

Loyal to Jesus: Lord and Messiah

We begin in Acts 2:1 on the day of Pentecost. It is about 9 days after Jesus had ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9), and around 50 days since his resurrection from death. We're told all who were part of the believing community at this time – around 120 people (1:15) – were gathered in one place. They weren't sure what was supposed to happen, what exactly they should be doing, or what was going to come next. All they knew was that they needed to follow the last command Jesus had given them. And then it happened! The promised Spirit comes and changes everything . . . for them . . . and for us.

Opening Discussion: If you could speak another language fluently, which would you choose?

Read Acts 2:1-41

1. How would you summarize the flow of 2:1-41?
2. When the Spirit is poured out on all the believers on the day of Pentecost, it is accompanied by signs such as rushing wind and tongues of fire, and the believers are equipped to speak in other tongues (i.e., in the languages of the Jews gathered in Jerusalem). How do the Jews respond to what they see and hear? What questions do they ask (vv. 5-13)?
3. After explaining that what the Jews have witnessed is a fulfillment of what Joel promised in Joel 2:28-32, Peter goes on to explain the basis salvation. What does he say (vv. 22-36)? What things does Peter emphasize as he shares the gospel about Jesus?
4. What is the response of the people to Peter's message (vv. 37-41)?
5. How would you summarize what the Spirit empowered God's people to do on this day?

6. What does this passage reveal about the role of the Spirit in fulfilling Jesus' plan for the nations?

Sam said:

We're going to talk a lot about sharing the gospel as we work our way through the Book of Acts. And we hope to equip you with some ideas and tools and methods that will help you tell others about Jesus along the way. But this morning, I want you to start with a simple question: ***Do you believe that as a follower of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit will bless you with both ability and opportunity to share what you know to be true with the people around you?***

7. How do you respond to this question? Do you believe the Spirit wants to bless you with both ability and opportunity share the gospel?
8. Do you believe the Spirit is still empowering followers of Jesus today to share the good news of Jesus as he does here in Acts 2? Why or why not?

Sam said:

My challenge for you this week is to simply **Begin with Prayer**. Spend some time humbly seeking God and asking the Holy Spirit to help you see opportunities to speak to others about your faith. Pray for the courage to start a spiritual conversation with someone. Trust that the same Holy Spirit that gave the first Christians the ability to tell others the Good News wants to help you share what is in your heart, too.

9. How might it affect you as you head into your day if you were to begin every day praying in this way?

If you want to give this a try, here is a sample prayer that you can use:

A Morning Prayer: *Father in heaven, bring a spiritually hungry person into my life. Give me eyes to see your work in them. Give me a heart to love them where they are at. Give me words to connect with them. Give me understanding to share the gospel in love, respect, patience and kindness. In Jesus' name. Amen.*