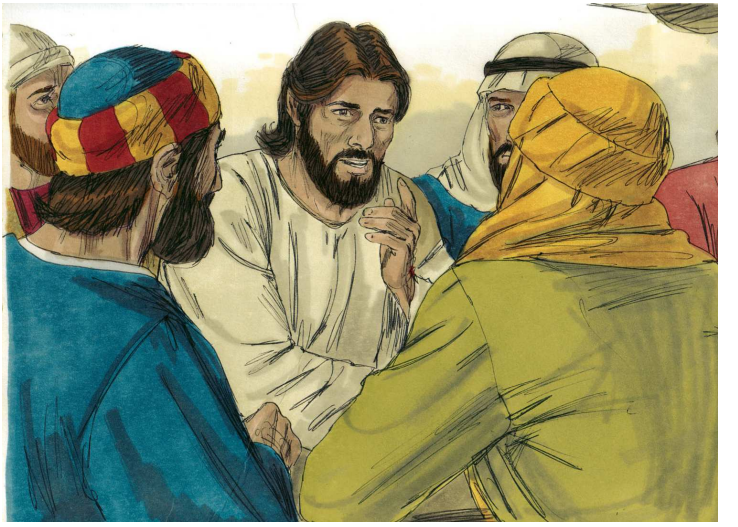
152 The Coming of the Holy Spirit



Acts 1-2

English

Spiritual

152 The Coming of the Holy Spirit

English

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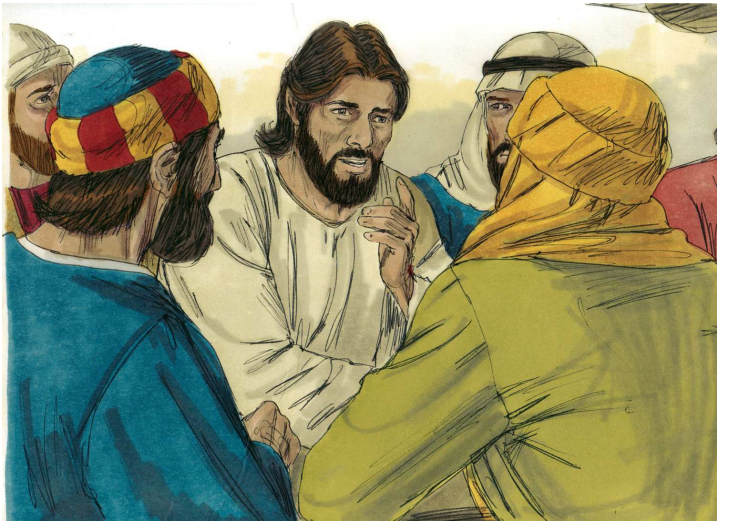
Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc. has skin darkened all of the Jim Padgett illustrations in our collection, and has modified some of them.

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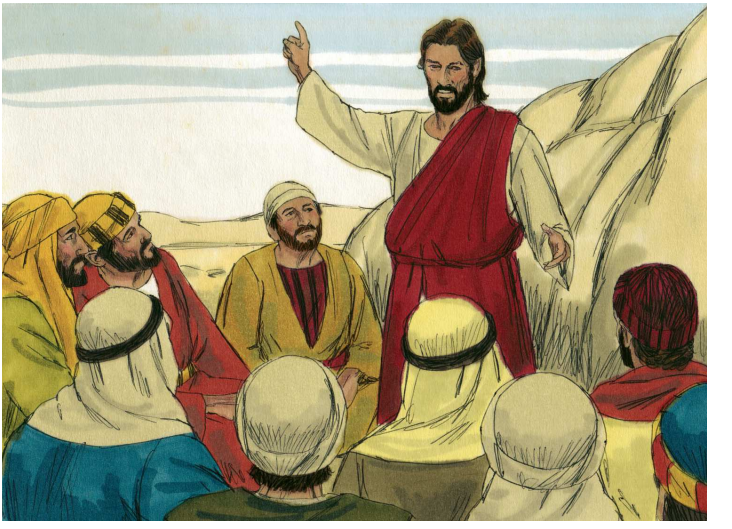
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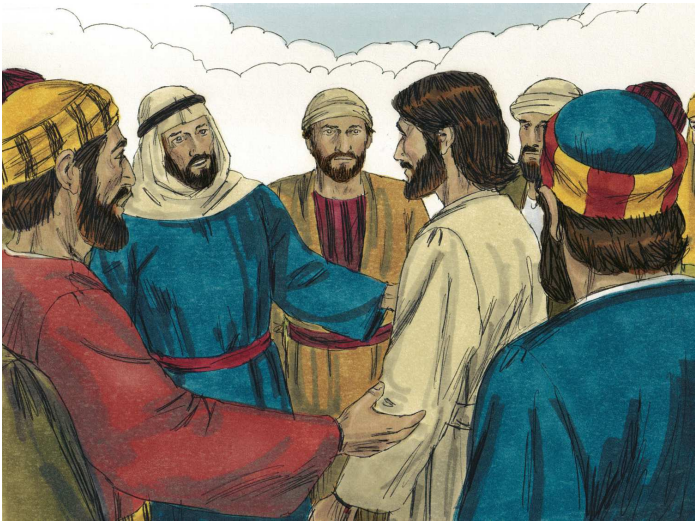
A special thanks to the 50+ unnamed people who worked on the story scripts, templates, adapted illustrations and music.



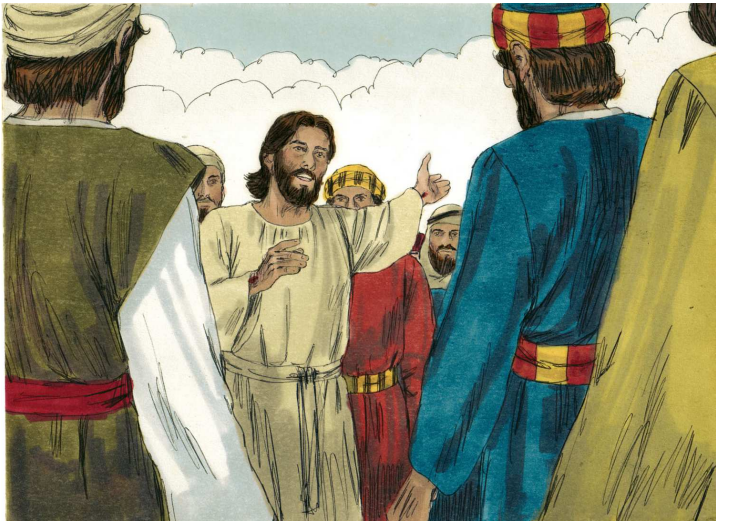
During the forty days after he suffered and died, Jesus appeared to the apostles, giving many proofs of his resurrection, and talking to them about the Kingdom of God.



One day, while he was with his apostles, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the Holy Spirit, as he promised.”



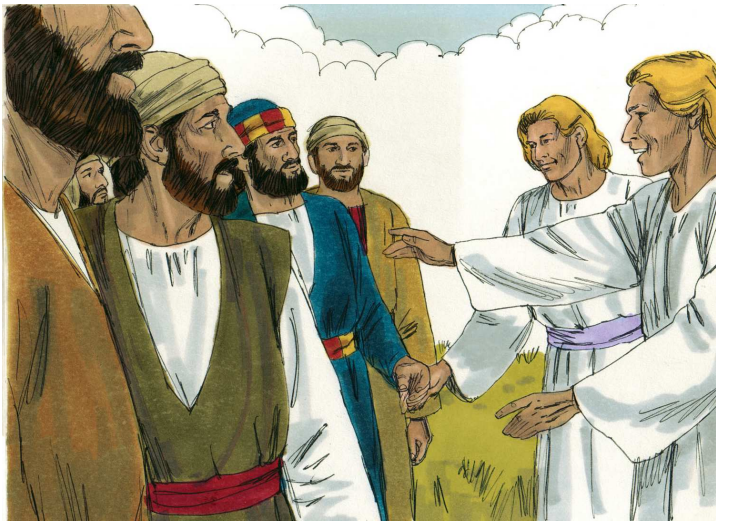
The apostles asked Jesus, “Lord, will you now return the kingdom to Israel?” Jesus replied, “The Father has set the times and dates for what will happen to Israel. But you will not know about it before it happens.”



Jesus continued talking, “But the Holy Spirit will come upon you and give you power. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and everywhere in the world.”



After Jesus had said this, and while they were watching, he was lifted up into the sky until a cloud hid him from their sight.



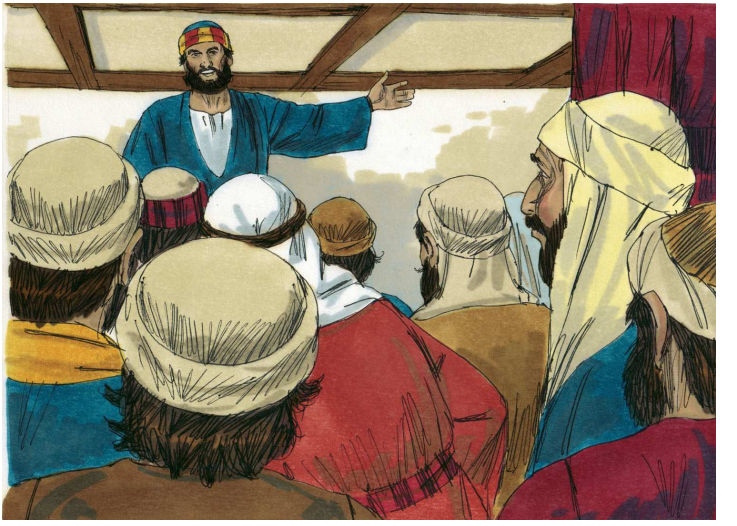
The disciples were still looking up when suddenly two men wearing white clothes appeared beside them and said, “You men from Galilee, you do not need to stand here any longer looking up at the sky! Someday this same Jesus, whom God took from you up to heaven, will come back to earth. He will return in the same manner as you just now saw him go.”



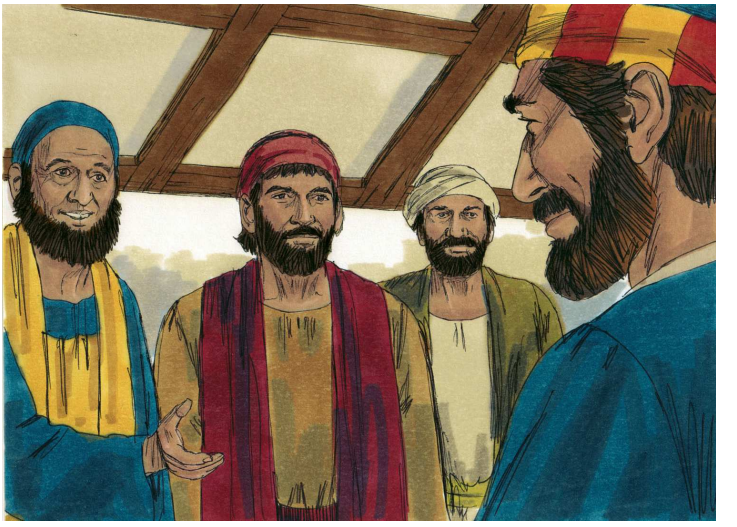
So the apostles returned to Jerusalem. All of them were there except Judas who had betrayed Jesus. They all joined together constantly in prayer, including the women who had been with Jesus, Mary who was Jesus' mother and his younger brothers.



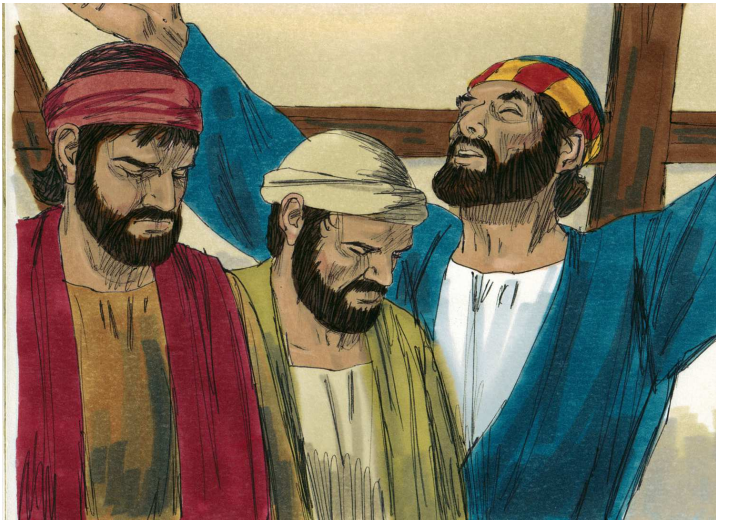
Judas was not with the other apostles because he was dead. He had hanged himself in a field.



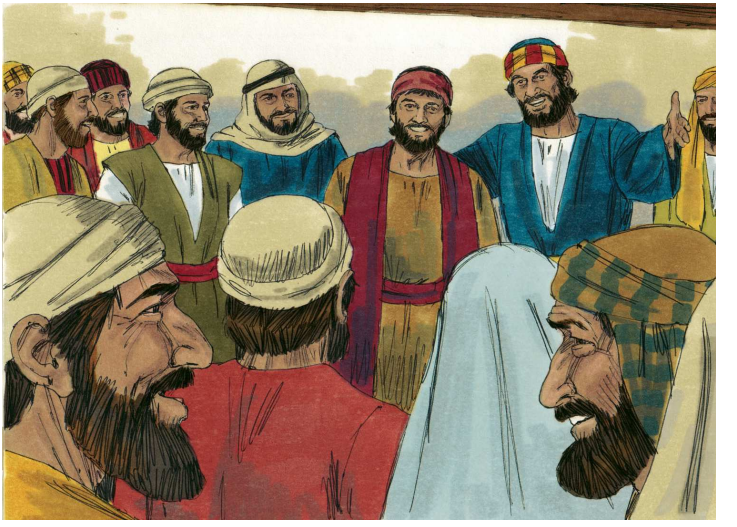
Peter said, “It is necessary for us to choose a man to replace Judas. He must be one who was with us all the time when the Lord Jesus was with us. The man to replace Judas must be one who saw Jesus alive again after he died.”



So the apostles and other believers suggested the names of two men. One of them was Barsabbas. He was also known as Justus. The other was Matthias.



Then they prayed, “Lord, you know every man’s inmost thoughts, so please show us which of these two men you have chosen to take the place of Judas.”



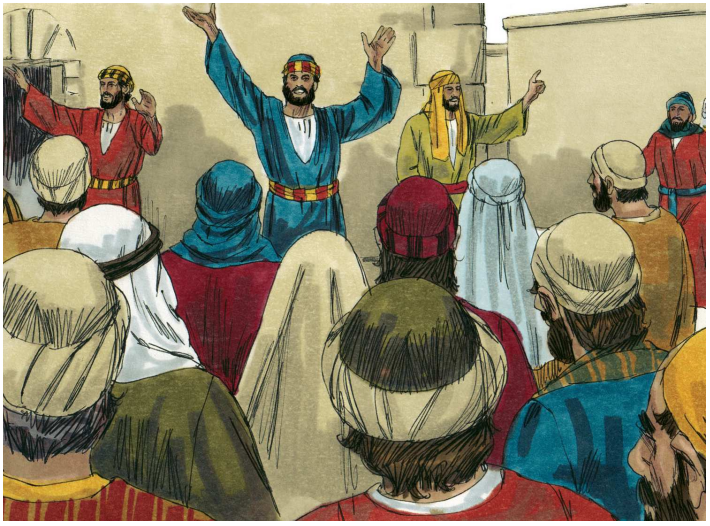
So they used lots to choose which one the Lord wanted, and Matthias was selected. He was added to the eleven others to replace Judas as an apostle.



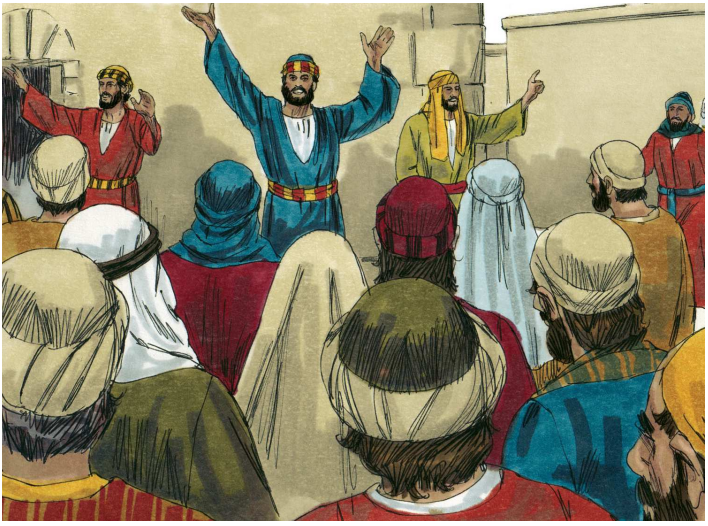
When a great Jewish festival called Pentecost was happening, Jesus' disciples were all together in one place in Jerusalem.



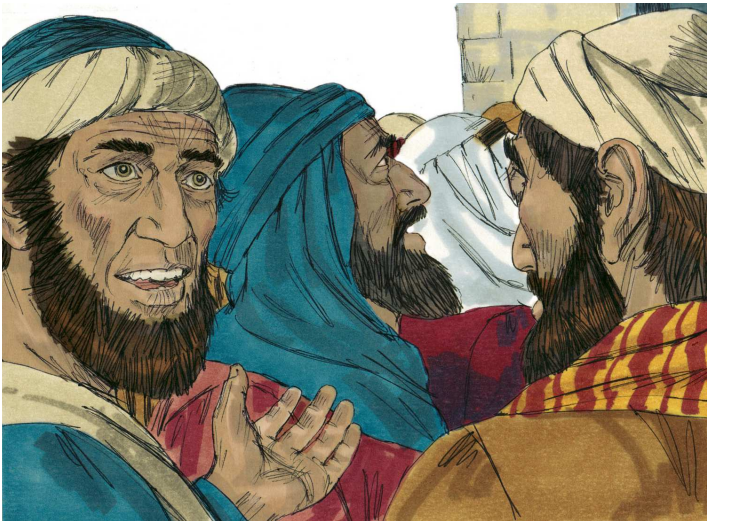
Suddenly they heard a noise that sounded like a strong wind coming into the house. Then they saw what looked like flames of fire. These flames separated from one another, and one of them came down on the head of each of the believers. Then all of the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages.



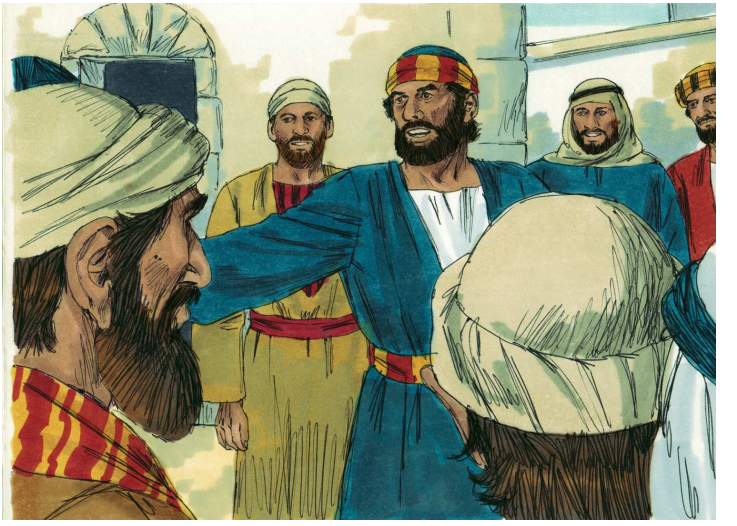
Many Jews from all over the world were staying in Jerusalem to celebrate the Pentecost festival. When they heard the sound, a crowd of them gathered where the believers were.



The people in the crowd were surprised to hear the apostles speak to each one of them in his own language. The Holy Spirit had enabled the apostles to miraculously speak in the languages of the people who had gathered there.



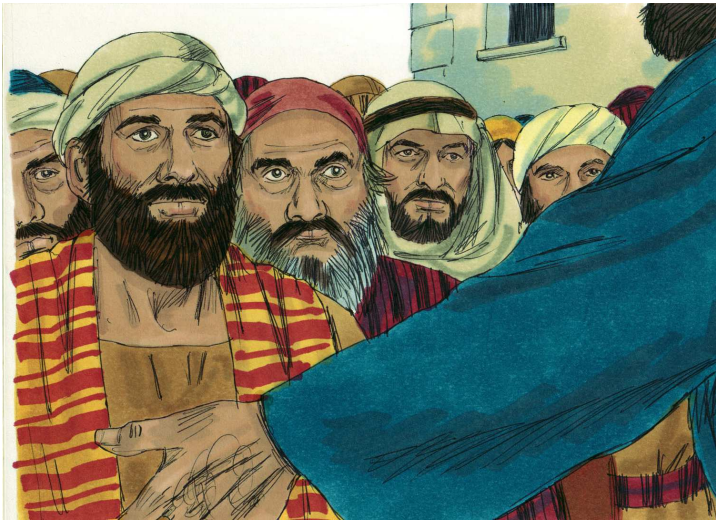
The crowd was completely amazed, “These men are from Galilee, so how can they speak our languages, telling about the great things God has done?” But some of them made fun of what they saw, “These people are talking like this because they have drunk too much wine!”



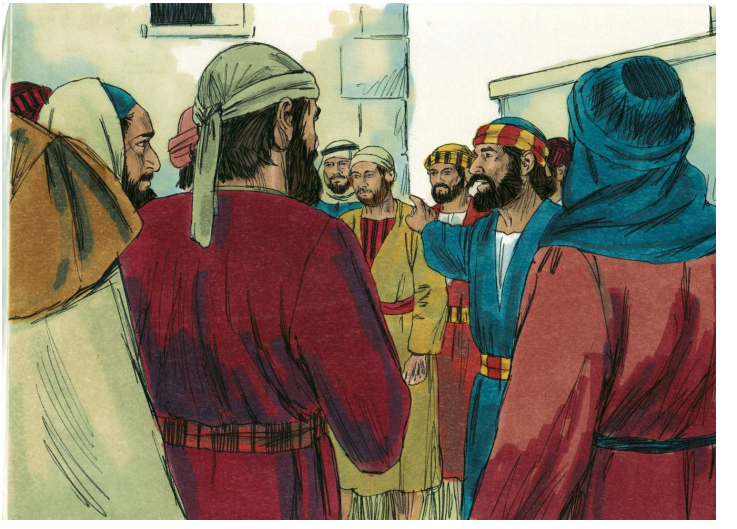
Then Peter spoke to the crowd, “These men are not drunk, as some of you assume. What you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel. ‘In the last days,’ said God, ‘I will give my Holy Spirit to my servants so they can tell people my messages.’”



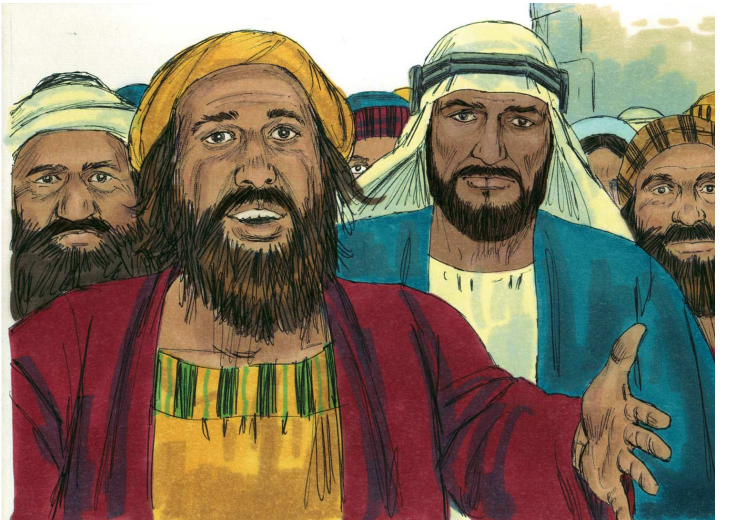
“Listen to this: God worked miracles and signs through Jesus of Nazareth. You yourselves knew that. But even though you knew it, you still had Jesus nailed to a cross. But God raised him from the dead and he is living again!”



“All of us can tell you that God raised Jesus to life again. And he is exalted at God’s right side in heaven. He has received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit and Jesus has now poured out the Holy Spirit on you yourselves. This is what you are now seeing and hearing.”



“Even though you crucified Jesus, you should now be sure that God has made him to be both Lord and Messiah!”



When the people heard what Peter said, they knew they had done wrong. “What should we do?” they asked.



Peter answered, “Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God. If you now believe in Jesus we will baptize you. God will forgive your sins, and he will give you his Holy Spirit.”



So the people who believed Peter's message were baptized. There were about three thousand who joined the group of believers that day.



The believers continued listening to the apostles' teachings, had fellowship with each other, shared with those in need, and prayed. They were doing all of this every day and their hearts were filled with joy.

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