

PETER SPOKE AT PENTECOST

Acts 2:14-47

STRUCTURE

Key-person: Peter

Key-location: Jerusalem

Key-repetitions:

- Holy Spirit: Jesus received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and poured him out on the disciples (Ac 2:33); Peter promised those who repented and were baptized that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Ac 2:38).
- Jesus' name (Ac 2:22, 23, 24, 25, 32, 33, 36, 38, 41).
- With/together: On the day of Pentecost, Jesus' followers were together (Ac 2:1-4); the believers were together (Ac 2:44); daily they met together in temple courts (Ac 2:46-47).
- Action/reaction: God worked miracles through Jesus (Ac 2:22); people put Jesus to death (Ac 2:23); God raised Jesus from the grave to life (Ac 2:24), lifted Jesus up to heaven (Ac 2:33), and gave Jesus the Holy Spirit (Ac 2:3); Jesus poured out that Spirit on his disciples (Ac 2:33); God made Jesus both Lord and Christ (Ac 2:36); people asked Peter what should they do (Ac 2:37); Peter told them to repent and be baptized (Ac 2:38); believers were baptized, learned apostles' teaching, socialized, prayed, and shared with one another (Ac 2:41-46); daily the Lord saved people and added them to the number of believers (Ac 2:47).

Key-attitudes:

- Peter's confidence when he preached.
- Listeners' anguish when they understood Peter's message.
- Baptized people's confidence, joy and humility.
- Admiration of others for the baptized believers.

Initial-situation:

On the day of Pentecost, God-fearing Jews from every nation in the world were in Jerusalem. Each heard the apostles speaking in their own native language. Some listeners made fun of the apostles and said, "They drank too much wine."

Initial-problem:

Peter stood up and shouted, "Pay attention to what I say. These men aren't drunk."

Final-situation:

The followers of Jesus were together every day, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Daily the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

BIBLE STORY

Jewish listeners from different countries heard the apostles speaking in their own language. Some listeners joked, "They're drunk on wine."

Peter stood up and shouted, "Pay attention to what I say. These men aren't drunk. It's only nine in the morning! Rather, this is what the Prophet Joel wrote about, 'God says, in the last days, I will pour out my Spirit on all people, both men and women, and they will speak what I have revealed. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

"Men of Israel, God worked miracles and did amazing things through Jesus of Nazareth. Then you, with the help of wicked men, put Jesus to death by nailing him to the cross. This was God's plan from long ago. But God raised this Jesus from death to life. We, Jesus' apostles, are all witnesses of the fact that God brought Jesus back to life. Jesus was lifted up to heaven and is now at God's right side. The Father did what he promised and gave Jesus the Holy Spirit. Jesus has poured out that Spirit and this is what you now see and hear. God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Ac 2:6-36).

The people heard Peter and were cut to the heart with guilt. They asked Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

Peter replied, "Repent – change the way you think and act and be baptized, every one of you. Do this in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins will be forgiven. You'll receive the Holy Spirit as a gift. The promise is for you, your children and for all whom the Lord our God will call to himself" (Ac 2:37-39).

The people who accepted Peter's message were baptized. About three thousand were added to the number of believers that day.

The believers spent their time learning the apostles' teaching, fellowshiping, eating together, and praying. Many miraculous signs happened through the apostles. All believers kept meeting together and they shared everything with one another. They gave to anyone who needed help. Every day the believers met together in the temple courts. They ate at one another's homes, they praised God, and they enjoyed the good will of all the people. Daily the Lord saved people and added them to the number of believers (Ac 2:40-47).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

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| 1. What catches your attention in the story? | 5. How did the characters face their problems? |
| 2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand? | 6. How have you faced similar problems? |
| 3. Who are the main characters in the story? | 7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you? |
| 4. What problems did the characters face? | 8. What does the story tell about God? |

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. On the day of Pentecost, what did Peter emphasize in his message?

2. What was the crowd's reaction to the knowledge that Jesus, whom they had crucified, had been resurrected by God, and was the Lord and the Messiah?
3. What did Peter tell his listeners to do?
4. What promise did Peter make to those who repented, believed, and were baptized?
5. Who are some of your acquaintances who need to hear the message Peter gave on the day of Pentecost?
6. What actions characterized the lives of those who believed in Jesus on the day of Pentecost?
7. How should the church today imitate the first believers in Jesus?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. **Each believer should take advantage of available opportunities to speak about Jesus.** The book of Acts records five speeches of Peter (Ac 2:14-40; 3:12-26; 4:8-12, 19-20; 5:29-32; 10:34-43). Of those five opportunities, only one represents an invitation to speak (Ac 10:34-43). Peter took advantage of the opportunities given him to speak.
2. **Christians should know and share the basic facts of the gospel.** The basic facts of the gospel were presented several times in Acts. The gospel was presented to someone for the first time (Ac 2:4-39; 3:1-26; 4:7-31; 8:2, 6-40; 10:34-44; 13:13-44; 26:1-32). **The basic facts of the gospel are:**
 - Facts about Jesus:
 - Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah.
 - Jesus came from God, and God proved that he was with Jesus through signs (*miracles*).
 - People crucified Jesus.
 - God resurrected Jesus.
 - Applications given to the listeners:
 - All are to blame for the crucifixion and for the sin of rejecting Jesus, God's plan to save mankind.
 - All need to repent, believe in Jesus and be baptized.
 - Promises made to those who believed in Jesus:
 - Their sins are forgiven;
 - They receive the Holy Spirit.
 - The fact that witnesses testified to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, confirms the truth of the Good News.
3. **Each person is a sinner and he needs to repent** (Ac 2:38). Repentance involves a change of direction. Repentance is the result of a change in thinking about sin, feeling sadness for sins committed and a feeling of disgust toward sin. The sinner makes a U-turn to move away from sin in order to move toward God. The Bible does not give a normal pattern for repentance; however, there are some characteristics of true repentance.

- Characteristics of true repentance:
 - Confession of one's sin (Hos 14:1-2; Lk 18:13-14).
 - Turning one's back on sin (Eze 14:6; Isa 55:7).
 - Moving toward doing good (1 Thes 1:9). In Matthew 21:28-29, the son is an example of true repentance.
 - Repentance involves the entire person:
 - One's mind. A person changes the way he thinks about sin, about God and himself (Ps 51:3, 7; Job 42:1-6; Lk 15:17-19).
 - One's emotions. A deep sadness is felt because of committed sins (Ps 6:6; 51:1-2; Jer 3:21-22; 2 Cor 7:8-10).
 - One's will. This is a change of one's determination; a decision is made to change one's actions so they agree with the change of thoughts and feelings (Is 55:7; Mat 3:2-8; Lk 13:3; Ac 2:38-40; Rom 2:4-6; 2 Cor 7:9-11; 2 Pe 3:9-11; Rev 2:5).
4. **Repentance of sins combined with faith in Jesus results in forgiveness of sins.** Peter appealed to his listeners, "Repent and be baptized...for the forgiveness of your sins" (Ac 2:38). (See Acts 20:21, Mark 1:15, and Luke 24:47.)
5. **The requirements to be received into the church are:**
- Hear the gospel.
 - Repent of one's sins.
 - Believe that Jesus was crucified and resurrected, and God made him Lord and Christ.
 - Publicly confess that one believes in Jesus Christ.
 - Be baptized (Ac 2:37-41).
6. **The church in Jerusalem serves as an example for all churches.** It was formed by believers who:
- Were baptized (Ac 2:41).
 - Devoted themselves to the apostles' teachings (Ac 2:42).
 - Devoted to praying (Ac 2:42).
 - Were united (Ac 2:44).
 - Fellowshiped with other believers. They ate together, continually met together, and shared with people in need (Ac 2:44-45).
 - Were glad and happy (Ac 2:46).
 - Praised God (Ac 2:47).
 - Enjoyed the favor of those outside the church (Ac 2:47).
 - Constantly grew with new converts (Ac 2:47).

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Interactive Sharing

What can you share about Jesus to people who know little about him?

What family members or acquaintances need to hear you talk about Jesus?