

▼ **The Spirit Jump-Starts The Church - Part 2**

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• **Read the Passage: Acts 2**

▼ **The Flow of Acts 2.**

- Disciples are all together waiting in obedience to Jesus' instruction (Acts 1:4-8).

▼ The Holy Spirit arrives on Pentecost.

- Fulfills the Jewish Feast of Pentecost: First Fruits, Giving of the Law
- "Undoes" the division and scattering that followed the "Tower of Babel".

▼ Filled and empowered by the Spirit, the disciples proclaim the wonders of God.

- The Holy Spirit doesn't come to glorify us.
- The Holy Spirit empowers us to glorify God.

▼ Filled and empowered by the Spirit, Peter proclaims the Good News.

- The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus by empowering us to be his witnesses.

▶ The Good News

▼ People respond to the message:

- The people ask what they should do.
- ▶ Peter's response: repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins.
- ▶ The Church grows.

▶ **Recognize how this event echoes key Old Testament events.**

▶ **Recognize the elements of the Good News that Peter proclaims and learn to use it as one available model.**

▼ **Recognize the elements of the family life of the disciples and learn to use it as a model.**

- Devotion to the Apostles' teaching - The Bible.

▼ Devotion to The Fellowship.

- Meeting in the Temple Courts (i.e. large gatherings).
- Meeting in homes (i.e. small gatherings).
- Meetings characterized by thanksgiving and praise to God.
- Devotion to the breaking of bread.
- Devotion to prayer.
- Sharing to meet needs.

▶ **Critical mass of believers building in Jerusalem.**

▼ **What difference does it make? So What?**

- How else did an obscure sect within the Palestinian territory of Judea become a world-wide movement?
 - The Kingdom of God is established and advanced by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - The Kingdom of God is advanced by the proclaiming of the Good News featuring the resurrection of Jesus.
- ▼ The Kingdom of God is a family.
- What are they good for?
 - Why is God committed to this design for the Kingdom?
 - How does this start to undo the brokenness of their world?
 - This is just the beginning. We'll see the bigger picture as we continue reading through Acts.

▼ **Discussion Questions**

- What does the Apostles' teaching mean in your day to day life? Are you devoted to it? What is the evidence?
- In what ways do you participate in the fellowship? Are you devoted? What would those who know you say?
- What role does the "breaking of bread with believers" play in your life?
- How's your prayer life - individually and corporately?
- How well do you share?

▼ **Skills Development**

- **For this exercise gather into small groups.**

▼ **Good Works**

▼ Corporate thought exercise:

- What does the Kingdom of God mean?
- What problems in the world make you passionate enough to invest your time and resources in solving them?
- How do you think God feels about those problems?
- Pair up and pray for God to show you how he wants to use you this week.
- What did God tell you? Discuss with your group and identify your next steps.

▼ **Good News**

- Practice presenting the gospel to one another.
- Practice sharing with a partner how you became a follower of Jesus or what you think stands in the way of you becoming one.