



Lesson 1:

Promised Power Received

Read Acts 2: *This chapter takes place on the day of Pentecost. This feast day occurred fifty days after the Passover feast – Pentecost means “the fiftieth.” Passover occurred in mid-April, so Pentecost was at the beginning of June. It was the most attended feast time in Jerusalem.*

1. Jesus’ followers were together waiting for a promised gift from God; look back at **Acts 1:4-5** to remember what they were waiting for.
2. Jesus had explained the purposes of this gift in the book that precedes Acts. Read the following references to find those purposes:
 - John 14:16-17 _____

 - John 14:26 _____
 - John 16:12-15 _____

3. In **Acts 2:2-4**, Luke describes a sudden occurrence that brought the believers’ waiting to an end. Describe the three phenomena that announced the arrival of the gift, imagining what each was like as you write.

Note: Acts 2:4 uses a phrase, “filled with the Holy Spirit,” that is very important for us to understand.

4. **(Digging Deeper)** To help you understand the meaning of that phrase, consider **Acts 1:8**, the verses from **John** in question 2 and **Ephesians 5:18-21**. With those verses in mind, can you put together a biblical explanation of what it means to be “filled with the Holy Spirit?”
5. Is the filling of the Holy Spirit something that you have experienced as real and true in your own life? If so, would you be willing to share that with the group to help our understanding?

6. **Read Acts 2:5-13.** What seems to be Luke's focus in these verses? How does that further support our understanding of what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit? What do you find interesting in the reactions of the gathered crowd?

Note: *Acts 2:14-41 is a sermon. Peter did not belong to the age of the "three point sermon," rather he had a sense of striking while the iron was hot. The crowd had opened a door by asking, "What does this mean?" (vs. 12) Peter gave a sermon -- a summary statement of God's story that helped the hearers understand the phenomena they were witnessing. Let's spend some time soaking in and absorbing the truths from the sermon that brought 3,000 to faith!*

7. People in our day tire easily when quotes are read in sermons—why do you think Peter thought it was worthwhile to begin his sermon with a quote from the Old Testament prophet Joel in **verses 17-21**?
8. Lift out each truth that Peter highlights in **verses 22-25**. As you think about who might be listening to this message, what lessons does that teach about the purpose of sermons?
9. As you come to worship each week, what are you expecting to happen when you listen to the sermon?
10. (**Digging Deeper**) Peter uses another Old Testament quote from Psalm 16 in **verses 25-28** and then thankfully offers some explanation in **verses 29-35**. Can you unravel the points he is making? (*Hint: The New Living Translation of the Bible or The Message translation is often helpful for understanding when quotes are used in Scripture.*)
11. The summary truths that Peter is seeking to communicate seem to be found in **verse 33 and verse 36**, what do these truths mean to you?
12. **Read Acts 2:37-47.** What do you find compelling as you consider the ways that this sermon impacted the people listening?

➤ A golden nugget that God taught me in this lesson was _____