



Main Passage: Acts 2:32-41

Theological Theme

When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, everything changed, and the church was born. From that day forward the Holy Spirit has brought powerful change to people's lives through the church.

Introduction

- ? Who is someone you know that changes a room positively when he or she shows up?
- ? What is it about him or her that makes a difference?

1. Bold Preaching (Acts 2:32-33)

Imagine the moment as Peter lived out things from prophecies in earlier Scriptures. He quoted passages that were written many years before even as he addressed the topic of the resurrected Messiah. This day was the culmination of the promise from Jesus to send His Holy Spirit. People couldn't help but notice what was happening and Peter took advantage of the opportunity to preach about Jesus.

- ? How have you noticed a difference in your life or the lives of others because of the Holy Spirit's presence?
- ? Who are you praying for that needs the Holy Spirit, needs to receive Christ as Lord and Savior?
- ? Why do you think people were criticizing what they noticed happening after the pouring out of the Spirit?
- ? Application: Where do you need to seek change through the Holy Spirit?

2. Call for Response (Acts 2:34-37)

As Peter continued his message, he quoted Psalm 110:1 that foretold the deity of Christ. It's extremely important that all people know and recognize the fact that Jesus is God. He was not just a good man or a great prophet. He is the long-awaited Messiah, and He is God. Even though they crucified Him, God had declared Him both Lord and Christ. Those who refused to believe Jesus is who He claimed to be needed to know the truth about Him.

- ? What role has the truth about Jesus played in your life to this point?
- ? When was a time you were "pierced to the heart" (v. 37) with conviction from the Holy Spirit?
- ? Application: How might God be calling you to help others who might not be sure what to do? Maybe share a meal or cup of coffee or offer to pray for them? Maybe start a group with friends and neighbors?

3. Powerful Invitation (Acts 2:38-41)

Instead of wanting to run Peter out of town or arrest him, the people wanted to know more about how to follow Jesus. What an incredible testimony of the power of the Holy Spirit. To see a crowd change completely was evidence of the work of God that took place and likely encouraged to Peter and the other disciples.

- ❓ When have you clearly seen the Holy Spirit working? How did that encourage you to help others follow His guidance?
- ❓ How have you experienced repentance? How might you describe this experience to another person?
- ❓ Application: With whom will you share about your own faith journey of repenting and being baptized?

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).