

Acts 2:1-13

May 11, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

MAIN POINT

On Pentecost, the Father's promise was fulfilled with the arrival of the Holy Spirit, who would empower the believers to spread the good news throughout the ancient world.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What are some things you know about the Holy Spirit?

What are some differences in how the Holy Spirit operated before and after the coming of Jesus?

In the forty days between Jesus's resurrection and His ascension, He instructed His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Father's promise: the arrival of the Holy Spirit. Today, we will study how God fulfilled that promise at Pentecost.



UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 2:1-3.

How was the Holy Spirit represented in this event?

What connection do you see between the flames of fire here and the role fire plays in the Old Testament?

The day of the Father's promise had arrived! It was Pentecost, or the Festival of Weeks, a celebration God established in Leviticus 23:15-22. For Jews, this celebration commemorated the giving of the law, but today, for Christians, it commemorates the gift of the Holy Spirit being given to the body of believers. Pentecost took place fifty days after Passover, and since the law required Jews to celebrate in Jerusalem, the city was filled for the amazing events that took place on this particular Pentecost.

Acts 2 describes the arrival of the Holy Spirit. After a "violent rushing wind" from heaven swept through and filled where they were gathered (v. 2), the believers witnessed "tongues like flames of fire that separated and rested on each one of them" (v.3).

Fire symbolized the presence of God since the days of the Old Testament (the burning bush in Exodus 3, the pillar of fire in Exodus 13), and now, the gathered believers had a Visible and audible signal that the Father's promise had been fulfilled and the Holy Spirit had arrived.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 2:4.

How does this verse describe the gathered believers receiving the Holy Spirit? What was the result of the arrival of the Holy Spirit?

What happens when we receive the Holy Spirit today?

Following the wonders of wind and fire, each believer gathered at Pentecost was "filled with the Holy Spirit" (v.4). This is the baptism John the Baptist had in mind in Matthew 3:11. After they received the Holy Spirit, He enabled them to speak in various languages.

While the Holy Spirit has been at work since the days of the Old Testament, Pentecost marked important changes. Previously, the Holy Spirit would come on specific people for God's specific purposes for a specific period, sometimes leaving them due to disobedience (1 Samuel 16:14). Following the miraculous events at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit now dwells within every believer, permanently (1 Corinthians 6:19). This is the reality we now enjoy. All believers have the Holy Spirit dwelling inside them and playing



a vital role in our lives and in the church. We need the Holy Spirit to grow and walk with the Lord.

While we may not speak in tongues like the believers in Acts 2:4, the Holy Spirit enables all believers with spiritual gifts, intended to benefit the church and aid them as Jesus's witnesses (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit guides and nudges us along the life-long path of sanctification (becoming more Christ-like). When we are actively seeking to follow and grow with Jesus, the Holy Spirit's presence cultivates godly characteristics in us that we would not have naturally (Galatians 5:22-23).

We need the Holy Spirit today, and so did the believers in the early church as they set off on mission to share the good news and act as Jesus's witnesses to the ends of the earth.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 2:5-13.

How did the crowd respond to those who received the Spirit?

What does this tell us about the Holy Spirit? What does it tell us about people?

What does this tell us about the way we should expect others to respond to the Holy Spirit in our lives?

When the Spirit enabled the believers to speak in many tongues, the people heard them and were astounded. How fitting that the first act of the Holy Spirit would be this! People from a wide variety of places and backgrounds could understand the believers as they praised God. The gospel is for everyone, and their work to spread this message was just beginning.

Many responded in amazement (v.7), but others were confused and curious (vv. 6,8). Here, the Holy Spirit was working through the gathered followers of Jesus and in the crowd, preparing the way for the gospel to be received. The Spirit still works similarly today, preparing the way when we share God's goodness with others!

In verse 13, we learn that not all responded positively—some assumed the believers were drunk. This presents us with a sad reality we are still faced with today. When the Spirit works through us, we will sometimes meet opposition and not everyone will believe or support us.



APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

When was a time you recognized the work of the Holy Spirit in your life or in another believer?

How can we encourage one another toward obedience to God by His Spirit?

Why is the Holy Spirit crucial in our pursuit of the Great Commission?

PRAYER

Close your time together by sharing prayer requests, praying for each other, and the group.

Thank God for giving us a Helper, the Holy Spirit. Praise Him for the gift of His presence and the kind and powerful ways He helps us walk through life. Ask for God's help listening to the nudges of and seeking to grow closer to Him through His Holy Spirit.

LOOKING AHEAD

Encourage your group to look ahead as we continue the series on Acts next week.

May 18, 2025 --- Acts 2:14-21

COMMENTARY

Acts 2:1-13

2:1–12 Pentecost (also called the Festival of Weeks, Lv23:15–16) commemorated the giving of the law on Mount Sinai and occurred fifty days after Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. Jews either made pilgrimage to Jerusalem for Pentecost or remained there after Passover. The events of Pentecost, which mark the formal and public beginning of the church, involved a number of supernatural phenomena. These included the rush of violent wind from heaven, tongues like flames of fire, the infilling with the Holy Spirit, and speaking in languages as the Spirit gave believers the ability to do so.

2:4 One of the supernatural phenomena at Pentecost was speaking in different tongues as the Holy Spirit ... enabled the apostles to do so. These tongues have been



interpreted as (1) supernatural languages given specifically for the purpose of communicating with the people gathered from all over the Roman Empire, (2) human languages that were recognized by individuals from various lands, or (3) the Greek language that was common to all the people gathered from throughout the Roman world. The second option seems to best fit the context.

2:8–11 Those present in Jerusalem for Pentecost included people from a wide variety of places and ethnic backgrounds. All the regions listed in vv. 9–10 are known to have had Jewish populations. They encompassed the eastern Mediterranean area that ran from Rome to Libya. The gathering at Pentecost is thus inclusive, featuring Jews from throughout the eastern Roman Empire.

2:13 Even the most profound miracles can be met with unbelief.

