

## **Bible Study for Acts 2**

*You will get more out of this study if you read the verses and ponder the questions several times a day. You'll also get more out of the study if you discuss it with others. Jesus says where two or three are gathered together in his name, he is there with them.*

### **Monday**      Genesis 41:32-38 (NRSV)

[Joseph said,] "The doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about. Now therefore let Pharaoh select a man who is discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land, and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plenteous years. Let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and lay up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to befall the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine." The proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find anyone else like this—one in whom is the spirit of God?"

*In the days of Joseph and the Pharaoh, God's Spirit was rarely given to individuals. When Pharaoh asked "Can we find anyone else like this—one in whom is the spirit of God?" the almost certain answer was, "No." Pharaoh recognized this and instantly appointed Joseph to the number two position in the country, a job requiring tremendous administrative ability, even though Joseph had been summoned to Pharaoh's court from a prison cell.*

*On the day of Pentecost, the gift that Joseph had of God's Spirit was freely given to all the believers. The drought was over; from Pentecost forward, anyone who asked was able to receive rivers of living water flowing out of their heart. (John 7:37-39)*

*When have you received special insight from God?*

*How have you noticed the Holy Spirit's presence in your life?*

*When have you seen someone's fate change overnight, like Joseph's did?*

### **Tuesday**      John 16:5-7 (NRSV)

[Jesus said,] "I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."

*Jesus said it was better for his disciples to have the Holy Spirit than his own continued presence. That should tell you something about the value of the Holy Spirit!*

*Who do you know who needs to hear this good news?*

### **Wednesday** Acts 2:1-4, 11b (NRSV)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. . . . about God's deeds of power.

*The Holy Spirit gives people power and ability to do great things on God's behalf. At Pentecost, when*

*the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, they began speaking in foreign languages about God's deeds of power, spreading the news of Jesus to people living in Jerusalem who came from all the surrounding nations.*

*What has the Holy Spirit enabled you to do?*

**Thursday** Acts 2:14-21 (NRSV)

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

*When the gift of the Holy Spirit came to believers, Peter said the church began living in the last days prophesied in Joel 2:28-32. In these last days, "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

*Who do you know who needs to know this good news?*

**Friday / Saturday** Acts 2:22-24, 36-39 (NRSV)

"You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. . . . Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."

*Three thousand people joined the church on hearing Peter's message.*

*What are have you done this week because of Jesus?*

*What do you want to do next week because of Jesus?*

*What do you need help with?*

For more great Bible Studies, go to <http://www.LaJollaLutheranChurch.com>

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV), copyright, 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S. A. Used by permission. All rights reserved.