

# Life Group Guide

Acts 2:22-41 | The Holy Spirit, Scripture, and the Risen King

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## Overview

Peter's sermon in Acts 2 confronts a gathered crowd with the most significant event in all of human history: the death, resurrection, and enthronement of Jesus Christ. Through Scripture and eyewitness testimony, Peter makes clear that the Holy Spirit uses God's word and the church to proclaim a risen and reigning King. This guide will help your group wrestle with what that means for your faith and your daily life.

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## Key Takeaways

- God's sovereign plan was never disrupted by the crucifixion of Jesus. The cross was not a crisis God had to recover from. It was the definite, foreordained plan of the Father.

- The resurrection is the ultimate vindication of who Jesus is. Without it, as Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15, our faith is empty.
- Jesus did not merely rise from the grave. He ascended to the throne. He is not pacing in heaven wondering what comes next. He is seated, ruling with absolute authority.
- Conviction is not something to suppress or wait out. It is God's mercy, exposing sin in order to bring healing, forgiveness, and change.
- The Holy Spirit uses ordinary believers to proclaim an extraordinary King. Your responsibility is faithfulness in sharing. The work of changing hearts belongs to God.

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## **Discussion Questions**

### Opening

1. The pastor opened by talking about significant historical events and the importance of getting the details right. What is a historical moment from your own lifetime

that you feel a responsibility to remember and pass on accurately? Why does it matter to you?

2. In your own words, what is the main idea Peter is communicating in this sermon? Why do you think Peter felt such urgency in delivering it?

### God Vindicates His Messiah (Acts 2:22-32)

3. Peter tells the crowd that Jesus was delivered up according to the "definite plan and foreknowledge of God," and yet he also holds the crowd responsible for crucifying him. How do you personally hold together God's sovereignty and human responsibility? Where do you find that tension most difficult?
4. The pastor said, "God has gone out of his way to provide clear, credible, and convincing evidence that validates everything about Jesus." Looking at what Peter presents in this passage, what evidence does he offer? Which piece of that evidence do you find most compelling, and why?

5. Peter quotes Psalm 16, where David expresses deep joy and hope rooted in what God would one day accomplish through the resurrection. The pastor noted that David saw this dimly, yet it still produced gladness. How does your own understanding of the resurrection produce joy in your daily life? Is there room for that joy to grow?

### God Confirms His Messiah (Acts 2:33-36)

6. The image of Jesus sitting at the right hand of the Father is a picture of a king who has completed his work and reigns with full authority. The pastor asked, "What if we did in fact live with such confidence that it's not in ourselves?" Where in your life right now are you tempted to act as though everything depends on you rather than trusting in a reigning King?

7. The pastor said that pain and fear are, as C.S. Lewis described, God's megaphone to draw us to dependence on him. Has there been a season of difficulty in your life where fear or struggle actually drove you closer to God?

rather than further away? What did that look like?

8. Knowing that Jesus governed redemption history according to a definite plan, what does that tell you about his ability to govern the details of your personal life? How does that truth change the way you approach your current circumstances?

### The People Respond (Acts 2:37-41)

9. The crowd was "cut to the heart" by Peter's words. The pastor described conviction as "God's mercy to expose sin in order to bring you back to a place to live as God wants you to." How do you typically respond when you feel convicted? Do you tend to suppress it, excuse it, or lean into it?
10. Peter calls the crowd to repent, be baptized, and identify publicly with Jesus rather than with a "crooked generation." In practical terms, what does it look like today to identify with Jesus in the face of a culture that dismisses or rejects him?

11. Three thousand people believed and were baptized that day. The pastor reminded believers that our job is to share the message faithfully, not to carry the responsibility of changing someone. Is there someone in your life right now who needs to hear about the risen and reigning Jesus? What is one step you could take this week to open that door?

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## **Practical Applications**

**For Those Who Do Not Yet Know Jesus:** If this sermon stirred something in you, do not wait for that feeling to pass. What you are experiencing may be God's mercy drawing you to Himself. Repentance means turning away from sin and trusting in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Talk to your group leader or pastor this week.

**For Believers Struggling with Fear or Control**  
Identify one specific area of your life where you are carrying anxiety or trying to manage outcomes on your own. Write it down. Bring it before God in prayer this week, consciously laying

it before the King who is enthroned and in control. Ask someone in your group to check in with you about it.

For Believers Ready to Share Their Faith Pray and ask God to bring one specific person to mind who needs to hear the gospel. Commit to praying for that person daily this week. Ask God to open a natural door for conversation. Share the message. Trust the Holy Spirit with the outcome.

For the Group as a Whole Consider together: How is your group participating in what the Holy Spirit is doing through the church to proclaim the risen King? Is there a way your group could take a step this month toward outreach, evangelism, or intentional gospel conversations in your community?

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## **Closing Prayer Points**

- Thank God for the definite plan he executed through Jesus for the forgiveness of sin.
- Ask for greater confidence in the reign of Jesus over every area of life.
- Pray for boldness to share the gospel with specific people God has placed in your lives.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to do the work of conviction and transformation, in your group and in those you love.