In verses 1-13, the apostles and the others were in the upper room waiting when the promised Holy Spirit comes, just as Jesus promised!

Begin by reading or summarizing Acts 2:14-41. What is happening in these verses? What seems especially significant to you?

How would you have responded to what was happening in the upper room? What do you think it would have been like in Jerusalem on this day?

In our study today, after **Jesus poured out His Holy Spirit as promised, Peter gives a sermon to the people, and the people respond.**

Read verses 14-18.

- Who is with Peter? Who is Peter speaking to and why?
- How does Peter explain what is happening to the crowd? (*He goes back to the Old Testament Scripture that would have been familiar to these people.*)
- How does the Old Testament confirm what is happening here at Pentecost?

Read verse 22. Peter continues preaching to the crowd and begins reminding them of who Jesus is.

- Who does Peter say Jesus is? What does the phrase "**attested to you by God**" mean?
- What signs and wonders might the people have remembered about Jesus in that moment? (*Example answers might include: Raising Lazarus from the dead, feeding of the 5,000, healing the blind and the sick.*)

Most of the those who were at the feast of harvest (Pentecost) would have also been present at the last feast, Passover, when the mob demanded the crucifixion of Jesus.

Read verses 23-24. What does Peter accuse these people of? How might they have reacted? Does the accusation of Peter to these people still apply to us today? If so, how?

-Even though Peter accuses the crowd of crucifying Jesus, who's plan was it? What good news does Peter preach here?

Jesus is alive and is in heaven at the right hand of God, and He is present with them (and every believer) now through His Holy Spirit. That is great news!

Re-read verse 36-41. What does Peter mean by Lord and Christ? What does it mean to you that Jesus is Lord and Christ?

–If you were part of the crowd, how would you have reacted to Peter’s message? Why were the people “cut to the heart”?

Peter tells them to “repent and be baptized” in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins and they will receive the Holy Spirit.

–What does it mean to repent? (*To turn away from sin and turn to Jesus.*) How many people believed in the Gospel that day? How do you think Peter and the others felt at the end of this day?

–What can we learn about God through Pentecost and Peter’s sermon? (*Possible answers include: God has always had a plan. He is always in control. God, through the Holy Spirit, is the author of Scripture, He always fulfills His promises.*)

–How can you live in a way that reflects that Jesus is Lord and Christ? How might this affect the people around you?

Respond in prayer. Thank God for giving us the book of Acts to study and know Jesus better. Continue to ask God to help you faithfully study through the book of Acts with the church. Pray for understanding during your studies. Pray that you would love God’s Word and that it would be a vital part of your life. Pray that Jesus would be Lord and Christ in your life and that He would use you to share His Gospel with those around you.

If you have questions, need to pray, or just need to talk through this study with someone, contact one of our pastors or a fellow church member anytime!

KIDS FOCUS

The Holy Spirit has come! The people are amazed but do not understand, and Peter explains to them what this all means and what the people should do.

Begin by reading Acts 2:23-24 What happened to Jesus? What does it mean that God raised Him up? Is Jesus alive now? How do we know that?

We know that Jesus is alive and in heaven with God and is in charge of everything. The Bible tells us that Jesus was crucified, buried and raised to life, and we can trust what the Bible says because it is from God.

Read Acts 2:36-38.

– What do you think a Lord is? Why do you think we need Jesus to be our Lord?

The Bible tells us that we are sinners and that sin has made us separate from God. But when we repent (that means turn away from sinning and to Jesus) and accept Jesus as the Lord of our lives, He forgives our sins and gives us His Holy Spirit to be with us.