

UNSTOPPABLE

THE CHURCH JESUS INTENDED

STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Teaching Title: *The Real Power of the Church*

Key Scripture: Acts 2:1-11

CEDAR VALLEY

5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

Monday: Acts 5:12-42

Tuesday: Acts 6:1-15

Wednesday: Acts 7:1-60

Thursday: Acts 8:1-25

Friday: Acts 8:26-40

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's Word (The Bible), what do I need to do?
4. What's your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

MEMORY VERSE:

Acts 2:4 NLT

And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages,[b] as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

In Acts 2, on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit is poured out on the believers. This significant event reminds us that we were never meant to carry the mission of God on our own. What began as a group of confused, waiting disciples became a Spirit-filled people empowered to live and speak with boldness. As the Spirit came with wind, fire, and other languages, God's presence moved from a place to a people. He has made His home within us and upon us. He equips ordinary, imperfect believers to be witnesses right where they are. The same Spirit that filled Jesus now fills us. He continually shapes our hearts, produces fruit in our lives, and draws us into a deeper dependence on Him. And if the Spirit truly lives in us, then wherever we go, the Spirit goes! We can stop relying on what we can manufacture and rely on the Holy Spirit. The real Church is Spirit-powered, not human-powered.

Questions:

Ice Breaker: What is the most unforgettable moment or event you have ever experienced?

1. Read Acts 2:1-11 as a group. Before hearing this sermon, what has been your experience of the Holy Spirit? If you grew up in church, was the Holy Spirit talked about much?
2. In Acts 2:1, the believers are gathered "all together in one place." What stands out to you about their unity, and why might that matter what happens next?

3. Go back and read Acts 1:8. What is the reason that Jesus gives for why the disciples receive the Holy Spirit?
4. Why is it significant that this event happens during Pentecost? How does the idea of a “harvest festival” shape the way we understand what God is doing in this moment? (See Digging Deeper for help)
5. Acts 2:3 describes “tongues of fire” resting on each person. Based on other places in Scripture (See Notes if you need help), what does fire symbolize, and what is especially significant about where the fire appears here?
6. What did the disciples do when they received the Holy Spirit? What were the different reactions of those who saw and heard the disciples?
7. Why was it important that the wonders of God were spoken in the native languages of those visiting Jerusalem (Acts 2:7-11)?
8. Where are you most tempted to rely on your own strength, skills, or strategies instead of the Holy Spirit?

NOTES

Question 5—

Throughout the Bible, fire represents the presence of God.

- In Exodus 3, God appears to Moses in a burning bush.
- In Exodus 13, God leads Israel through the wilderness as a pillar of fire.
- In Exodus 19, when God comes down on Mount Sinai, the mountain is covered in fire and smoke because the Lord descends on it.
- In 1 Kings 18, when Elijah confronts the prophets of Baal, fire falls from heaven to show that the Lord alone is God.

Fire in Scripture is a giant signal—God is here!

But, in the Old Testament the presence of God was always associated with a place: Mountain, tabernacle, or the temple. Now, instead of the fire being on a mountain or the temple, the fire rests on people.

DIGGING DEEPER

Question 4—

“The day of Pentecost was so called because it fell on the fiftieth day after the presentation of the first sheaf to be reaped of the barley harvest, that is, the fiftieth day from the first Sunday after Passover (*pentekostos* being the Greek word for “fiftieth”). Among Hebrew- and Aramaic-speaking Jews it was known as “the feast of weeks” (Ex. 34:22a; Deut. 16:10) and also as “the day of first fruits” (Num. 28:26; cf. Ex. 23:15a) because on that day” the first fruits of wheat harvest” (Ex. 34:22a) were presented to God. Later it was reckoned to be the anniversary of the giving of the law on Sinai and as a time for renewal of the Mosaic covenant.”

-FF Bruce, *NICNT The Book of Acts*.

Pentecost originally celebrated the harvest of grain. But on this Pentecost, God launches a harvest of souls. In Acts 2:41, it says, “On that day about 3,000 believed his message and were baptized.” God chose a harvest festival to begin the greatest spiritual harvest in history - an ongoing harvest.