

Study Guide





LifeLight

LifeLight Expands

Available NOW!

The Bible: An Overview
 Genesis, Pt. 1
 Genesis, Pt. 2
 Exodus, Pt. 1
 Exodus, Pt. 2
 Wilderness Wanderings
 Joshua
 Judges
 Ruth/Esther
 1 & 2 Samuel
 Life of David
 1 & 2 Kings
 1 & 2 Chronicles

Ezra/Nehemiah
 Job
 Selected Psalms
 Proverbs
 Ecclesiastes/
 Song of Solomon
 Isaiah, Pt. 1
 Isaiah, Pt. 2
 Jeremiah/Lamentations
 Ezekiel
 Daniel
 Hosea/Joel/Amos
 Obadiah/Jonah/Micah
 Minor Prophets

Nahum/Habakkuk/
 Zephaniah
 Haggai/Zechariah/
 Malachi
 Matthew, Pt. 1
 Matthew, Pt. 2
 Mark
 Luke, Pt. 1
 Luke, Pt. 2
 John, Pt. 1
 John, Pt. 2
 Acts, Pt. 1
 Acts, Pt. 2

Romans, Pt. 1
 Romans, Pt. 2
 1 Corinthians
 2 Corinthians
 Galatians/Philippians/
 Colossians
 Ephesians/
 1 & 2 Thessalonians
 Timothy/Titus/Philemon
 Hebrews
 James/Jude
 1 & 2 Peter
 1, 2, 3 John
 Revelation

LifeLight Foundations

Baptism
 Bible Feasts
 Creation, New Creation
 The Christian's Mission

End Times
 Heaven & Hell
 Law & Gospel
 Ministry

Miracles
 Parables
 Prayer
 Prophecy

Time between the
 Testaments
 Triune God
 Worship

The Church Is Prepared for Pentecost

Distribute before session 1 for use in session 1.
Use enrichment magazine pp. 2–4.

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Acts 1

Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at the week’s assembly.

Hymn

O Holy Spirit, enter in,
And in our hearts Your work begin,
And make our hearts Your dwelling.
Sun of the soul, O Light divine,
Around and in us brightly shine
Your strength in us upwelling.
In Your radiance Life from heaven
Now is given Overflowing
Gift of gifts beyond all knowing.

O mighty Rock, O Source of life,
Let Your good Word in doubt and strife
Be in us strongly burning
That we be faithful unto death
And live in love and holy faith,
From You true wisdom learning.
Lord, Your mercy On us shower;
By Your power Christ confessing,
We will cherish all Your blessing.

Michael Schirmer; tr. Catherine Winkworth, adapt.

Something to Think About

On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessed Jesus, king of grace,
That life’s riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope’s foundation,
And my glory and salvation!

Thomas H. Kingo; tr. Peer O. Strömme, alt.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, sometimes I feel so caught,
driven first in one direction and then another.
My time, my life, are so full, so out of control;
I feel swept along, helpless and exhausted.
Then it gets too quiet. The nagging fear resurfaces:

“It’s all a waste. There is no purpose. Nothing matters.”

Not true!
You lived *for* me. You spent Yourself *for* me.
You died *for* me. You conquered death *for* me.
And planned a purpose for my life too.
These few minutes in the sweep of time count.
You promised. Jesus, live through me, as You promised.
Share the Good News through me, as You promised.
By the power of Your Spirit. Amen.

Digging Deep
My Personal Study for Week 1

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Day 1 • Read Acts 1:1–5

1. Compare Luke 1:1–4 and Acts 1:1. The Acts of the Apostles, written by St. Paul’s loyal friend Luke, is addressed to Theophilus, a name that in Greek literally means “lover of God.” Theophilus may have been a servant of the Roman government and a patron or publisher of Luke’s books.

- a. How does Luke summarize his first volume (Acts 1:1–3)?
- b. What does Acts 1:8 suggest to us about the contents of this second volume?

2. How do the following verses reveal Luke's purpose in writing this account?

Acts 6:7

Acts 9:31

Acts 12:24

3. When Jesus died, the disciples thought they had lost their leader and their source of strength and purpose. Read verses 2–5 and Luke 24:36–49, noting how the resurrected Lord restored the confidence of His disciples and reassured them of their purpose. If you had been there, which words of Jesus would have been most comforting and encouraging to you?

4. Look up the following references to discover information about Luke, the author of this book:

a. Luke 1:3

b. Colossians 4:14

c. Philemon 24

d. 2 Timothy 4:11

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Day 2 • Read Acts 1:6–8

Do you ever feel as if you are spinning your wheels and exhausting yourself in the process? In today's reading notice how Jesus' last, loving words to His friends on earth set priorities, give direction, and promise power for His disciples.

5. Judging from their words to Jesus (v. 6), what seems to have been a priority concern of the disciples?

6. *For personal reflection. Sharing optional.* What are the two top priorities (major concerns) in *my* life right now and how do they fit with Jesus' top priority for His disciples, that we be His witnesses (v. 8)?

7. Acts 1:8 is a key verse. What does this verse reveal about Jesus' continuing work on this earth?

8. **Challenge question.** This week jot down your daily activities each evening. Notice how you are spending your time and energy. Which items on your list reflect Jesus' priorities for you? Thank Jesus for the leading of

The Church Is Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Distribute before session 2 for use in session 2.
Use enrichment magazine pp. 8–11.

Acts 2:1–41

Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at the week's assembly.

Hymn

Creator Spirit, by whose aid
The world's foundations first were laid,
Come, visit ev'ry humble mind;
Come, pour Your joys on humankind;
From sin and sorrow set us free;
May we, each one, Your temple be.

O Source of uncreated light,
The bearer of God's gracious might,
Thrice-holy fount, thrice-holy fire,
Our hearts with heav'nly love inspire;
Refreshing show'rs of blessing bring
To sanctify us as we sing.

Immortal honor, endless fame
Attend the gracious Father's name;
The Savior Son be glorified,
Who for lost man's redemption died;
And equal adoration rise
For You, O Spirit, to the skies.

Rhabanus Manrus; tr. John Dryden, alt.

Something to Think About

"Without the Holy Spirit hearts are either hardened in sins or they despair. But both are contrary to the will of God."

What Luther Says, ed. Ewald Plass
(St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1959), § 2047.

Prayer

Oh, Holy Spirit, living Fire,
You help me see my sin.
You turn my heart to God, my Father.
You move me to believe. You give me what to say.
What joy I find in Your indwelling!
Blaze brightly in my heart, dear Spirit—
Every day. Amen.

Digging Deep

My Personal Study for Week 2

Day 1 • Read Acts 2:1–13

1. Pentecost (meaning "fiftieth day") was a Jewish harvest festival that fell 50 days after Passover. All males of Israel were required to travel to the temple in Jerusalem for worship (vv. 9–11).

a. How would you imagine the city to be that day?

b. Where were Jesus' followers on this Pentecost?

Acts 2:1

Luke 24:53

c. What were they doing (same verses)?

2. God had set the stage. Within this setting He acted.

a. What were the *outward* visible signs of the Spirit's presence (vv. 2–3)?

b. What did the tongues of *fire* symbolize?

Exodus 3:2

Exodus 13:21

1 Corinthians 12:3

c. What evidenced the Spirit's *inward* presence in the disciples (v. 4)?

Romans 14:17

d. For what purpose did the Spirit give the apostles the ability to speak in other known, understandable languages (vv. 5, 11)?

2 Thessalonians 2:13

3. What significance do you see in the fact that the Holy Spirit touched and filled *each* Christian there?

Acts 2:4

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Day 2 • Read Acts 2:14–21

5. a. Read the following references. What was Peter like before the Pentecost experience?

Matthew 16:21–23

Matthew 26:69–75

Joel 2:28–32a

John 18:10–11

Galatians 3:28

b. What adjectives would you use to describe Peter in Acts 2:14–21 to refer to the transformation that the Holy Spirit had brought into his life?

4. What evidence is there that the Holy Spirit is living within *you* right now?

Acts 2:38

6. Read verse 19. In our world today, what events characterized by “blood and fire and billows of smoke” are signs to us of the ultimate day of judgment?