

HOLY SPIRIT

The Flame Within Me

**DISCUSSION
BOOKLET**

connection
ministries

DAY 1

ACTS OF THE SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost (Acts 1-2)



Have you ever seen a movie preview? Movie previews are a “teaser” or a short description of the plot of a movie that will be showing soon. Jesus gave us a “preview” in Luke 24 of what was going to happen to the future of Christianity. Like a movie preview He did

not give too many details, but enough to let His followers know His death was not the end. Jesus told His disciples at least three times that He would suffer death and then be raised from the dead. But, the disciples were still confused when they didn’t find His body in the tomb!

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other.” Acts 1:8 (NIRV)

This key verse explains that the power of the Church comes from the Holy Spirit, and not from man. The book of Acts not only



References:



www.freebibleimages.org



<https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-International-Readers-Version-NIRV-Bible/>

New International Readers Version (NIRV) Bible



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IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER CONTIN.

DAY 2

1. Jesus commands us to go and make disciples of all nations. Every believer can share the Great Commission right where they are.

2. God may ask us to do difficult things, but He walks with us in everything, through the Holy Spirit.
3. The Holy Spirit helps us overcome our fears.
4. Surround yourself with believers who help you keep focused on Jesus.
5. The power of the Holy Spirit gives us gifts to influence others for Christ.

DAY 3

ACTS OF WITNESSING Paul and Silas in Prison
(Acts 16:16-34)

The jailer brought them into his house. He set a meal in front of them. He and everyone who lived with him were filled with joy. They had become believers in God.

Acts 16:34 (NIRV)

1. God wants us to witness to others.
2. The Holy Spirit gives us the boldness to witness.
3. Telling one person about God is just as important as sharing with a crowd.
4. The power of the Holy Spirit gives us gifts to influence others for Christ.

describes the life of the early Christians, it helps us live a fruitful Christian life **today**.

Do you know what Pentecost is? **Pentecost** was one of the Jewish feast days that celebrated the beginning of the early weeks of harvest. Jews from every country came to Jerusalem, and they spoke many languages. Jesus' disciples were all together in one place, and were ordinary people.



As they gathered together a sound like a strong wind filled the whole house. Something that looked like flames of fire came to rest on each of them, filling them with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit gave them the ability

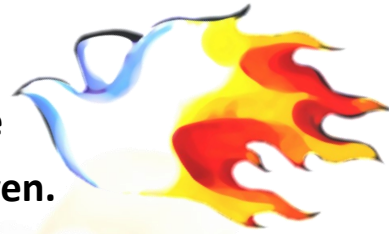
to understand each other's languages.

Then Peter stood up and spoke to the crowd. Peter spoke of Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.

He said the people of Israel had nailed Jesus to the cross. When the people heard this, they were filled with shame. They asked, "Brothers, what should we do?"



Peter replied, "All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven.



You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you, your children, and for all whom the Lord chooses."

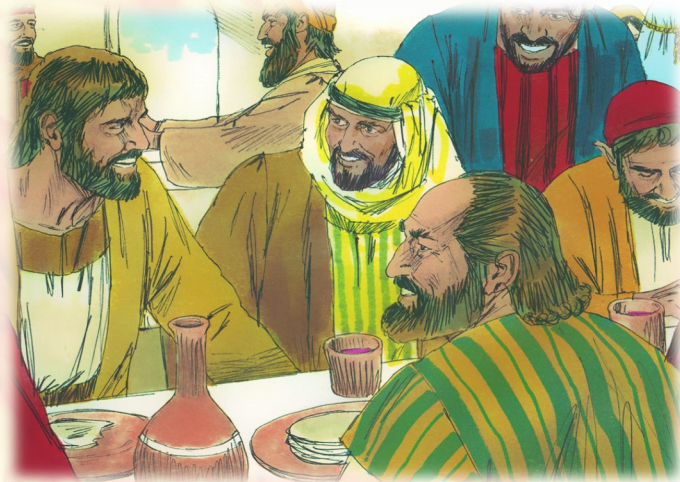
Acts 2:38-39 (NIRV)



Those who accepted Peter's message were baptized. **Around 3,000 people joined the believers that day!**

In Acts chapter 2 we learn a lot about the early believers and the church. They studied what

the apostles taught, and ate and prayed together. They shared everything they had and no one was in need. Daily they met together, and ate meals with glad and sincere hearts. Every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.



IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER



DAY 1

ACTS OF THE SPIRIT The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost (*Acts 1-2*)

"I am going to send you what my Father has promised. But for now, stay in the city. Stay there until you have received power from heaven."

Luke 24:49 (NIRV)

1. The Holy Spirit is available to everyone who believes.
2. The Holy Spirit helps us understand God's Word.
3. The Holy Spirit gives every believer gifts that helps us to live out God's will.
4. The Holy Spirit strengthens us when we are weak.
5. The power of the Holy Spirit gives us gifts to influence others for Christ.



DAY 2

ACTS OF COURAGE Saul's Conversion (*Acts 9:1-27*)

"So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am with you always, to the very end."

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIRV) The Great Commission

REFLECTION QUESTIONS CONTIN.

5. What happened suddenly to the prison doors, and to the prisoners' chains?

(There was a big earthquake, the prison doors were flung open, and the prisoners' chains were set loose.)

6. What did the jailer say to Paul and Silas? And how did they respond?

(What must I do to be saved?) (Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and everyone in your house will be saved.)

7. What did Paul and Silas do for the jailer and his family?

(They shared the word of the Lord with them, and the jailer and his family were baptized.)

8. What keeps you from witnessing to others? What can you do to overcome that fear?

9. Who is someone you could talk to about Jesus?

The early believers were unified through the Holy Spirit. They no longer had Jesus physically present, but they did have the Holy Spirit who now dwelled within them. The believers did not keep this a secret; the Holy Spirit had given them the power and the ability to be bold and tell others!

Just like those early Christians, we also need the Holy Spirit in our lives. We all need the same things we read about in the early church. We need to experience Christian love and fellowship, prayer, a place of belonging, and a place to share our gifts. **The Holy Spirit gives gifts to strengthen us when we are weak, and helps us pray to our Father to live out God's will for our lives.**





DAILY BIBLE VERSE

“I am going to send you what my Father has promised. But for now, stay in the city. Stay there until you have received power from heaven.”

Luke 24:49 (NIRV)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

1. The Holy Spirit is available to everyone who believes.
2. The Holy Spirit helps us understand God’s Word.
3. The Holy Spirit gives every believer gifts that helps us to live out God’s will for our lives.
4. The Holy Spirit strengthens us when we are weak.
5. The power of the Holy Spirit gives us gifts to influence others for Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did Jesus tell His disciples during the time He spent with them? Did the disciples understand Him?

2. What did they do to get thrown in prison?

(They commanded an evil spirit to leave a slave girl. Her owners were upset and handed them over to Roman authorities.)

3. What were Paul and Silas doing around midnight while they were in prison?

(They were praying and singing hymns to God. The other prisoners were listening to them.)

4. What are some ways you can witness to others?

(Examples could be;)

- Sharing with people at work the blessings God has given you.
- Inviting your housemate to church/Friendship group.
- Write an encouraging note or Bible verse and giving it to your housemate/staff/co-worker.
- Praying with someone who is struggling or doesn’t know God.
- Helping out a friend.



DAILY BIBLE VERSE

The jailer brought them into his house. He set a meal in front of them. He and everyone who lived with him were filled with joy. They had become believers in God. *Acts 16:34 (NIRV)*



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

1. God wants us to witness to others.
2. The Holy Spirit gives us the boldness to witness.
3. Telling one person about God is just as important as sharing with a crowd.
4. The power of the Holy Spirit gives us gifts to influence others for Christ.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Day 3 Reflection Questions can be done with families, caregivers, and direct support staff

1. Why were Paul and Silas in the city of Philippi?
(They were sharing the Good News.)

2. When Jesus left the earth to return to His Father, what gift did He leave behind for us?
3. In what ways does the Holy Spirit help us?
4. List some ways the early Church is like the Church today.
5. What are some ways the Church today is not like the Acts 2 Church?



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you allow the Holy Spirit to lead your life?
2. Do you have the boldness to share with others what Christ means to you? If not, pray for boldness to share the love of Christ with others.

DAY 2

ACTS OF COURAGE

Saul's Conversion (Acts 9:1-27)

Have you heard of the apostle Paul? This Bible story takes place when he was still known as Saul. Saul was a Pharisee who believed in God and followed the Jewish law. He did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah, the promised Savior. He instead considered Jesus a rebel and a blasphemer (*someone who claims to be God*). Saul believed someone like Jesus needed to be crucified.

God had a plan for Saul; He would use him to spread the Good News to people who were both Jewish and Gentiles. God also had plans for Jesus' followers who were afraid of Saul. **The Holy Spirit would give them courage** as God transformed Saul into a man who would spend the rest of his life following the Great Commission.

Saul wanted to find all of Jesus'



to his house and prepared a meal for them. Everyone was filled with joy, for they had become believers in God.

Paul and Silas weren't afraid to tell others about God, even though they had been beaten

and thrown in prison. **What could you do when you are afraid to share God with others?**

It can be scary to witness, because we are afraid people will reject us. Paul faced lots of rejection during his ministry, but it didn't stop him from sharing about Jesus Christ. Remember that the Holy Spirit is with you and pray that He will give you the gifts and ability to share your love for God.

The Holy Spirit gives us the boldness to witness. God wants us to share His love with everyone, whether it be to a crowd or just one person. **Can you think of someone you can witness to, and share all you have learned about the Holy Spirit this week?**





About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God. The other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a powerful earthquake. It shook the prison from top to bottom.

The prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.

The jailer woke up and saw that the prison doors were open. He grabbed his sword and was about to kill himself, because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all still here!"



The jailer rushed in, shaking with fear. He fell on the ground in front of Paul and Silas. He asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Paul and Silas replied, "**Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and everyone living in your house will be saved.**"

The jailer took Paul and Silas and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone living in his house were baptized. He brought them

disciples, so he asked the priests for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, giving permission to arrest the disciples. On his way to Damascus, a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed



around him, and he fell to the ground. He heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?" **The voice replied, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city, where you will be told what you must do."**

Saul got up, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing.

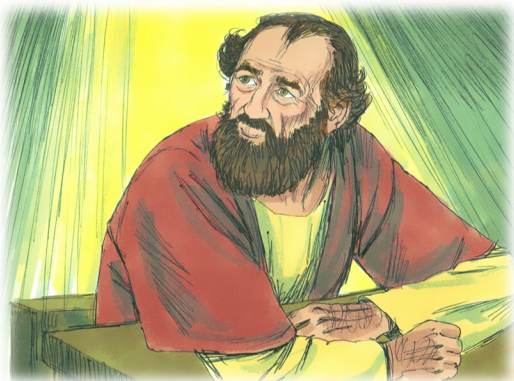


The men led Saul into Damascus. For three days he was blind and did not eat or drink anything.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision.

"Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," Ananias replied.

The Lord instructed, "Go to the house of Judas and ask for a man



named Saul. He is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”

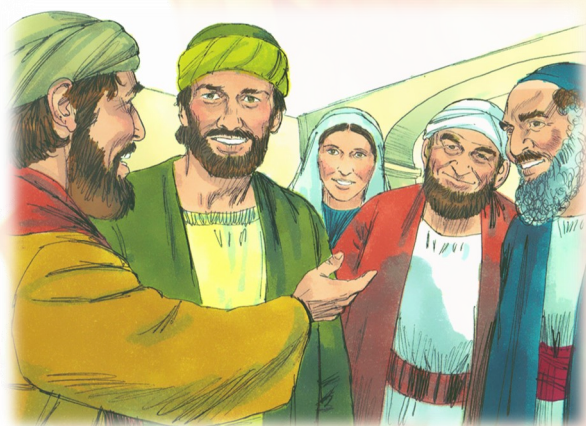
“Lord,” Ananias answered, “This man has harmed your holy people

in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your Name.” But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! I have chosen Saul to proclaim my Name not only to Jews but Gentiles (*non-Jews*) and their kings.”

Ananias went to the house. He placed his hands on Saul and said to him, “**Brother Saul, Jesus who appeared to you on the road as**



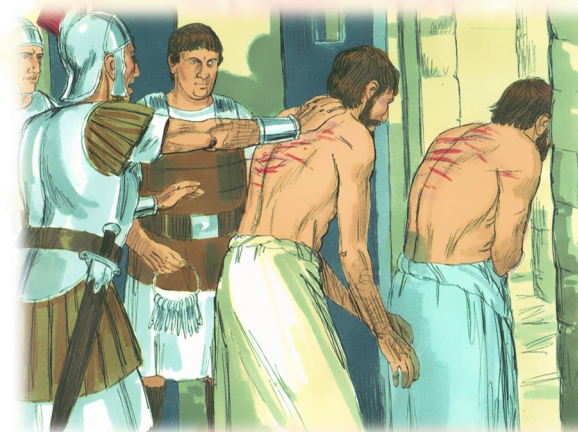
you were coming here has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see. Saul got up and was baptized,



possessed by an evil spirit. Her owners made a lot of money from the evil spirit telling the future. The girl followed Paul and Silas, shouting; “These men serve the Most High God. They are telling you how to be saved.” (Acts 16:17).



Finally Paul had enough. He turned to the girl and said to the evil spirit inside her, “In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you to come out of her!” (Acts 16:18a). Immediately the evil spirit left the girl.



The girl’s owners were very upset, because the evil spirit was how they made money. They grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them to the Roman authorities. “These men are Jews,” they exclaimed.

“They are practicing things which go against Roman law.”

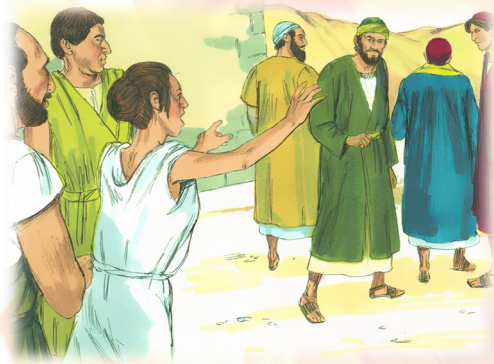
The judges ordered for Paul and Silas to be stripped and beaten with rods. They were thrown in prison and the jailer was told to guard them carefully. The jailer put Paul and Silas deep inside the prison and fastened their feet.

DAY 3

ACTS OF WITNESSING

Paul and Silas in Prison (Acts 16:16-34)

What is witnessing? *Witnessing* means to share the love of God with other people. As Christians, we all have a story to share! Telling others what God has personally done in your life can help others think about the impact God can have on their lives, if they do not know God's love. God wants us to share His love with everyone, whether it be to a crowd or just one person who needs to hear about Him.



Paul witnessed to many people during his ministry, including large crowds. But he also witnessed to individuals, like in the following Bible story. In Acts 16, Paul and fellow disciple Silas had been

sharing the Good News in Philippi. One day, they were going to the place of prayer and were met by a female slave who was



and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus, the very people he had come to arrest.

Saul began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus was the Son of God. A few days later some Jews who were against Jesus plotted to kill Saul. But Saul learned of their plans. His followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall so he could escape. It would be later that Saul would be known as Paul.

Ananias was afraid of Saul, and needed great courage. The Holy Spirit had to help him overcome his fear and suspicion of Saul. Ananias was an ordinary person just like us. God used Ananias because he was a willing servant.

The Holy Spirit helps us overcome our fears, as well. We need the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's plan for our lives, to understand God's Word, and to live out the Great Commission. We also need to be part of a Christian community. The time we spend together with other believers strengthens our faith in God.



DAILY BIBLE VERSE

“So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am with you always, to the very end.” *Matthew 28:19-20 (NIRV) the Great Commission (The Great Commission was where Jesus commanded people to go preach throughout the world)*

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

1. Jesus commands us to go and make disciples of all nations. Every believer can share the Great Commission right where they are.
2. God may ask us to do difficult things, but He walks with us in everything, through the Holy Spirit.
3. The Holy Spirit helps us overcome our fears.
4. Surround yourself with believers who help you keep focused on Jesus.
5. The power of the Holy Spirit gives us gifts to influence others for Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Ananias go visit with Saul?

2. What reasons did Ananias have to be afraid of Saul?
3. Saul hated followers of Jesus because he believed Jesus was not the Messiah, but an imposter and rebel. What happened that caused Saul to believe in Jesus?
4. Where did Ananias get the ability to lay hands on Saul so he could receive his sight?
5. How was Saul able to preach about Jesus and the Good News so soon after being converted?
6. Why are we afraid to tell others about Jesus?
7. Who gives us the gifts and power to overcome these fears?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What are ways we can let people know about Jesus?

There will be no discussion group on Day 3. The Day 3 Reflection Questions can be found in the next section. You can take the booklet home today.