

LESSON 2: ACTS 2, 3, 4, 5

READING 1--READ STUDY NOTES FROM LESSON 1; ACTS 2: 1-13

1. What scripture, thought or concept did you find helpful from the notes on chapter 1?

PENTECOST

Acts 2 opens as faithful Jews gather for the Feast of Pentecost, one of three Jewish holy days that obligated Jewish males to come to Jerusalem and the temple to present themselves before the Lord. The city was therefore crowded with foreign Jews. Pentecost means in Greek "fiftieth day" and falls 50 days from the first day of Passover. It was also called the "Feast of Harvest" or "First Fruits" and was when the first fruits of the coming harvest were celebrated.

It was also on this day that Moses had received the Ten Commandments on tablets of stone from Mt. Sinai. In a sense this was a celebration of the first fruits of the Law that Jehovah continued to pour down upon the Israelite people to make them a noble and just nation.

2. At the beginning of Acts 2, Luke uses two similes or metaphors to describe the Holy Ghost coming upon them. What is his description of the experience?
3. Many of the disciples, who were the ones speaking in tongues, were from what geographical area? Cite verse where you found your answer.
4. What was the reaction of the "out-of-towners" as they observed the disciples speaking in tongues?
5. PERSONAL: Have you or a family member ever had an experience with the gift of tongues?

READING 2—READ ACTS 2: 14-36 PETER'S SPEECH TO THE CROWD AT PENTECOST

6. a. In the first part of his response to the gathered crowd, Peter quotes the prophet Joel. (Joel 2:28-32) Name the groups listed and also the gifts of the spirit specified for each.
 - b. Can you think of ways that you believe Joel's prophecy is coming true in our day as well as on the day of Pentecost? What is the common denominator of all the gifts?

7. CHALLENGE QUESTION: Peter begins his speech by affirming that his listeners know all about the "miracles and wonders and signs which God did by [Jesus] in the midst of you." This is a first witness he cites to them that they should accept the claims of Jesus Christ as the prophesied Messiah. Name two or three other scriptural or personal witnesses that he cites in his challenge to his listeners.

READING 3---READ ACTS 2: 41-47 FIRST FRUITS OF A NEW HARVEST

8. a. The crowd at Pentecost were "pricked in their hearts" at Peter's challenging speech. What was Peter's response to the famous question, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?!"

b. Do you think this formula still applies to would-be believers today? Why? See verse 39.

9. Pentecost was known as the feast of "first fruits." How does this name relate to what happened on the particular day of Pentecost told about in Acts 2?

10. How did the converts show by their lives and actions that they were changed?

11. How did their actions affect the surrounding culture of non-believers? Cite verse.

READING 4---READ ACTS 3: 1-18 HEALING OF THE LAME MAN

12. The lame beggar hoped for alms but Peter and John healed him in the name of Jesus. In what way today can those who are authorized to act in the name of Jesus Christ lift the lives of believers?

13. PERSONAL "Such as I have I give unto thee..." What is one "lifting talent" you have that could lift up others?

14. Peter does not pull any punches with this crowd. What does he accuse them of as he begins his speech?

15. He softens his accusations by making what excuse for the people? Cite verse.

READING 5---READ ACTS 3:19-26

16. How was Peter able use the writings of past prophets to convince his hearers of the truth of Jesus Christ?

17. Would an LDS missionary today be able to refer to the writings of past prophets to convince a crowd of the truth of their message?

Week 2: Acts 4 & 5

READING 6 --- ACTS 4:1-22

1. a. How does it appear that missionary work is going at this stage? Cite verse.

b. The religious rulers and leaders were angry at the influence of Peter and John. They demanded to know their authority for preaching. Peter boldly went on the offensive, rather than answer defensively. What phrase in the text identifies the source of Peter's boldness?
2. In verse 12 Peter asserts that only in the name of Christ can anyone be saved. What are the things that mankind needs a Savior save them from?
3. What was the reaction of the Jewish leaders to the boldness of Peter and John?

READING 7---ACTS 4:23-37

4. In your own words, what is the gist of the prayer of the disciples in Acts 4:24-30?
5. From these verses, what are some characteristics of the Church of Jesus Christ of Early Day Saints? (If you would like, you can number these in your scriptures.)
6. **PERSONAL APPLICATION:** The lame man at the Gate Beautiful was a beggar. King Mosiah says that we are all beggars before God (Mosiah 4:19). Is there an area of your life in which you feel your lameness and brokenness, i.e., your desperate need? How can you access the power in the name of Christ?

READING 8-- ACTS 5:1-16

7. Ananias and his wife Sapphira did not have integrity. What problems are created when a member of Christ's church does not have integrity?
8. Verse 11 speaks of "great fear" coming on the whole church. Who or what do you think they were afraid of and did this have a good or bad effect?

9. How does Acts 5:12-16, a list of miracles done by the apostles, relate to Acts 4:24-30, the prayer of the early Christian disciples?

READING 9--ACTS 5:17-32

10. This section of scripture is about a contest of competing powers. The disciples’ prayer of Acts 4:24-30, begins by addressing a prayer to “God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is.” List here the ways in which the two opposing sides show what power they possess.

The Power of God

The Power of the Sanhedrin

11. What are some areas today where we are tempted to obey man rather than obey God?

READING 10--ACTS 5: 33-42

12. What wisdom did Gamaliel (a spiritual mentor of Paul) give to the leaders of the Jews about Peter, John and the other apostles?

13. In spite of the mighty demonstrations of God’s power that have been shown in this chapter, God still allows the apostles to be beaten (v 40), which was both painful and humiliating. Why do you think he would let this happen when he had the power to deliver them from that experience?

14. What is the apostles’ reaction to the beating?

15. PERSONAL Have you ever suffered shame or embarrassment for the name of Christ or the church? Explain.

16. What thought, scripture or word has been particularly meaningful to you from this scripture study?