

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?

INTRODUCTION

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

Fire Starter Tag

Materials Needed:

Fire or red dot stickers

How to Play:

- 1.Choose the Fire Starter: Pick one student to be the "Fire Starter."
- 2.Starting the Game: When the game starts, the Fire Starter runs around and places fire stickers on the hands of other students as quickly as possible.
- 3.New Fire Starters: When a new student gets a fire sticker, he or she becomes a new Fire Starter, and can then run to get a sheet of fire stickers and start placing stickers on the hands of other students.
- 4.Game Ends: The game continues until every student has a fire sticker.
- 5.Play Again: If time allows, play again with different stickers and a new fire starter.

Teaching Moment: Today in our game, we spread fire stickers in our group. In our study in Acts, we are going to read about how God used actual fire to spread the Holy Spirit to Jesus's followers in the early church.

What are some things you know about the Holy Spirit?

Why is the Holy Spirit important for our lives following Jesus?

DISCUSSION

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 2:1-13.

How does verse two say the believers received the Holy Spirit?

How was the Holy Spirit represented in this event?

What happened after the Holy Spirit arrived?

What happens when we receive the Holy Spirit today?

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

How did those present 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?

GOING DEEPER

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

What are some specific ways you need the Holy Spirit now?

APPLICATION

When have you recognized the work of the Holy Spirit in your life or in another believer's life?

How can we encourage one another to obey God by listening to the Holy Spirit?

Why is the Holy Spirit such an important part of carrying out the Great Commission—telling all people everywhere about Jesus?

PRAYER

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.