



"God's Plan A for the World"

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I. Jesus is Alive!

Acts 1:3-4a "He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem..."

A. Three Proofs

1. He Appeared Before Them for 40 Days (Acts 1:3a)
2. He Spoke to Them (Acts 1:3b)
3. He Ate With Them (John 21:12-14; Acts 10:40-41)

1 Corinthians 15:17 "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins."

II. Jesus Has Given Us

A. Not Just Ritual, but Reality

Acts 1:4-5 "And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, 'you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'"

B. Not Just a Program, but _____

Acts 1:6-8 "So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.'"

III. Jesus Has Given Us a _____

(Acts 1:8b, 9-11)

Acts 1:8b "and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

IV. Jesus Empowers Us With His _____

Acts 2:1-3 "When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them."

A. Breaking Down Gospel _____

(Acts 2:4-6, 7-8, 9-11)

Acts 2:4-6 "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language."

1. Location Barriers

2. Language Barriers

B. Some Will Receive and Some Will _____ the Gospel

Acts 2:12-13 "And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others mocking said, 'They are filled with new wine.'"

V. Peter Shows Us How to _____

Acts 2:14-15 "But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.'"

A. Use the _____

(Acts 2:16-21)

B. Talk About _____

(Acts 2:22, 23-25a, 25b-28, 29, 30-35)

Acts 2:22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—"

C. Speak the _____

Acts 2:36 "Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

D. Move Them to _____

(Acts 2:37, 38-39)

Acts 2:37 "Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'"

1. _____

2. Get _____

Acts 2:40-41 "And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation.' So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls."



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GETTING TO KNOW YOU:

- Share with your group how God revealed Himself to you during your worship experience this past week.
- Share with your group the historical event that you've experienced that has affected you the most.

INTRODUCTION:

The Day of Pentecost was the fourth of the annual Jewish feast, after Passover, Unleavened Bread, and First Fruits. It came 50 days after the Feast of First Fruits and was the Greek name for the Jewish Feast of Weeks. It was called that because it fell seven weeks a week of weeks after First Fruits, and celebrated the wheat harvest (Exodus 23:16).

This particular Day of Pentecost in Acts 2, recorded the beginning of the Jesus' disciples being obedient to the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations and sharing the Gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. By the Apostles miraculously speaking in all the represented languages of those in Jerusalem for the Feast, they declared that the Good News of Christ is for all nations and would be shared in every tribe and tongue.

DIGGING DEEPER:

1. Read Acts 2:1-13

- Describe the scene in verses 1-4 in your own words.
 - It's possible that they were in the "upper room" where the disciples had their feet washed by Jesus, celebrated Passover and the Lord's Supper with Jesus, and where the resurrected Jesus appeared to them. How does this potential location provide significance to the disciples' journey so far, and their launching point for what is to come?
- Compare and contrast other events in Jewish history where a "sound of a mighty, rushing wind" and "fire" from the sky took place?
 - How has God used both dramatic and "non-dramatic" events and methods in your life to affirm His presence and working in and through you?
 - How are both the dramatic and non-dramatic events significant in your spiritual growth?
- Read Exodus 19:16-18, Joel 2:28-29, Matthew 3:11, and Luke 3:16. Discuss how these verses connect to this event?
- The disciples left the upper room, with their newly filling of the Holy Spirit, and began to "speak in tongues." How do verses 5-8 explain what these "tongues" were?
 - Why does the fact that these "tongues" were specific languages begin to show the Spirit's work in the disciples' ministry?

- What does the work of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost teach us about our power to fulfill the Great Commission?
- Discuss the people's reactions and what insights verses 11-13 give us as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission?

2. Read Acts 2:14-41

- Describe Peter's sermon in your own words.
- Discuss the transformation in Peter that took place over the past 55 (or so) days. (See John 18:10-11; 18:15-18, 25-27; 20:1-10; 21:15-19)
- Peter outlines why the testimony of the disciples should be believed: (1) Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies; (2) Jesus is the Messiah - Promised One sent by God; and (3) the resurrection of Jesus changes lives. How can these truths about Jesus be a pattern for you as you share Christ with others?

3. Read Acts 2:42-47

- Describe what the early church "devoted themselves to" (verse 42).
 - How do these things show us how to effectively grow in our personal walk with God?
- How does the early church's care and compassion for each other convict and/or encourage the way we should be caring for and showing compassion for others now?
- What was the result of the generosity, fellowship, devotion, and praise of the believers? (verse 47)
 - By all metrics, the Church in the US is in decline. How might a shift in our generosity, fellowship, devotion, and praise turn this trend around?

TAKING IT HOME:

1. Apply Acts 2:1-13 to your life. Answer the questions below.

- How dependent and/or reliant upon the Holy Spirit are you as you seek to fulfill the Great Commission?
- Are you content with the "non-dramatic" works of God in your life to motivate you to have boldness to share Christ with others?

2. Apply Acts 2:14-41 to your life. Answer the questions below.

- How can Peter's transformation, his boldness, and his testimony be a catalyst for you to be bold in your testimony for Christ?
- Are you allowing your past failures or lifestyle prevent you from boldly sharing Christ with others? Ask God to clear your emotional and mental guilt once and for all, since He's already cleared your spiritual guilt.

3. Apply Acts 42-47 to your life. Answer the questions below.

- How devoted are you to sound, Biblical teaching, fellowship, remembering Christ's sacrifice for you, and prayer?
 - Ask God to increase your generosity, fellowship, devotion, and praise so that others will be drawn to Christ.
- Ask God if there is anything you need to sell (or give away) to directly meet the physical need of others.