

Acts 2:22-36

May 25, 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.

Witnesses

1. Place students in groups by age and gender (seventh grade girls, seventh grade boys, etc.).
2. Ask each student to share a story with their group about something amazing, surprising, or unforgettable that they've witnessed. If they don't have a personal story, they can share an interesting story they've heard from someone else.
3. After everyone has shared (or a set time), have the group vote on their favorite story. (Students can't vote for their own story!)
4. Once the voting is complete, the student with the winning story in each group will share with the entire youth group.

Teaching Moment: In our activity, we shared stories of things we (or others) have witnessed. Today, we'll explore a story from Scripture where Peter acted as a witness to the most amazing thing in history: the risen Messiah, Jesus.

What do you remember about our study of Peter's sermon so far (from last week)?

What have been your takeaways to this point?

DISCUSSION

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 2:22-24.

What did Peter communicate about Jesus in these verses?

What can we learn about God and His sovereignty from the truth Peter shared here?

How did Peter make his case that Jesus is the risen Messiah in these verses?

Why would Peter use David as an example here?

In what ways did Peter compare Jesus and David? Why would that matter to his audience?

What did Peter say about Jesus in these verses?

How did Peter act as Jesus's witness in this passage?

GOING DEEPER

How does today's study remind us of the importance of knowing Scripture to share Jesus faithfully?

How does it build your faith to remember that the whole Bible points to Jesus?

APPLICATION

What can we learn from Peter's sermon about how to share the truth of Jesus effectively with those around us?

How can you witness to God's work in your life personally? How can we collectively do this as a church and group?

Who has God called you to proclaim His truth to? How have you responded?

PRAYER

Thank God for His divine plan that made a way for us to be in relationship with Him forever. Thank Him for sending Jesus to the cross to die for our sins and for the gift of salvation. Ask for God's help as you continue your study of Acts, that your group would gain understanding, learn from the believers of the early church, and be inspired to share Jesus boldly.

LOOKING AHEAD

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

June 1, 2025 --- Acts 2:37-41

COMMENTARY

Acts 2:22-36

2:23 Peter's declaration articulates a major paradox of the Christian life: Jesus's death occurred as a result of the plan and foreknowledge of God, but it was the free (and sinful) acts of human beings that executed that plan. The Bible often affirms the reality of both divine sovereignty and genuine human choice without explaining how the two can possibly work together without conflict (e.g., 4:28; Gn 45:5).

2:24 The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the fundamental event of Christianity and the basis of the gospel. Peter made several important statements about the resurrection in this verse. First, it was God who raised Jesus from the dead. This pictures the resurrection as God the Father's vindication of God the Son. Second, Jesus was literally dead before the resurrection, not simply injured. Thus his resurrection was no mere resuscitation. Notice also that Peter personifies death as an actual force that holds the deceased in its embrace. Third, death's power was overcome by the resurrection, which means that believers should no longer fear it.

2:25-28 The second OT passage Peter cited is Ps 16:8-11. He recognized that Jesus was the one about whom David had prophesied, one who would not see the decay of death (also in v. 31).

2:29–30 Peter identified David as a prophet because he had prophesied through his psalm about the Messiah. David would have treasured this God-given foreknowledge because it entailed Israel's eventual salvation through his own progeny. David would have a victorious descendant on his throne. Peter saw all of this as having been fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is now seated at God's right hand (v. 25; Eph 1:20).

2:31 The citation is from Ps 16:10, referred to by some as a typico-prophetic psalm, in which the meaning of the words described more than just David's experience.

2:32 Throughout this passage Peter has affirmed the reality and significance of Jesus's resurrection. Now he states most clearly the basis of his claims: he and the rest of the apostles were all witnesses to the risen Jesus. They had seen the risen Christ for themselves.

2:33 This verse describes the relationship of the Father and the Son to the coming of the Spirit.

2:34–35 The third and final OT passage cited by Peter is Ps 110:1. Peter cited David as the authority for his seeing Jesus as seated at God's right hand, with all of his enemies in full subjection. The basis of this victory and exaltation was Jesus's resurrection.

2:36 Peter addressed his words specifically to Jews (the house of Israel) and affirmed that Jesus whom they crucified was both Lord and Messiah. By calling Jesus "Lord and Messiah," Peter was staking the biggest possible claims. "Lord" is reserved in the Greek translation of the OT (the Septuagint or LXX) for God (Yahweh). Thus, Peter says Jesus is God. Peter further noted that Jesus was the Messiah (anointed one), Israel's hope for salvation.