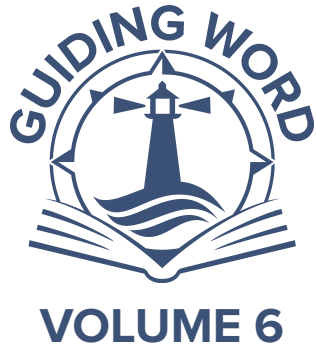




The Epistles



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Welcome

Welcome to *Guiding Word*. This six-volume collection will help you better read and understand the Bible, the most important book ever written. In it, we read and hear God's Word, which is written so that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, and that by believing we may have eternal life in His name (John 20:31).

Why have another Bible resource? First, the Bible is a complex library of books, and it is often intimidating for people to read on their own. Second, while there are many resources designed to help you read and understand the Bible, each has its own format and style and may not be suitable for every learner. We hope this resource will fill a gap and be useful for you.

Think of this series of books as a travel guide to the Bible. Just as a travel guide helps you prepare for and better enjoy a trip, this resource will enable you to better understand and appreciate the Bible as you journey through it. The sections have been designed to help you prepare for reading and understanding difficult passages, to explain the overall course of the Scriptures, to prompt you to reflect on the text as you read, to point out important milestones and events, and to guide you to Jesus' presence throughout the Bible.

If you are already familiar with the organization of the Bible, feel free to skip ahead to the section titled "What's in *Guiding Word*?"

What's in the Bible?

The Bible is all about God's plan to restore fallen humanity and His broken creation by sending His Son. But what's in the Bible? How do we look at it? How do we use it? Though we call the Bible a book, it's actually a collection of sixty-six books. These were written over a period of 1,500 years by many authors.

The Bible has two divisions: the Old Testament and the New Testament. We don't use the word *testament* too often today. It's related to words like *covenant* and *contract*.

The Old Testament includes the first thirty-nine books of the Bible. These are the books written about the events that happened before Jesus was born. They all point us toward Jesus. The name *Old Testament* is a little misleading because sometimes we think of old things as not important or out of style. Instead, these books can be thought of as the first covenant or promise that God made to His people to send the Savior, Jesus. And as you will see, Jesus is present throughout the Old Testament. The New Testament includes the last twenty-seven books of the Bible, which record Jesus' life and mission, as well as the life of Jesus' early followers in the church. These books point us back to Jesus and how He fulfilled all of God's promises made for us in the Old Testament. Again, these are all about Jesus.

The books of the Bible are organized in a way that may seem confusing at first but makes sense when you know the system. How are the books in a library organized? In libraries,

books are organized by their type. Fiction is in one section, and nonfiction is in another; magazines are in one spot and children’s books in another. The same goes for the Bible. Instead of the books being ordered by the date they were written or by their authors, the books of the Bible are put in categories, or genres; then the books are generally organized by date written within that genre.

NAVIGATING THE LIBRARY

The first five books of the Old Testament—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy—are called the Books of Moses, or the Torah, meaning “Law of God.” They were written down by Moses and are covered in the first volume of this series.

The next books in the Old Testament are called the Books of History. These tell the history of God’s people from the time of Moses up to the time of Jesus and are covered in the second volume.

Next are the Books of Wisdom and Poetry. These poetical books were written at different times during the Old Testament history, mostly by kings David and Solomon. These are covered in the third volume.

The last group of Old Testament books are the Books of the Prophets. These books record God’s special messages to His Old Testament people, mostly during the second half of their history. They are discussed in the fourth volume.

The New Testament has five genres. The first four books—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—are called the Gospels. Each Gospel tells of the life and mission of Jesus from a different writer and perspective. These accounts make up the heart of the Bible and are covered in the fifth *Guiding Word* volume.

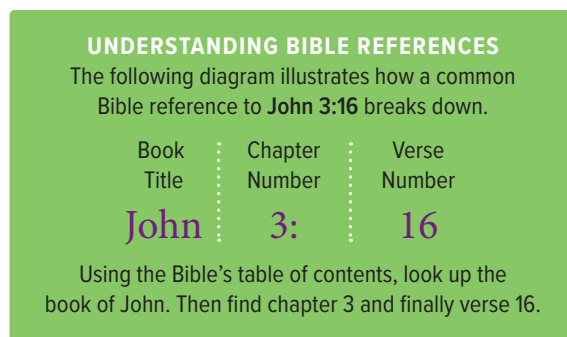
Next is the book of the Acts of the Apostles (also known simply as Acts). This historical book records events from the early years of the Christian Church and the lives of the first Christians after Jesus ascended into heaven. The next books are called the Pauline Epistles (*epistle* means “letter”). These are letters that the apostle Paul wrote to the early Christians. Near the end of the New Testament are the General Epistles. These are letters that other people besides Paul wrote to the early Christians. The final book of the Bible is the only book of prophecy in the New Testament, the book of Revelation. This shows the vision Jesus revealed to the apostle John about life in the end times (that is, the time between Christ’s first and second coming) and the restoration of God’s creation. The books of Acts through Revelation are covered in the sixth and final volume of *Guiding Word*.

66 BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

OLD TESTAMENT	GENESIS
	EXODUS
	LEVITICUS
	NUMBERS
	DEUTERONOMY
BOOKS OF MOSES (Torah)	JOSHUA
	JUDGES
	RUTH
	1 SAMUEL
	2 SAMUEL
	1 KINGS
	2 KINGS
	1 CHRONICLES
	2 CHRONICLES
	EZRA
HISTORY	NEHEMIAH
	ESTHER
	JOB
	PSALMS
	PROVERBS
	ECCLESIASTES
	SONG OF SOLOMON
	ISAIAH
	JEREMIAH
	LAMENTATIONS
WISDOM & POETRY	EZEKIEL
	DANIEL
	HOSEA
	JOEL
	AMOS
	OBADIAH
	JONAH
	MICAH
	NAHUM
	HABAKKUK
PROPHETS	ZEPHANIAH
	HAGGAI
	ZECHARIAH
	MALACHI
	MATTHEW
NEW TESTAMENT	MARK
	LUKE
	JOHN
	ACTS
	ROMANS
GOSPELS	1 CORINTHIANS
	2 CORINTHIANS
	GALATIANS
	EPHESIANS
	PHILIPPIANS
	COLOSSIANS
	1 THESSALONIANS
	2 THESSALONIANS
	1 TIMOTHY
	2 TIMOTHY
PAULINE EPISTLES (Letters)	TITUS
	PHILEMON
	HEBREWS
	JAMES
	1 PETER
	2 PETER
	1 JOHN
	2 JOHN
	3 JOHN
	JUDE
GENERAL EPISTLES	REVELATION
END TIMES	

NAVIGATING THE BIBLE

When you open up a Bible, you'll see chapter and verse numbers scattered throughout the pages. Did you know that those numbers were not originally there? As people used the Bible more and more and made copies, later scholars eventually put in these numbers to help people quickly find sections or passages. We call these Bible references.



What's in *Guiding Word*?

Each volume of *Guiding Word* is laid out in a similar fashion. After this series introduction is an introduction for that specific volume. Then, each book of the Bible has its own introduction, which will help you better understand and dig into that particular book.

Each book of the Bible follows an outline, which breaks the book into major divisions and then each division into sections. The section heads were not included in the original biblical text but were added later to help clarify how the text flows from narrative to narrative or idea to idea. In *Guiding Word*, these correspond to the subheadings in the ESV translation of the Bible. From here on out, we will refer to these subhead sections as “passages.”

Following the pattern of a travel guide, *Guiding Word* includes some features to help you read through, better understand, and reflect on each passage of the Bible. These features include the following:

(1) Orientation. This is a short summary of each passage. Just as a travel guide gives you a glimpse of where you will be going on your journey before you arrive, the summary will help orient you to where you are in the Bible and where you are going. After reading the summary for each passage, read the text itself in your Bible. Alternatively, if you are skimming a book of the Bible, previewing the book, or only want to understand the high points before reading deeper, these summaries are a good place to start.

(2) Observation Points. In the side margins, you will find open-ended questions. Use these reflection questions to help you slow down, observe, and reflect on the passage. There is room in the side margin for recording reflections, thoughts, and notes as you go. Just as a travel guide will prompt you to look out for specific things on your way, the reflection questions will help you better observe what's going on in the text.

(3) **Landmarks.** These special features, interspersed in the text, will help you appreciate the overall journey through God’s Word. In any journey, you will encounter landmarks of all types that pop out to you, may interest you, or may even make you scratch your head. Landmarks in *Guiding Word* are identified by icons and colored bars, and can be read before or after you read the corresponding passage. Landmarks include the following categories:

VISUALIZE

This feature includes maps, diagrams, pictures, or infographics to help you visualize scenes, locations, and concepts in a passage.

PICTURE OF THE SAVIOR

This feature highlights people, places, or events from the Old Testament that are referenced in the New Testament. These had set the stage for the coming of Jesus and helped reveal His work of salvation.

LINK BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS

In the Old Testament, this highlights people or events that Jesus or His apostles will discuss, explain, or fulfill in the New Testament. In the New Testament, this feature points the reader back to the Old Testament person or event that set the stage for the New Testament passage.

CLEAR THE CONFUSION

This Landmark clarifies passages that are likely to leave the reader confused and fills the gaps—providing backstories, describing future developments, or discussing the significance of the event.

SET THE SCENE

This feature explains important cultural or historical themes that help you better understand the context of the passage.

WAYPOINT

This feature is designed to be a longer stopping point. When you travel, you will likely stop at notable locations for an extended period of time to really experience the destination. Waypoints in *Guiding Word* function like stopping points that are worth investigating along the journey through God’s Word. Each Waypoint has a three-part structure:

- What does this text show us?
- What does this text reveal about God’s plan of salvation?
- What does this text uncover about our identity and calling as God’s people today?

Each Waypoint also has reflection questions associated with it. The Waypoints can be considered on your own or in a group study. However you choose to use the Waypoints is up to you, but use the summaries and reflection prompts to help guide you through a deeper reading of the text.

How to Use *Guiding Word*

You can use this resource in multiple ways:

- Read through the Bible on your own, passage by passage. The summary of each passage will help orient you to where the narrative is taking you, and the reflection questions are observation prompts that will help you pay closer attention to what you’re reading. The interspersed Landmark features will help you visualize important images or concepts, or understand and connect key themes to the overall story of Scripture.
- Read through the Bible in a small group or Bible study setting. The guided summaries and reflection questions make good prompts if you are reading through the Scriptures as a group, providing some reflections along the way. The Waypoint sections also serve as great places to stop and reflect on key narratives.
- Read a good thirty-thousand-foot summary of the Bible. *Guiding Word* includes summaries of passages, and if you have never read certain books of the Bible or are intimidated by their length, you can take a few minutes to get introduced or oriented to them via summaries and graphics.

Whether or not you’ve read through all or parts of the Bible before, *Guiding Word* will serve as your companion and guide through the journey.

The Epistles

The twenty-three New Testament books covered in this sixth volume of *Guiding Word* show us the results of Jesus Christ pouring out His Holy Spirit upon His New Testament church. The book of Acts traces the spread of the faith from Jerusalem to Rome. Then follow twenty-one letters—written by apostles, or under their supervision, to churches and individuals—that expound upon Jesus’ salvation and how to live together as God’s children under Jesus. Finally, the book of Revelation encourages God’s people as we wait for Christ’s return at the end of time.

JOURNEYING THROUGH THE EPISTLES

The book of Acts traces the growth of the early church through Peter and the other apostles in Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria, and finally to Rome itself through the apostle Paul.

Romans exposes God's Law, which condemns both Jews and Gentiles, then proclaims the Gospel: God forgives our sins for Jesus' sake.

First Corinthians addresses believers who are being influenced by unbelievers. Christ calls them back through Word and Sacrament.

Second Corinthians shows how even in the midst of conflict, God still works through His grace to bring about forgiveness and restoration.

Galatians teaches us that works cannot justify; we are justified through faith in Christ alone, and we are coheirs of the kingdom of God.

Ephesians reminds us that God saves us sinners by grace and calls us to live and serve one another as His church through His love in Christ.

Philippians describes the life of one who is made worthy by the Gospel and how the Spirit works in and through us.

Colossians encourages us to turn away from false teachings and toward the truth about Christ and His saving work.

First Thessalonians calls us to endure persecution on behalf of the Gospel as we prepare for the day when the Lord will return in glory.

Second Thessalonians has Paul reminding the Thessalonians to hold tight to their faith and eagerly await the Lord's second coming.

First Timothy encourages faithfulness to God's Word and provides organization for the church.

Second Timothy is designed to build up Timothy for service in the face of persecution.

Titus provides guidance for teaching and administration for the early Christian Church in Crete.

Philemon was written to reconcile Philemon with his runaway slave, Onesimus, who became a Christian under Paul's apostleship.

Hebrews exalts Jesus Christ as our great High Priest and the fulfillment of all that the Old Testament foreshadows.

James helps us understand the relationship between faith and works in believers.

First Peter provides instruction and encouragement for Christians as they endure suffering for the sake of the Gospel.

Second Peter was written to defend against false teachers and to assure us they will not escape justice on Judgment Day.

First John encourages us children of God to live in the light of the Gospel, to love all, and to guard ourselves from false teaching.

Second John calls us to walk in truth and love, keeping guard over one another by driving out deceivers.

Third John reminds strong and upright leaders to protect believers against those who would deceive and mislead the church.

Jude reminds us to not fall into the traps of false teachers and to remember they and all who follow them will face God's strict judgment.

Revelation offers comfort to suffering Christians, reminding us Christ has already won the victory over sin and death.

THE EPISTLES, WITH THEIR GENERAL DIVISIONS

- **Acts**

- Prologue (1:1–11)
- Peter and the Church's Foundation (1:12–14:28)
- The Jerusalem Council (15:1–35)
- Paul Carries the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth (15:36–28:31)

- **Romans**

- Introduction: The Righteous Shall Live by Faith (1:1–17)
- Who Is Righteous? (1:18–3:20)
- God Is Righteous (3:21–4:25)
- The Righteous by Faith Truly Live (5:1–8:39)
- Righteousness by Faith for All Believers (9:1–11:36)
- Living the Righteous Life (12:1–15:13)
- Conclusion (15:14–16:27)

- **1 Corinthians**

- Greetings (1:1–9)
- Conflict and Divisions (1:10–4:21)
- Compromise and Conflict in Corinth (5:1–6:20)
- Questions from the Corinthians (7:1–11:1)
- Worship and Gifts (11:2–14:40)
- The Resurrection from the Dead (15:1–58)
- Closing Messages (16:1–24)

- **2 Corinthians**

- Greetings and Blessings (1:1–11)
- Paul's Response to His Recent Visit (1:12–5:10)
- Be Reconciled to God and His Servants (5:11–7:16)
- The Offering for the Church in Jerusalem (8:1–9:15)
- Paul Challenges Those Who Oppose Him (10:1–13:10)
- Closing (13:11–14)

- **Galatians**

- Greetings (1:1–5)
- The Problem (1:6–10)
- Background to the Problem, Moving Toward a Solution (1:11–2:14)
- The Solution (2:15–21)
- The Supporting Arguments for the Solution (3:1–6:10)
- Conclusion (6:11–18)

- **Ephesians**

- Salutation (1:1–2)
- Prologue on Unity (1:3–23)
- Proofs for Unity (2:1–3:21)

- Baptism Unites (4:1–5:20)
- Baptism Reorders Relationships (5:21–6:9)
- Baptism Equips with Armor (6:10–17)
- Conclusion (6:18–24)
- **Philippians**
 - Salutation, Thanksgiving, and Prayer (1:1–11)
 - News About Paul’s Preaching (1:12–26)
 - Exhortations (1:27–2:18)
 - Travel Plans for Timothy and Epaphroditus (2:19–30)
 - Further Exhortations (3:1–4:9)
 - Thanks for God’s Provision and the Gifts Received (4:10–20)
 - Final Greetings (4:21–23)
- **Colossians**
 - Salutation and Overture (1:1–23)
 - Main Exposition and Resolution (1:24–2:23)
 - The Christian Life (3:1–4:6)
 - Concluding Matters (4:7–18)
- **1 Thessalonians**
 - Thanksgiving for the Congregation (1:1–3:13)
 - Exhortations (4:1–5:11)
 - Conclusion (5:12–28)
- **2 Thessalonians**
 - Greeting and Thanksgiving (1:1–12)
 - Exhortation and Encouragement About the End Times (2:1–17)
 - Apostolic Commands (3:1–18)
- **1 Timothy**
 - The Power of the Pure Gospel (1:1–20)
 - The Church’s Organization (2:1–3:16)
 - True Versus False Teaching (4:1–16)
 - Exhortation to Christian Living (5:1–6:21)
- **2 Timothy**
 - Not Ashamed of the Ministry of the Gospel (1:1–18)
 - Charge to Faithful Ministry in Hard Times (2:1–4:5)
 - Paul’s Farewell (4:6–22)
- **Titus**
 - Salutation (1:1–4)
 - Advice (1:5–3:11)
 - Closing (3:12–15)

- **Philemon**

- Thanksgiving for Philemon's Faith and Love (vv. 1–7)
- Appeal to Philemon on Behalf of Onesimus (vv. 8–20)
- Concluding Remarks and Greetings (vv. 21–25)

- **Hebrews**

- Introduction (1:1–3)
- Jesus' Superiority (1:4–10:18)
- Exhortation to Faithfulness (10:19–13:19)
- Blessings and Greetings (13:20–25)

- **James**

- Greeting (1:1)
- Perfection Through the Implanted Word (1:2–18)
- Works Done by Those Implanted with the Word (1:19–2:26)
- Humbling Oneself in Light of the Coming Judgment (3:1–5:6)
- Proper Speaking While Waiting for the Lord (5:7–20)

- **1 Peter**

- Apostolic Salutation and Thanksgiving (1:1–12)
- Christians Are to Lead Holy Lives (1:13–2:10)
- Instruction and Encouragement for Holy Living (2:11–4:11)
- Joy and Suffering and Community Expectations (4:12–5:11)
- Final Greetings (5:12–14)

- **2 Peter**

- The Apostolic Salutation (1:1–2)
- Exhortation to Godliness (1:3–21)
- Warning Against False Teachers (2:1–22)
- Answers to Skepticism Regarding the End of This World (3:1–10)
- Final Exhortation for Christian Expectation and Hope (3:11–18)

- **1 John**

- Prologue (1:1–4)
- In the World, Not of It (1:5–3:15)
- In Him Who First Loved Us (3:16–5:21)

- **2 John**

- Greeting (vv. 1–3)
- Walking in Truth and Love (vv. 4–11)
- Final Greetings (vv. 12–13)

- **3 John**

- Greeting (vv. 1–4)
- Support and Opposition (vv. 5–12)
- Final Greetings (vv. 13–15)

- **Jude**
 - Greeting (vv. 1–2)
 - Judgment on False Teachers (vv. 3–16)
 - A Call to Persevere (vv. 17–23)
 - Doxology (vv. 24–25)
- **Revelation**
 - The Prologue (1:1–8)
 - The Seven Letters (1:9–3:22)
 - The Divine Throne (4:1–5:14)
 - Christ Opens the Seven Seals (6:1–8:5)
 - The Seven Trumpets (8:6–11:19)
 - The Holy Trinity Battles the Anti-Trinity (12:1–14:20)
 - The Seven Bowls of Wrath (15:1–16:21)
 - Babylon the Prostitute Overthrown (17:1–19:21)
 - The Final Judgment (20:1–15)
 - The New Jerusalem as the Bride (21:1–22:21)

ACTS

Welcome to Acts

How could twelve unlikely men build a religious movement that would spread from Jerusalem to Rome and around the world? Luke's second book in the Bible describes Jesus founding His Christian Church through the apostles after He ascended. Acts focuses particularly upon the ministries of Peter and Paul. As you read Acts, consider the power of the Spirit at work in you through His Word and Sacraments.



What lessons do you think we can learn from the early days of the Christian Church?

Acts at a Glance

- **Start:** The book begins by recapping the end of the Gospel of Luke and expanding on the account of Jesus' ascension into heaven.
- **End:** The book ends with Paul completing his journeys in Rome, where he lives two years under house arrest in Roman custody.
- **Theme:** Christ grows His church despite adversity and persecution as the apostles testify about Jesus' death and resurrection.
- **Author and Date:** Luke wrote this second text, after his Gospel, to recount the ministry of the apostles after Jesus' ascension.
- **Places Visited:** Jerusalem, Samaria, Antioch, Caesarea, Damascus, Thessalonica, Philippi, Ephesus, Corinth, Athens, Rome, and many more cities
- **Journey Time:** The twenty-eight chapters of Acts take about two and a half hours to read.
- **Outline:**
 - Prologue (1:1–11)
 - Peter and the Church's Foundation (1:12–14:28)
 - The Jerusalem Council (15:1–35)
 - Paul Carries the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth (15:36–28:31)

Five Top Sights and Spectacles of Acts

The Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (2:1–41) Watch in wonder as the Holy Spirit rushes upon the disciples, who witness to the crowds in Jerusalem in many languages.

Conversion of Saul on the Road to Damascus (9:1–31) Watch from the road as Saul is converted from persecutor of the church to missionary apostle for Christ to the Gentiles.

Herod Struck Dead by an Angel of the Lord (12:20–23) Witness how God punishes Herod at the height of his power for his overweening pride and for executing the apostle James.

Shattering of the Philippian Prison and Conversion of the Jailer (16:25–34) Feel the tremors as Christ miraculously delivers Paul and Silas from the prison in Philippi and saves the jailer.

Paul Lives After Being Struck by a Viper on Malta (28:1–6) See Paul, after surviving a fateful shipwreck, get bitten by a venomous snake but not be affected by its deadly venom.

Seeing Jesus in Acts

Acts begins with Jesus speaking to His disciples, then ascending into heaven. He appears and speaks through visions to Peter and Paul. Mostly Jesus works through the Holy Spirit poured out on Pentecost.

Prologue (1:1–11)

Jesus prepares His disciples for the coming of the Holy Spirit and then ascends into heaven.



What difference do you think the Holy Spirit's coming makes in a person?



How is this ascension account similar to and different from the account in Luke 24:50–53?

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (1:1–5)

Luke opens by describing Jesus' resurrection appearances. Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit and tells His disciples not to leave Jerusalem until the Spirit has been bestowed on them.

THE ASCENSION (1:6–11)

Picking up right from the end of his Gospel, Luke gives a more elaborate account of Jesus' ascension. Two angels tell the disciples that Jesus will return the same way they had seen Him go (referring to Judgment Day).

**PICTURE OF THE SAVIOR****The Risen and Ascended Christ**

The risen Christ appeared to His disciples a number of times during the forty days after Easter. He told them they were to be His witnesses from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth, then ascended into heaven while He was blessing them.

Peter and the Church's Foundation (1:12–14:28)

Peter leads the apostles to replace Judas, then continues to be a prominent leader after the Holy Spirit comes.

MATTHIAS CHOSEN TO REPLACE JUDAS (1:12–26)

Peter seeks to replace Judas, who had betrayed Jesus and then killed himself. The believers, a group numbering about 120, bring forward two men. Matthias is chosen by lot.

**CLEAR THE CONFUSION****Who bought the “Field of Blood”—Judas or the chief priests?**

Luke wrote, “This man [Judas] acquired a field” (v. 18). But that does not mean Judas himself purchased the field. Matthew clarifies that the chief priests took the silver Judas returned to them (the wages for betraying Jesus) and bought the field as a burial place for strangers (Matthew 27:6–8).

**SET THE SCENE****Matthias**

Little is known about this disciple except that he had been with Jesus from Jesus' Baptism until His ascension. Greek tradition holds that Matthias spread the Gospel around the region of Cappadocia and the coasts of the Caspian Sea.



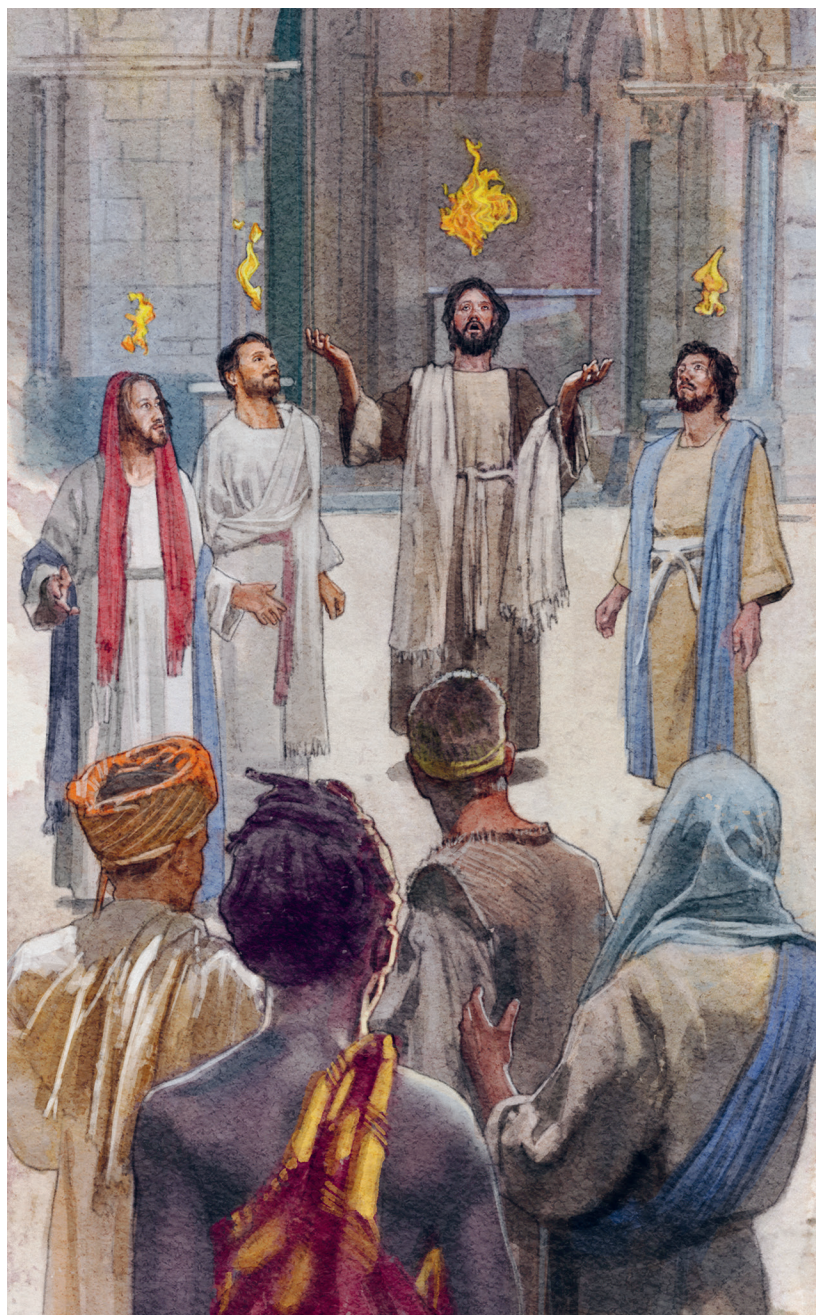
When you consider that this event came ten days after Jesus' ascension, why do you think the Spirit's coming at Pentecost was so dramatic? How does it compare to His rushing upon the judges and kings in the Old Testament? (See Judges 14:6, 19; 15:14; 1 Samuel 10:10; 11:6; 16:13.)

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (2:1–13)

At the feast of Pentecost, many of Jesus' disciples are gathered together. The Holy Spirit descends with a mighty wind and alights upon the apostles in tongues of fire. They begin speaking in various foreign languages.



VISUALIZE



**CLEAR THE CONFUSION****Why did God enable the disciples to speak all these different languages?**

Jews gathered in Jerusalem from all parts of the Roman Empire, where they had been dispersed by the Babylonians. People from each region spoke a different language.

PETER'S SERMON AT PENTECOST (2:14–41)**WAYPOINT*****What does this text show us?***

Peter preaches about Jesus' resurrection after Pilate and the Jewish authorities had condemned Jesus to death. The crowds are struck deeply by Peter's words, and three thousand people repent and are baptized.

What does this text reveal about God's plan of salvation?

Peter describes God the Father's plan of salvation. When the Jewish people repent of their part in Jesus' crucifixion, Peter pronounces Christ's resurrection and God's forgiveness through the waters of Baptism.

What does this text uncover about our identity and calling as God's people today?

All our sins were nailed to the cross on that Good Friday. Because of Christ's atoning death and resurrection, we are forgiven and redeemed. The Holy Spirit guides us to share Christ's message with others in the world around us.



Review Peter's sermon given on Pentecost. What do you find most interesting about his message?



Which key points made in Peter's sermon would still apply in the church today?



How can we respond to the messages we hear each week in worship?

**CLEAR THE CONFUSION****What does "they were cut to the heart" (v. 37) mean?**

Many in this crowd had likely been in Jerusalem for Passover and had beaten their breasts after watching Jesus' death (see Luke 23:48).

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE BELIEVERS (2:42–47)

The community of Christians begins to grow in Jerusalem. Those who came for Pentecost stay in Jerusalem and devote themselves to the teachings of the apostles. Their numbers grow day by day.



CLEAR THE CONFUSION

Why was Saul's name changed to Paul?

Saul's name was never changed to Paul, but he was also called Paul (see v. 9). His Hebrew name, Saul, was usually used when he was among Jews. His Greek name, Paul, was used when he was among Gentiles.



Look closely at the map of Paul's journeys. What strategy, if any, are you able to recognize?



VISUALIZE

Paul's Missionary Journeys

Acts records three missionary journeys undertaken by Paul. This map outlines the various locations Paul visited. As you work through the book of Acts, you can refer back to this map as you track Paul's travels.

