

Small Group Guide: The Word Witnessed - Acts 2

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by asking God to illuminate His Word through the Holy Spirit and help you understand how He works through Scripture today.

Icebreaker

Share about a time when you witnessed something significant. How did you tell others about it? What made your account believable?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. The Spirit Empowers Speech, Not Just Experience

- When the Holy Spirit arrived at Pentecost, His first action was to cause the disciples to **speak**
- The Spirit didn't produce private mystical experiences but public, intelligible witness
- The miracle of tongues was about **communication** - people hearing God's word in their own languages

2. The Spirit Works Through the Word

- Peter didn't appeal to the miraculous sign as proof; he appealed to **Scripture**
- The Spirit doesn't contradict or add to what was revealed to Moses, confirmed by the prophets, and embodied in Christ
- Peter quoted Joel, David's Psalms, and the prophetic promises to prove Jesus is Lord and Christ

3. The Spirit Convicts Hearts Through Proclaimed Truth

- 3,000 people who weren't eyewitnesses believed through the **apostolic testimony**
- The Spirit cut them to the heart through the preaching of God's Word
- This established the pattern for how the church grows: through faithful witness to Scripture

4. The Spirit and Word Are Inseparable

- Pursuing "spirituality" apart from Scripture is pursuing a false spirituality

- The Spirit's primary work today is through the teaching and preaching of the apostolic word (Scripture)
- True spiritual transformation comes through knowing the Word

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **What was significant about the Day of Pentecost in Jewish tradition?** How does this background help us understand what happened in Acts 2?
2. **Read Acts 2:14-36.** What Old Testament passages does Peter quote, and how does he use them to prove Jesus is the Messiah?
3. **The sermon mentioned Isaiah 28:11-13** (God speaking through foreign tongues as judgment). How does this prophecy connect to what happened at Pentecost?

Personal Reflection

4. **Have you ever pursued "spiritual experiences" or "feelings" apart from Scripture?** What was that like? How does this sermon challenge that approach?
5. **The crowd asked, "What does this mean?" (v. 12) and "What shall we do?" (v. 37).** When was the last time Scripture prompted you to ask these questions?
6. **Peter's sermon was thoroughly grounded in Scripture, not personal experience.** How does this challenge modern approaches to sharing faith that emphasize personal testimony over biblical truth?

Application

7. **The sermon stated: "If you desire to know God, then you need to learn the scriptures."** What practical steps can you take this week to deepen your knowledge of God's Word?

Key Scriptures to Review

- Acts 2:1-41 (main passage)
- Joel 2:28-32 (Spirit poured out)
- Psalm 16:8-11 (not abandoned to decay)
- Psalm 110:1 (sit at my right hand)
- John 14:26 (Spirit will teach and remind)
- John 15:26-27 (Spirit will testify, you will testify)
- John 16:8 (Spirit will convict)

Closing Reflection

The pastor shared: "My relationship with God was only as deep as I felt in that given moment... but somebody grabbed ahold of me at one point and taught me the scriptures. And that's what transformed my life."

- How does this testimony encourage you?
- Who in your life needs someone to "grab ahold of them" and teach them the Scriptures?
- Are you willing to be that person for someone else?

Closing Prayer

Pray together:

- Thank God for giving us His Word and His Spirit
- Ask the Spirit to work through Scripture to transform your hearts and minds
- Pray for a deeper hunger for God's Word
- Ask for opportunities to share the apostolic witness with others
- Pray for those in your group who are still seeking or questioning