

Acts 2:14-21

May 18, 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

Full of the Holy Spirit, Peter stood up on Pentecost to deliver a message focused on Jesus and sharing the gospel with the Jews gathered in Jerusalem.

INTRODUCTION

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

What have you learned so far in our study of Acts?

What do you remember from last week's passage?

Last week, we studied Jesus's followers receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. When the believers were gathered in one place, miraculous signs (rushing wind and tongues of fire) heralded the promised arrival of the Holy Spirit and those gathered began speaking in various languages to the amazement of the Jews gathered nearby. In today's passage, Peter, fueled by the Holy Spirit, delivered a sermon to the captivated crowd.



UNDERSTANDING

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

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 2:14-16.

Who did Peter address and what did he seek to clarify as he began his message?

What was the value of Peter referencing Old Testament Scriptures?

Following the speaking of tongues, Peter addressed the assembled crowd in the common language of the day, Aramaic. Remember, many Jews were gathered in Jerusalem for the celebration of the Festival of Weeks. Peter addressed a Jewish audience, which also guided his approach.

Peter began by establishing that the gathered believers were not drunk, as some had speculated (v.13). Peter noted that it was only 9 a.m. because Orthodox Jews usually only drank wine during meals, and they didn't drink or eat before 9 a.m. on holy days like Pentecost.

In the next verses, Peter would go on to quote Scripture from the Old Testament. For devout Jews, this would have been a powerful and effective way to ultimately point to the fact that Jesus was the promised Messiah of God.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 2:17-20.

What does the quoted prophecy in these verses say about the coming of the Holy Spirit?

What results did Joel say the Holy Spirit will bring?

What does this teach us about the Holy Spirit?

Peter quoted Joel 2:28-32. Joel's prophecy pertained to the last days (or the end times), and Peter used it to provide evidence of the Holy Spirit's arrival.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit marked a radical change from what the Jews were used to: The Holy Spirit previously only came upon certain people for certain purposes, for certain periods of time, but at Pentecost, the crowd witnessed firsthand a huge assembly of men and women receiving the Spirit.

Note the inclusion of women here. Joel wrote that both sons and daughters, men and women, would receive the Spirit and prophesy.



 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 2:21.

What does it mean to call on the name of the Lord?

Who is this invitation for?

What did this mean for Peter's initial audience? What does this mean for us?

Our passage today ends with this profound truth: "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (v.21). This concept was another major paradigm shift for the listening Jews, God's chosen people. Salvation was no longer simply associated with the Israelites but was available for whoever calls on the name of the Lord.

Paul presented a similar idea in Romans 10:8-13.

This is the message of faith that we proclaim: If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes on him will not be put to shame, since there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord of all richly blesses all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Salvation is for everyone who accepts it as a gift of grace. This isn't something we can earn by doing good things. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus alone (Ephesians 2:8-9).

The path of acceptance is simple: believe Jesus is God's Son and He died on a cross to pay for your sins.

There aren't any magic words to accept the gift of salvation, but here's a simple prayer you can use: "Dear Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I ask you to forgive me of my sins. I believe you are the Son of God, and I want to follow you. Amen."

If you have any questions or want to talk to someone about this, leaders in our church would love to connect with you!

APPLICATION

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

What do we learn about God from today's passage?



What can we learn from Peter's sermon about how to share the gospel effectively?

What is one way you could seek to share the good news with others this week?

PRAYER

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

Thank God for the truth found in Scripture. Thank God for making a way for everyone who calls on His name to receive His gift of salvation. Ask Him for help acting as His witnesses in the world.

LOOKING AHEAD

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

May 25, 2025 --- Acts 2:22-36

COMMENTARY

Acts 2:14-21

2:14–15 Acts is primarily a narrative punctuated by numerous speeches. Most of the speeches are summaries rather than word-for-word accounts. Just as he did in the Gospel that bears his name, Luke relied on “the original eyewitnesses and servants of the word” to report the essentials of speeches and events for which he was not present (Lk 1:2).

2:16–21 In his reply to the jeering crowd (v. 13), Peter cited three OT passages to demonstrate the biblical basis for the events of Pentecost. The first passage he cited was from Joel 2:28–32. The quotation follows the Masoretic Text version almost verbatim. Peter identified Joel's prophecy with the last days and said those days had now arrived with the coming of the Spirit. There may also yet be a future, ultimate fulfillment of Joel's prophecy.

