

Bible Stories for Adults

Pentecost

Acts 2

Opening

Gathering: How does a person's witness change when they are filled with the Spirit?

Today's Focus: The apostles began to effectively witness as soon as they were filled with the power and understanding of the Holy Spirit – just as Jesus had promised.

Key Verses: *All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.* Acts 2:4

Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Witnesses to the World (Acts 1:4-8)

What responsibility did Jesus leave with His disciples before He left to be with His Father?

Matthew 28:19-20

Were the apostles to immediately begin witnessing on their own?

Acts 1:4

What gift had the Father promised?

Acts 1:5

How effective would the Spirit make these witnesses?

Acts 1:8

The Message of the Spirit (John 16:13-15)

What proof do we have that Christians could not even begin this task without the Spirit?

Acts 1:6

How would this be changed by the coming of the Spirit?

John 14:26

Would the Spirit bring a different message than what Jesus brought?

John 16:13-15

What is this message?

Ephesians 3:4-6

Did the early Christians immediately understand the universal aspect of this message?

Acts 11:1-4, 18

The Spirit and the World (John 16:7-8)

If the message is for the whole world, how would the world accept this Spirit?

John 14:16-17

How would the Spirit deal with this evil world when He came?

John 16:7-8

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The Spirit's News About Sin (*John 16:9*)

What news would the Spirit reveal to the world in regard to sin?

John 16:9

Why is it important for the world to recognize this sin?

Mark 3:28-29

The Spirit's News About Righteousness (*John 16:10*)

What news would the Spirit reveal to the world in regard to righteousness?

John 16:10

How does Jesus being with the Father bring us righteousness?

1 John 2:1-2

How is this righteousness news to the world?

Romans 10:1-4

The Spirit's News About Judgment (*John 16:11*)

What news would the Spirit reveal to the world in regard to judgment?

John 16:11

Why should this be important to individuals in the world?

Revelation 20:10, 13-15

The Spirit and the Apostles (*Luke 24:49*)

If the Spirit will reveal all of these things to the world, what is the role of the apostles?

John 15:26-27

Would they be working alongside the Spirit or in different areas?

Luke 24:49

Was the sending of the Spirit a new concept introduced by Jesus?

Joel 2:28-32 (Isaiah 44:3, Ezekiel 36:25-27, etc)

The Apostles Wait (*Acts 1:12-26*)

What did the apostles do while they were waiting for the promised Spirit?

Acts 1:12, 14

How many Christians were there at this time?

Acts 1:15

Did they have any business to take care of during this time?

Acts 1:16-20

How could they appoint someone who hadn't experienced all of Jesus' ministry as they had?

Acts 1:21-22

How would they know who God had chosen?

Acts 1:23-26

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Feast of Weeks (*Acts 2:1*)

What major festival did the Jews celebrate besides Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles?

Deuteronomy 16:9-10

To make the festival date more universal and predictable, the Jews set it 50 days after Passover

Commonly referred to as *Fiftieth* (Greek word meaning *Fiftieth* is *Pentecost*)

Where would Jews try to be to celebrate this harvest festival?

Acts 20:16

Where were the waiting apostles when this day came?

Acts 2:1

The Spirit's Magnificent Entrance Into the World (*Acts 2:2-4*)

What did it sound like when the promised Spirit came on Pentecost?

Acts 2:2

What did it look like when the promised Spirit came on Pentecost?

Acts 2:3

How were Jesus' chosen witnesses affected by this Spirit?

Acts 2:4

People of the World Respond (*Acts 2:5-13*)

Could these sounds be heard by others or just the affected believers?

Acts 2:5-6

Did they think anything of hearing these Galileans speak in their languages?

Acts 2:7-12

Note: List of nations represented the surrounding world to the Jews

How did some try to explain some of the strange languages they heard?

Acts 2:13

Let Me Explain (*Acts 2:14-21*)

Who understood what was happening and explained it to the crowd?

Acts 2:14

How did he respond to the accusation that they were drunk?

Acts 2:15

So what were the people seeing and hearing?

Acts 2:16 (16-21)

The Real Explanation (*Acts 2:22-28*)

What did Peter say with this opportunity to speak to people from all around the world?

Acts 2:22-24

Why was it important for Peter to point out Jesus' *miracles, wonders and signs*?

John 3:2

What did Peter mean by *God's set purpose and foreknowledge*?

Luke 24:25-27

How did Peter begin his explanation of Jesus resurrection?

Acts 2:25-28

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David's Lord (Acts 2:29-36)

Was David referring to himself?

Acts 2:29

Who was David talking about?

Acts 2:30-31

Who is this Messiah that David spoke of and how did Peter know?

Acts 2:32

What proof did Peter have?

Acts 2:33

What other proof did Peter give?

Acts 2:34-36

The People's Response (Acts 2:37-41)

How did the people respond when the Spirit convinced them of their sin?

Acts 2:37

How did the Spirit then convince them of their righteousness?

Acts 2:38-39

How did the Spirit convince them of the coming judgment?

Acts 2:40

How did the people respond to this work of the Spirit?

Acts 2:41

Children of the Father

Should we expect the Spirit to come to us like He came to the early Christians on Pentecost?

Luke 11:13

How do we ask for the Spirit?

Acts 8:14-17

Why should we want the Spirit to live in us?

Romans 8:9-11

How do we know if we have the Spirit in us?

Galatians 5:16-25

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When have I sensed the power of the Spirit in my life?
(*Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 14-18; Judges 13:24-25; 14:6; 15:14; 1 Samuel 10:6, 9-11; 16:13; 19:23-24*)
2. How have I allowed the Spirit to work through me?
(*Acts 2:14-47; 6:5, 8-10; Genesis 41:38-40; Numbers 27:15-23; Judges 6:34-35*)
3. How has the Spirit convicted me of guilt in regard to sin?
(*John 16:7-8; Acts 2:37; Proverbs 16:2; John 8:7-11; Romans 3:23; James 2:10; 1 John 1:8-10*)
4. How has the Spirit convicted me of guilt in regard to righteousness?
(*John 16:7-8; Acts 2:38-39; Isaiah 64:6; Luke 18:9-14; Romans 1:16-17; 3:1-31; 9:30-32; 10:3-4*)
5. How has the Spirit convicted me of guilt in regard to judgment?
(*John 16:7-8; Acts 2:40-41; Proverbs 21:2; Matthew 25:31-46; John 3:16-18; 4:22-29; Romans 1:18-32; 2:1-16*)