

Week 1

Discussion Group Questions

Ekklesia: His Kingdom Come



1. INTRODUCTIONS:

- Please share your name with the group along with what you were wearing in your first memory of going to church (or what type of clothes).

2. SCHEDULE:

- Please look over the schedule in the front of your notebook. Are there any questions about the schedule?
- We'd like to honor your time, so we'll try to stick as closely to the schedule as possible. In order to help with that, Jenna (or someone) will text your leader with a 3-5 minute warning before you need to close in prayer.
- If at all possible, please come a few minutes early so that you can enjoy the time in your groups to the fullest extent.

3. HOMEWORK:

- Please start each homework day with prayer in order to invite the Lord to be part of your study time. (It's not just about knowing more, but deepening your relationship with the Lord.)
- We will have 5 days of homework. Please try to do the homework each day rather than trying to get it in all at once so that you can get the most out of your study time. Please try and let the "catch up" plan be the exception and not the rule. (But even if you don't get it all finished, you're still totally welcome here. Please come anyway.)
- Homework questions with asterisks (*) will be the discussion questions for the coming week.

4. PREPARE YOUR HEART:

- Please share one word to describe your thoughts as you enter this study, and write it down. At the end of the study, you can see if that word has changed. _____
- What is one word you would use to describe the church, and why? Please write that word down and see how it is affected by the end of the study. _____
- Almost all of the books of the New Testament are letters written to churches. Why do you think the Lord planned for His word to go to the churches?
- What do you think Jesus meant by the statement, "Your Kingdom come" when He explained to the disciples how to pray?
- At the bottom or on the back of this page, please write down what you view the purpose of the church to be, and at the end of the study, go back to see how your perspective has changed or deepened through the study.

5. PLEASE CLOSE THIS TIME IN PRAYER.

- Please ask the Lord to prepare your heart for the message you're about to hear.
- Please ask the Lord to help you to open your heart and mind to what He wants to teach you over the next several weeks.

PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH: _____

DATE: _____

His Kingdom Comes... in Power
Acts 2



3. People _____ and _____ to the Holy Spirit. (37-47)

Week 1 Homework

His Kingdom Comes . . . in Power
Acts 2



Day One

PRAY: Ask the Lord to fill you with awe as you study the miraculous events of Acts 2. May we be filled with wonder and humility as we contemplate the fact that we are filled with the Holy Spirit of God.

MEMORIZE: Write Acts 1:8 on the lines below or on a notecard to use for reference and meditation throughout this week.

STUDY: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses.” (Acts 1:8) These were the last words that Jesus spoke to His disciples before He was taken into heaven. These simple Galileans trusted that Jesus would keep His promises. He said, “You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” Although they didn’t understand how it would take place, they knew that the Spirit was coming to give them the power to be obedient to the commands of Jesus. The prophet Habakkuk had said, “If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. . . The righteous shall live by faith.” Laying aside their unbelief, they gathered together and waited for the Spirit of God to come with power.

Please read Acts 2.

1. On the lines below record the big ideas and repeated words or phrases in this chapter.

2. Summarize this chapter in one or two sentences.

3. *What do you learn about God in this chapter? Specifically, thinking of His role in the church.

As you close your study time in prayer today, share with the Lord what you have learned and how you would like to apply this to your life.

Day Two

PRAY: Ask the Lord to show you more about how the Spirit works in the church and in your life today.

MEMORIZE: Acts 1:8. Unscramble the phrases below to write out the verse.

when the Holy Spirit and in all Judea and Samaria witnesses in Jerusalem, But you will receive power and to the end of the earth. has come upon you, and you will be my

STUDY: After the death and resurrection of Christ, the events in these verses represent the second most significant event in redemptive history. Before this, the Spirit of God was only occasionally “with” man, but on the day of Pentecost, He filled all of those who believed in Jesus. On this incredible day, the Holy Spirit came in great power and the church of Jesus Christ was born.

Please read Acts 2:1-13.

1. Describe the events of verses 1-4. (See also Acts 1:12-15)

a. When and where did this occur?

b. Who was there?

c. What happened?

d. What was the immediate outcome?

2. From verses 5-13

a. What specifically were the disciples saying in all different languages?

b. How did the people who witnessed this event respond?

3. Read the passages below. What did Jesus teach His disciples about the Holy Spirit?

a. John 14:16-17

b. John 16:7-11

c. John 16:13-14

4. *How does the ministry of the Holy Spirit impact your life today?

Close your study time in prayer by sharing with the Lord what you have learned about the Holy Spirit today.

Day Three

PRAY: Begin your study by asking the Lord to fill you with certainty that He is both Lord and Christ. (Acts 2:36)

MEMORIZE: Read or say Acts 1:8 out loud several times. Fill in the blanks to complete the verse:

But you will receive _____ when the _____ comes upon you, and you will be _____ in Jerusalem and in all _____ and Samaria, and to the _____ of the _____.

STUDY: The newly Spirit-filled disciples spilled into the streets of Jerusalem proclaiming the mighty works of God. Speaking in a variety of languages they created such a stir that the crowds wondered what was going on. In the verses we're studying today, Peter stands before the crowd with the other apostles and using Scripture, explains the miraculous events that they were witnessing.

Please read Acts 2:14-36.

1. *From verses 14-21, how does Peter explain these events? What promise is given to the hearers in these verses?

2. *In verse 22 Peter moves from explaining the situation to his main topic, the Gospel. How would you summarize the main thoughts of verses 22-24?

3. Beginning in verse 25 Peter shows how Jesus is different from King David (Israel's greatest king). What do you learn about Jesus in these verses?

4. What do these verses teach you about sharing the gospel with others?

5. Based upon what you have read today, how do you know that Jesus is both Lord and Christ? How does this impact your worship of Jesus Christ as your King?

Close your time in prayer today by telling the Lord what it means to you that He is Lord of all and Lord of your heart.

Day Four

PRAY: Open your study today by asking the Lord to help you understand more about how the Spirit brings conviction.

MEMORIZE: Review Acts 1:8 then write it out on the lines below.

STUDY: As Peter concluded his sermon, the Holy Spirit continued to work in great power - bringing conviction to the hearers. The result of this is dramatic as many souls are added to the church. In these verses we will have a glimpse into the activities of the apostles and all of these early believers as they became the body of Christ.

Please read Acts 2:37-47

1. *From verse 37, what does it mean to be cut to the heart? And what caused this reaction?

2. From verses 38-39:

a. How should they respond to their conviction?

b. What outcomes will they experience as a result?

3. *Using verses 38-39, how would you explain the gospel and the response it requires to a person who does not know Jesus as Savior?

4. *From verses 42-47:

a. How did the early church believers spend their days?

b. What elements of the early church do you see continuing in the modern church?

5. Can you think of a time when you have been “cut to the heart” by your sin? How do you respond to the Lord in those times? How do these verses challenge you to respond to conviction?

As you close your time in prayer, share with the Lord how you have been challenged to respond to the conviction of the Spirit in your life.

Day Five

PRAY: Ask God to help you learn what it means to be “strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being.” (Ephesians 3:16)

MEMORIZE: Review Acts 1:8. On the lines below record your thoughts about how this verse should impact your life today.

STUDY: This week we have learned how Jesus continued His work on earth through the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. Centuries later we still feel the impact of these stunning events. We are challenged to lay aside our unbelief because we serve a faithful, promise-keeping God who rules over all and continues to fill and transform His followers through the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. In Acts 2:1-4 the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. When you claim Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, you are also filled with the Spirit. Read the verses below and record what you learn about the Spirit in your life today.

a. Galatians 5:22-25

b. Ephesians 4:29-32

c. Colossians 3:15-16

2. What do these verses challenge you to stop, start, or change so that the power of the Holy Spirit can be more evident in your life?

3. In Acts 2:32-33 we learned that Jesus is alive and exalted at the right hand of God - He is Lord of all, but must be Lord of each heart as well. How do you respond to His rule in your life?

4. *In Acts 2:42-47 we learned about the attitudes and actions of the early church. What can you do to be more of an Acts 2 church member?

Close in prayer by thanking the Lord for what He has taught you this week. Be specific as you pray about the ways you have been challenged.