

Acts 2:37-41

June 1, 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

In our reading today, Peter preached the gospel to the crowd, and thousands were led to Christ! Today, the Holy Spirit can work similarly, convicting hearts and leading the lost to salvation. When we are open and willing to be the Holy Spirit's instruments in sharing the gospel, God will use us to bring people to Jesus.

INTRODUCTION

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

We'll continue our study of Peter's sermon today. What did Peter preach so far in Acts 2?

What do you think Peter's goal was in this sermon? How can we see He was seeking to be used by God over His own purposes?

In our study today, we'll continue looking at Peter's Holy Spirit-fueled sermon at Pentecost. Peter explained the outpouring of the Holy Spirit using Old Testament Scripture, acted as Jesus's witness by proclaiming the truth about Him (Jesus is the



risen Messiah), and explained how Old Testament prophecy points to the truth about Jesus (Jesus is the Messiah the people had been waiting for). Today, we reach the end goal of Peter's sermon: a call to repentance.

UNDERSTANDING

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

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 2:37.

How were the gathered Jews affected by the truth in Peter's sermon? What question did they ask?

If someone asked you how to be saved, what would you say?

In this verse, we see the initial reaction of the Jews listening to Peter's sermon. It is important to note Peter alone didn't provoke this response in them. This is the Holy Spirit at work. The Holy Spirit used Peter's sermon to stir the hearts of those listening (v.37). With the Holy Spirit's help, the crowd realized they needed Jesus.

When we share the gospel, no magical combination of words produces results. Results come only through the Holy Spirit's moving, and the Holy Spirit can work with any seed we plant—even when we feel like we fumbled our words or didn't say the "right" things. Sometimes He even works more powerfully when we make mistakes or don't do things perfectly.

This verse shows us what can happen when we obediently act as Jesus's witnesses and tell others about Him: God can use us to stir hearts and lead others to His gift of salvation. In Peter's case, the people asked what they needed to do in response. When we share the gospel, we will get versions of this question too! We need to be prepared to answer.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 2:38-40.

How did Peter respond to the question of the crowd?

Who did Peter indicate the gift of salvation is for?

How would you put Peter's response into your own words?

Peter responded to the crowd by explaining what it means to follow Jesus:



“Repent” (v.38): When we accept the gift of salvation, we first recognize our reality as sinners (Romans 3:23) in need of a Savior and choose to repent. When we repent, we turn away from the sin in our lives.

“Be baptized” (v.38): In this verse, Peter called for a public declaration of faith in Jesus. Baptism is a symbol of our decision to follow Jesus, but it isn’t what saves us. When we accept the gift of salvation, we tell other people about it.

“Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (v.38): When we accept the gift of salvation, the Holy Spirit permanently comes to dwell within us. The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts, molds us to look more like Jesus, and helps us live a life that glorifies God. He leads and guides us, helps us see sin in our lives, helps us understand Scripture, and empowers us to share the gospel like Peter did.

Peter gave instruction on how to be saved, but he also continued testifying and encouraging his listeners to respond (v.40). This event happened in one day, but it doesn’t always work that way. Sharing the gospel with those in our community isn’t always a one-and-done experience. We often must continue testifying and sharing.

Finding the words to explain how a person can be saved can sometimes feel complicated! If you feel this way, you aren’t alone. The truth in Scripture included in tools like the “Romans Road” can help.

- John 3:16
- Romans 3:23
- Romans 5:8
- Romans 6:23
- Romans 10:9,13

Write these Scriptures in the front page of your Bible (or in a note on your phone) so you have them whenever you need them.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 2:41.

What response did the unbelievers have?

What types of responses have you received when you’ve shared the gospel or talked about Jesus before?

Why can we trust God even when we don’t get this type of response?

Our passage rounds out with the people’s response. Luke recorded that around three thousand people accepted the gift of salvation that day! There are indications that not everyone accepted the good news (v.41). But we see an important lesson here: When we share the truth about Jesus, not everyone will believe and accept the gift Jesus



offers. Still, we are called to persist in faithfulness to share the gospel and urge others to believe.

APPLICATION

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

What are your big takeaways from our study today?

Do you struggle putting the gospel message into words? How do you share this message with others?

Who is one person you could share the truth of Jesus with this week? How will you take steps toward this?

PRAYER

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

Thank God for the free gift of salvation He offers to all. Thank Him for the examples He has given in the pages of Scripture of how to share the good news of Jesus effectively. Ask for His help as your group goes out and shares the gospel in your community.

LOOKING AHEAD

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

June 8, 2025 --- Acts 2:42-47

COMMENTARY

Acts 2:37-41

2:37 Peter's audience was pierced to the heart because they realized their guilt in the execution of Jesus, plus they were convinced by Peter's passionate eyewitness testimony and his description of how the events surrounding Jesus's death and resurrection fulfilled OT prophecies about the promised Messiah. This prompted them to ask the question that anyone hearing the gospel should ask, Brothers, what should we do?



2:38 Peter's answer indicates three major components in conversion. One must repent, which means turning from sin. To be baptized ... in the name of Jesus publicly declares our repentance and faith, plus it symbolically identifies us with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. The Holy Spirit is given as a gift and seal of conversion, empowering the believer for the life of faith.

2:39 One of the major themes of the book of Acts is that the message of salvation through Jesus Christ extends not just to the people of Israel but also beyond them to as many as ...God will call. The Gentiles were far off in two senses: they were geographically far removed from Israel, but even more significantly they were "far off" from knowledge of the one true God.

2:40 On this corrupt generation, see Ps 78:8. Jesus often referred to "this generation" in the same sense (Mt 12:41).

2:41 In response to Peter's preaching, Luke commented in an understated way that about three thousand people were added to the community of believers. Note the close link between coming to faith and being baptized. There was apparently no delay between profession of faith and baptism. The large number of converts was made possible by the huge crowds who had traveled to Jerusalem from all over the Mediterranean region for the Passover celebration.

