

Life Group Guide

Acts 2:14-21 | King Over His Church Series

OVERVIEW

In this passage, Peter stands before the crowd at Pentecost and does two things: he clears away a false assumption using common sense, and then he points to the prophet Joel to explain exactly what God is doing. The result is one of the clearest early declarations of the gospel in the entire New Testament. This guide is designed to help your group slow down, dig into the text, and wrestle with what it means for your own life and community.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- God's word is the proper lens through which we interpret God's work. When the early church needed clarity, they went to Scripture.

- Pentecost was not an accident. It was the fulfillment of a specific promise God made through the prophet Joel.
- The Holy Spirit is poured out on all of God's people without distinction -- no barrier of gender, age, or social status disqualifies someone from being used by God.
- Every believer is a coworker in the Great Commission, not a consumer of ministry.
- The gospel carries both a sobering warning of coming judgment and a glorious promise of salvation for all who call upon the name of the Lord.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening Question

Take a few minutes to get the conversation started before diving into the text.

1. Think of a time when you witnessed something you did not understand and had to seek out an explanation. Where did you go

to find it, and what did that process teach you?

Section 1: God's Word Explains the Holy Spirit's Work

(Acts 2:14-16)

2. Peter begins by using common sense to dismiss the false assumption that the disciples were drunk, and then he immediately turns to Scripture to explain what actually happened. Why do you think he did not stop with the common sense argument alone? What does this tell us about the role of Scripture in explaining what God is doing?
3. The pastor pointed out that this is the second time in Acts that the church faced a situation requiring clarity and found the answer in Scripture -- first with Judas in the Psalms, and now with Pentecost in Joel. What does this pattern teach us about how we should

respond when we face confusing or difficult circumstances in our own lives?

4. Peter, the same man who denied Jesus when questioned by a servant girl, now boldly addresses a crowd and declares what God is doing. How does his transformation challenge or encourage you personally? What does his boldness suggest about what the Holy Spirit can do in an ordinary person?

Section 2: The Holy Spirit Is Poured Out on All of God's People

(Acts 2:17-18)

5. Joel's prophecy names sons and daughters, young and old, male and female servants -- every category of person. Why do you think God was so specific in naming these groups? Who in your own context might be tempted to think they are disqualified from being used by God?
6. The pastor made a distinction between consumer Christianity and being a coworker

in the Great Commission. How would you honestly describe your current posture -- more as a consumer or a coworker? What would it look like practically to move further toward being a coworker?

7. He also said, "No one retires from God's mission until you graduate to heaven." How does that statement sit with you? Are there any seasons of life -- youth, old age, a difficult personal circumstance -- where you have been tempted to believe that God's mission no longer applies to you?

Section 3: God's Word Declares Salvation

(Acts 2:19-21)

8. Verses 19 and 20 describe sobering signs of coming judgment, while verse 21 offers the promise that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Why is it important to hold both the warning and the promise together? What happens when we emphasize one and neglect the other?

9. The pastor described calling upon the name of the Lord as coming to God in humble and repentant faith -- trusting in what Jesus has done rather than trying to repair yourself first. Is there anyone in your life right now who needs to hear that they do not have to clean themselves up before coming to God? How might you share that with them?
10. The sermon closed with a challenge to ask the people closest to you -- children, grandchildren, friends -- what it means to call upon the name of the Lord. What would it take for you to actually have that conversation this week? What is holding you back, if anything?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice before your group meets again.

For personal growth: Spend time this week reading through the passage Peter quotes -- Joel 2:28-32. Read it slowly and ask yourself what it

reveals about God's character, His promises, and His purposes for His people.

For your relationships: Identify one person God has placed in your life who needs to hear the gospel. Pray for them specifically each day this week, and ask God to open a door for a natural conversation about what it means to call upon the name of the Lord.

For your family: If you have children or grandchildren in your home or life, take the pastor's challenge seriously. Find a natural moment this week -- at the dinner table, on the way to school, or before bed -- to ask them what they understand about calling on the name of the Lord. Let the conversation go wherever it goes.

For the group: As a group, discuss one specific way you can move from consuming ministry to participating in it together. This could be as simple as committing to pray together for your neighbors, or as intentional as planning a shared act of service or outreach.

CLOSING PRAYER PROMPTS

Close your time together in prayer. Consider praying through the following:

- Thank God for the gift of His Spirit poured out on all His people without distinction.
- Ask God to give each member of your group the boldness that Peter displayed -- not because of personal strength, but because of the Holy Spirit's work.
- Pray by name for people in your lives who have not yet called upon the name of the Lord.
- Ask God to help your group resist the pull of consumer Christianity and to embrace the call to be coworkers in the Great Commission.