

# ACTS CHAPTER 2

## The Birth of the Church



# 2

March 6, 2005  
2.ACT02

### Lesson Goal

Students will understand the power the Gospel has in turning people's heart towards God.

### Lesson Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Tell the teacher what events happened to show that the Holy Spirit had come upon the Apostles.
- Explain the main point of Peter's sermon.
- Understand the meaning of repentance and baptism.
- Explain what the first local church was like.

### Memory Verse

Acts 2:32 ~ "God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact."

### Application

- Respond to Peter's sermon. Search your heart to see if you have truly placed your faith in Christ.
- Do you eagerly desire to study the Bible, pray, and be with other believers?
- Pray that God would give you the boldness to proclaim the Gospel to unbelievers in your life.

# TEACHER PLANNING SHEET

## Prepare Your Heart

- Read and study through the passage meditatively.
- Prayerfully seek how God would have you personally apply this passage to your own life. Write these down.

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## Prepare the Lesson

- Choose from the various ideas in the lesson plan.
- Write down an approximate time frame for each.
- List the materials needed.

## HOOK

Time

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## BOOK

Time

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## LOOK

Time

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## TOOK

Time

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Materials  
Needed:

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# ACTS CHAPTER 2

## The Birth of the Church



# 2

1st–3rd Grade  
March 6, 2005  
2.ACT02EL

## HOOK

### MEMORY VERSE



“God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.”

Acts 2:32



### **Wind in the Classroom (*Demonstration*).**

**Variation 1:** Prepare a cassette tape with the sound of wind. (*Tape actual wind whistling through a small opening in a window or have a few people make blowing sounds.*) Play the tape for the students. Ask if students recognize the sound. Turn it up as loud as possible. What would students think if they really heard this sound in the classroom? What might it mean if the sound “came from heaven” and “filled the whole” building?

**Variation 2:** Bring a fan to class. After all the students have arrived, and are working on something at the table (such as a worksheet), turn the fan on full blast so it blows things around. After the students have complained about their papers being blown around, turn the fan down and ask them:

1. What caused the papers to be blown around? (*the wind from the fan*)
2. Yes, but what did the fan do that caused the papers to be blown around? (*it blew a lot of air at a very fast speed*)
3. How do they know that it blew a lot of “air”, did they see the air? (*no*)
4. But they did see the effects of the air moving? (*yes*)

Have a discussion about how the wind caused by the air passing through the fan is like the Holy Spirit; it’s invisible but very real. Tell the students that in today’s lesson they will learn about how the people in the early church were filled with the Holy Spirit. They couldn’t see the Holy Spirit but they could feel its presence, just like how we can’t see air but we can feel its presence.

**Now, That Makes Sense! (*Demonstration*).** Invite someone who knows a language other than English to come and speak to the students. Have them present the simple Gospel (*or read a familiar Scripture passage*) in the unfamiliar language. Then ask the students to tell you what they learned. (*This shouldn’t take long.*) Have the guest repeat the message, this time in English. Now have students discuss what the guest shared. If we want to learn anything from an important message, we need to hear it in a language we understand. God wanted all people to hear the message about the risen Christ. Tell the students that in today’s Bible lesson they are going to see how God, in the very first days of the church, worked a miracle so that the Apostles could share the “Wonders of God” with visitors from every nation who were in Jerusalem for Pentecost.

**Say What? (Music).** Bring in a tape or CD of music in another language and have it playing as the students are coming into class. See if the students notice it is not English, see if the students can figure out what language it is. Do this for a while and then use this activity as a direct lead into the lesson. Tell the students that in today's Bible adventure they are going learn about a miracle that God did through the Apostles which allow people of different languages to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ spoken to them in their own language.

**Fill 'er up (Object Lesson).** For this object lesson you will need:

- a deep bucket or pot,
- a small drinking glass (not a paper cup), and
- a paper towel (full sheet not ½ size).

Have a student wad up the paper towel and press it down into the drinking glass. Ask the students what they think will happen to the paper towel if you put the glass in the bucket/pot of water upside down? (*Hopefully they'll say, 'it will get wet'.*) Turn the glass upside down and keeping it vertical while pushing it straight down into the bucket/pot of water. Be sure to completely immerse the glass under the water level. Pull the glass straight up out of the water, being careful not to tip the glass in any way. Show the students the paper towel and point out that it is dry.

Ask the students if they know what caused the paper towel to stay dry? (*Along with the paper towel, there was an invisible wall of air that was pushing back against the paper towel. The air is what kept the paper towel from getting wet.*) Discuss with the students how we can't see the air but it's still there. We saw the effects of the air because the paper towel stayed dry. This is a lot like the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2 we will learn how the people in the early church were filled with the Holy Spirit. They didn't see it, but they could feel the effects of the Holy Spirit's presence. One way we can feel the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives is by the way we treat people. Do you treat people the way Jesus would want with Christ-like love?

**Don't Babel (Discussion).** Are you reminded of another story in the Bible where people spoke in many languages? Read the story of the tower of Babel from Genesis 11:1-9. Make a list of differences between this story and the one in Acts 2:5-13.



### ***Presentation Ideas***

**Baptism of Many (Illustration/Coloring Page).** Acts 2:40-41, **2.ACT02EL.GF1.**

### ***Bible Adventure for 1<sup>st</sup>- 3<sup>d</sup> grades***

Last week we began to look at the second book of the Bible that was written by Luke, the Acts of the Apostles. We heard how Jesus appeared again and again to His followers after His resurrection and how they became very excited and eager to go tell the world about Him. But Jesus told them not to go just yet. He wanted them to wait for something, something Jesus had promised them several times. Does anyone remember what that promise was? (*Give children an opportunity to answer.*) **He had promised to send a Helper to them, God's Holy Spirit.** Jesus asked them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait until God

baptized them with the Holy Spirit. The Apostles obeyed Jesus. During the ten days they waited, they met constantly with other followers of Jesus to pray.

When the day of Pentecost arrived, Jesus kept His promise to them in a way that would change their lives forever. They were all together praying **when a sound like the blowing of a violent wind was heard**. It came from heaven and seemed to fill the whole house where they were sitting. Even though they expected the arrival of the Holy Spirit, it startled them. They looked and saw tongues of fire, which came and rested on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then something even more remarkable happened. **The Spirit gave these men the ability to speak in languages other than their own**. It would be like you or I suddenly being able to speak Japanese or Norwegian without ever having studied those languages.

The sound of the wind was not just heard by the Apostles. There were many people staying in Jerusalem at that time who were from many different countries. They heard the sound and gathered in a huge crowd to try to find out what was going on. As they listened to the Apostles speaking, they were amazed to discover that each one of them was hearing Jesus' followers speaking in his own language! They couldn't understand how these Galileans, who they considered to be ignorant and uneducated, could be telling of the wonders of God in so many different tongues.

There were some in the crowd, though, that made fun of the Apostles, saying they had been drinking. There will always be those who reject God's message, even when it is presented in such a miraculous way. When Peter heard the mocking, he stood and talked to the people. He told the crowd in a powerful way that they must listen carefully to what he had to say.

He told the crowds that it was not wine that was the cause of the unusual happenings that day, but that it was something the prophet Joel had prophesied long ago. The "last days," which began when Christ came to the earth for the first time, would see God pour out His Holy Spirit into His true children. This, Peter said, was what the crowds were witnessing that day. All the Jews understood that the last days referred to the time of their Messiah. If those days had come, then the Messiah must already have come, too. With boldness Peter began to share that Jesus was the Messiah they had hoped for all these years. Knowing the rejection Jesus had suffered and the resistance among the people to accept Him as their Messiah, Peter began presenting evidence to them.

The first proof he offered was the miracles God had performed through Jesus. The miracles were done among the people, and they were eyewitnesses of them. All these miracles were designed to get the attention of the people and to show them that Jesus was God's Son. These miracles alone were proof enough that Jesus was the Messiah, but because men "loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil" (*John 3:19*), they did the most evil thing of all—they rejected Jesus.

Not only did Jesus' life show He was the Messiah, Peter continued, His death showed it, too. Jesus was not a helpless victim. His death was part of God's plan and purpose from eternity past. God delivered His Son up to be killed. Peter makes it clear, though, that this does not lessen the guilt of those who participated in His death. They willfully carried it out and would be held

responsible for their sin. Peter said to the crowd, "You, with the help of wicked men, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross."

As if these two proofs were not enough, Peter added a third, very powerful argument. God raised Jesus from the dead. Who else could conquer death but God's Messiah? Peter backed up his argument by referring to a passage from the Old Testament in the Psalms. King David wrote down the words, but they were a prophecy about the Messiah. In fact, they were the Messiah's words, "You will not abandon Me to the grave, nor will You let Your Holy One see decay." Those verses could only refer to someone who had been raised from the dead. They did not refer to David as many of the Jews thought, but were written about the Messiah, who David knew would rise from the dead and eventually rule the world. Now Peter delivered the conclusion to his argument. God had raised Jesus from the dead because He is the Messiah, and the Apostles were all eyewitnesses of that fact.

Peter went on to tell the crowd that after Jesus was raised, He sat in a place of honor at the right hand of God, and there He received the Holy Spirit from His Father, which He now had given the Apostles. That outpouring was what the crowd was witnessing. Peter ended his talk with these words, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."

Put yourself in the place of someone in the crowd that day. You have been presented with proof that Jesus is the Messiah, God's chosen One, His one, and only Son. You have had a finger pointed straight at you and had someone say, "You crucified Him." How would you be feeling? Most likely you would react the way the crowds did. The Bible tells us they were pierced to the heart. They were stabbed by their own guilt and the realization that instead of accepting Him, they had executed their own Messiah. They stood guilty of the grossest kind of sin, and it pierced them. They could not go back and undo what had been done. They cried out to the Apostles, "What shall we do?"

Peter answered that the first thing they had to do was repent. They had to turn from their sin and their wrong ideas about God's Kingdom. They had to turn to the witness of the Apostles and determine in their hearts that Jesus was their Savior and their leader. When they had done this, they would receive forgiveness. **After turning from their sin**, Peter also told them they should be baptized, as a way to show the world that they were now followers of Christ. All those new believers would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit as well. Peter continued to warn the people of their spiritual danger and to plead with them to come follow Christ. There were many there who counted the cost that day and responded to God's words through Peter. About three thousand people accepted the message and were baptized.

**Luke ends chapter two of the book of Acts by telling us what this first local church was like.** Those three thousand people changed radically in the days ahead. From that point on, they grew in Christ by giving their time and effort to four things. They kept on learning from the Apostles, they spent time encouraging one another to be obedient to Jesus, they shared **meals together** on a regular basis, remembering Jesus' death for them, and they prayed continually. The early Church took these things very seriously. They knew that these were the things God would use to change them from the inside out. Because they were faithfully doing them, God was growing His Church. Their

hearts were joyful and unselfish, and even unbelievers were noticing the difference in them. Every day God was adding new believers to their numbers.

This was the early Church. How does the Church today measure up? Are we exposing ourselves daily to the truth of God's Word, or do we dust it off occasionally and read a few verses? Are we content to let a day go by without learning something from the Bible, or do we consider it a waste when we don't? Are we involved with others believers, encouraging them and being encouraged by them, or do we sit on the sidelines and let it all pass us by? Finally, how does our prayer life measure up? Do we see God as the absolute source of everything we need in life and consistently approach Him for help? The church will never be what God wants it to be if we do not follow these disciplines. We can learn a lot from the early Church about what God thinks is important. Then let's ask God to help us pursue those things.

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**Aim Questions:**

- 1. What happened to show that the Holy Spirit had come upon the Apostles?** *Tongues of fire and speaking many languages so that all could understand the gospel.*
  - 2. What did Peter say to the people that had gathered?**
  - 3. How did the people respond? What worried the people from Peter's sermon?** *Pierced to the heart and asked what they should do. That they had put the Messiah to death.*
  - 4. What did Peter tell the people to do? How did the people respond?** *Repent, be baptized in the name of Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit. They did it; all who received the Peter's word were baptized, Acts 2:41.*
  - 5. How should you respond to Peter's words? If you have already accepted Christ, how well do you accomplish the four things listed in Acts 2:42?** *Learning God's word, Encouraging each other to walk in obedience to Jesus, Fellowship, and Prayer.*
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**Balloon Prophecy (Activity). Kathy write-up.** For this activity, each student will need a deflated balloon and a small post-it-note with their name written on it. Have the students make a prediction by placing their post-it-note somewhere around the room where they think their balloon will land. Have them fill their balloon with air and pinch it shut (**DON'T TIE**). Tell them to let go of their balloons and they will fly around the room. When they land see if it's where the student placed their post-it-note. Chances are they did not. Let the students try it again. Ask the students: "Did the balloons land where you predicted?" Discuss with the students how predictions are hard to make and have come true every single time. However, in today's lesson, they learned about many predictions made hundreds of years ago before Christ that all came true in Christ Jesus.

**Acts 2:32 (Word Search/Memory Verse).** Circle the words in the word search, and fill in the missing words to complete the memory verse, **2.ACT02EL.GF2**.

**From Every Nation (Map).** Jews from every nation under heaven were assembled in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. After the Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in other tongues (*languages*). Label the countries on the map where these people were from: Parthians, Medes, Elamites, residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia & Pamphylia, Egypt and parts of Libya near Cyrene, visitors from Rome, Crete and Arabia. These people were all able to hear them speaking in their own language, **2.ACT02EL.GF3 Pg. 1**. See **2.ACT02EL.GF3 Pg. 2** for the answer key.

**A.C.T.S. 2 (Worksheet).** Who was preaching? The Apostles were together for what reason? Peter's preaching had made the people afraid. What had they done that had caused them this fear? What did Peter tell them to do? What things happened to show that the Holy Spirit had come upon the Apostles?

**2.ACT02EL.GF4.** *Answers: Peter, In the city of Jerusalem, Confronting the crowd with their sin, Three thousand receive Christ.*

**Holy Spirit (Worksheet).** What did these things represent in Acts 2? Unscramble the letters to find out, **2.ACT02EL.GF5**.

**Declaring the Wonders of God (Memory Verse).** Our memory verse for this lesson is written in Spanish and French. It is also written phonetically so students can try to pronounce the foreign words. Have a helper who is a language student or a missionary help kids memorize this verse in English and in a second language, **2.ACT02EL.GF6**.

**Aim Questions (Worksheet).** Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today's Bible Adventure, **2.ACT02EL.GF7**.



**TOOK** \_\_\_\_\_

**Coming of the Holy Spirit (Coloring Page/Brochure).** Fold duplex copy of **2.ACT02EL.GF8 Pgs. 1 & 2** in thirds on the dotted lines. Fold to inside so that title page is on top and picture of baptism is inside. Have the students color the pictures to take home and share what they've learned in the lesson today. Discussion questions are on the back of the "brochure."

**Fellowship of the Believers (Discussion).** Discuss in small groups what Peter was preaching and how the crowds responded. If we have accepted Christ, to what should we be giving our time and effort? Refer to Acts 2:42 to see what the new believers were doing so that they would begin to grow in their understanding of what it meant to be a Christian.

Suggestions:

1. Reading our Bibles and learning God's Word.
2. Encouraging each other to walk in obedience to Jesus.
3. Fellowship
4. Prayer

**Blow the Ping Pong Ball (Activity).** Ask the students to sit around the table. Divide the table in half with a piece of masking tape. The students on one side are Team A and the students on the other side are Team B. Their goal is to score the most points by blowing the ping pong ball to the other side so it goes off the table. The team that lost the point must say the memory verse. Talk about how windy it sounded and how the wind they created by blowing the ball is similar to the Holy Spirit. They can feel it but they can't physically see it.

***This workbook is not available at this time for Faith Bible Church teachers.***  
**A.C.T.S. Action Cards (Workbook).** Continue to help students recall the main events of Acts using the Apostle "action cards." The following stats are from Acts chapter two:

- A. Peter.
- C. In the city of Jerusalem.
- T. Confronting the crowd with their sin.
- S. Three thousand receive Christ.

# The Baptism of Many



W	J	E	S	U	S	R	A	I	S	E	D	F	A	C	T	A	G	L	H	A	S	T	O	
I	O	F	N	J	K	J	L	N	T	K	E	V	N	U	H	R	O	I	I	P	N	H	B	
T	T			J	C	V	L			G	U	N	D	Z	I	E	D	F	E	H	W	E	Q	
N	N			N	I	G	X			V	T					H	S	E	M					
E	H			G	V	D	F			J	S	O	U					I	F					
S	U			U	L	A	F			J	F	S	C					T	J					
S	E			I	S	I	O			N	S	K	D					H	E					
E	Y			U	T	D	C			F	M	C	D					F	O					
S	H			A	F	B	N					A	K					L	O					
Y	D			U	Z	K	A					J	R					H	K					
M	J			H	E	O	P					D	W					W	Y					
Z	C			Z	H	H	S					R	G					N	M					
F	P			Q	Z	T	E					J	O					Z	Q					
I	V			P	F	N	E					C	C					M	T	S	D	H	S	
Y	H			Q	C	Z	Y					B	Q					J	T	F	T	S	H	
R	Q	V	L	X	U	V	C					V	K					J	H	L	I	S	F	
J	D	G	L	L	K	Y	B					X	N					W	D	Z	Y	K	F	
M	N			B	Q	L	D					F	L										R	Z
J	O			S	O	O	H					T	I										I	P
X	O			B	B	Y	H					I	X										P	A
I	T			R	J	T	C					I	N										I	N
Z	E			R	A	I	Q					F	E										C	D
W	C			N	K	O	M	W	V				Q	L									U	Z
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E	U			W	I	P	C	Y	T				F	V									Q	U
W	G			M	F	M	D	Y	N				B	D				J	W	B	X	S	W	
H	G			M	L	R	U	G	P	O	O	E	G					Y	T	U	Y	F	X	
F	W			L	G	Q	I	X	D	V	P	Z	F					X	P	L	L	D	F	

Circle the following words in the word search.

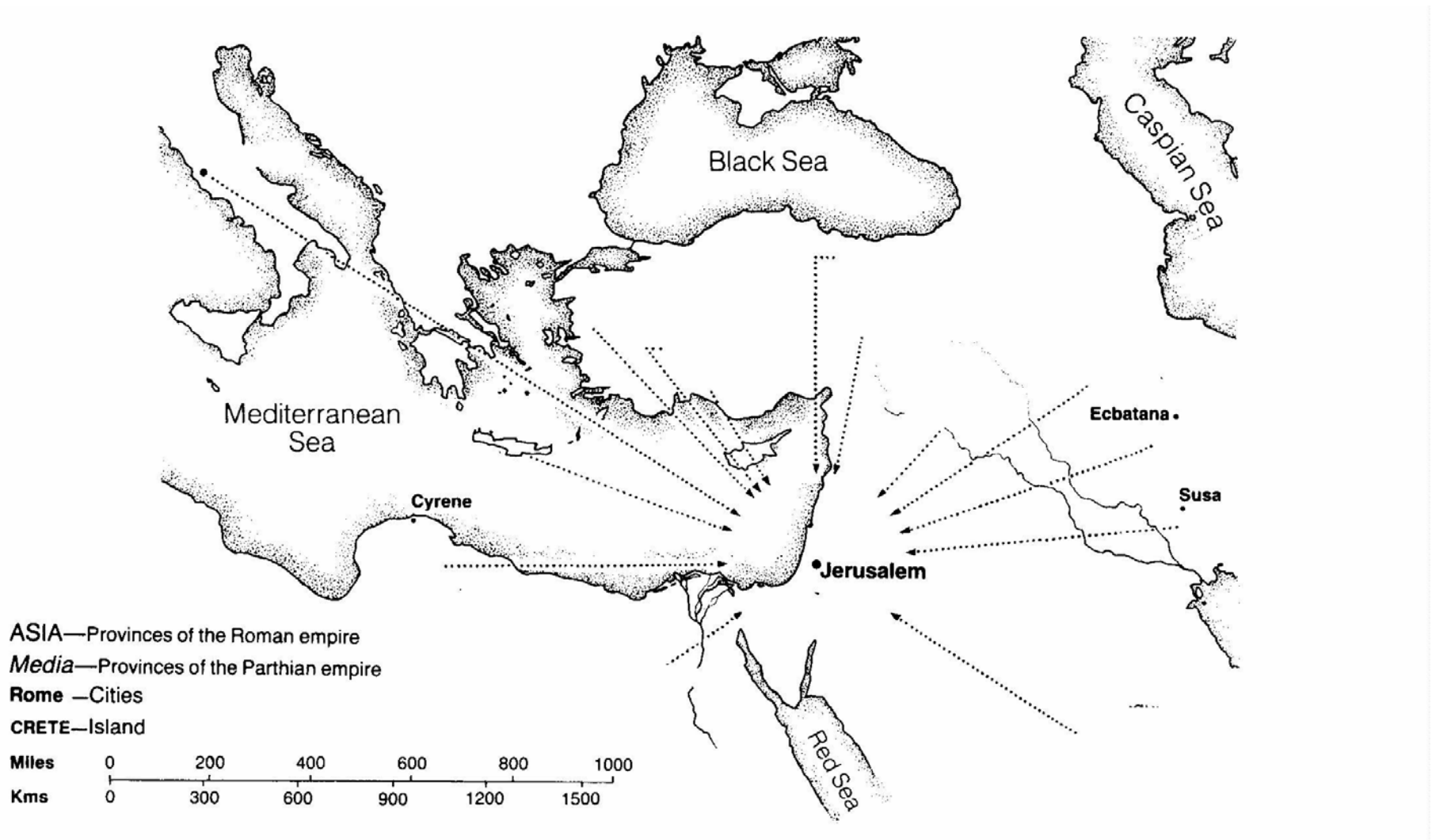
God	has	raised	this
Jesus	to	life	and
we	are	all	witnesses
of	the	fact	

Fill in the missing letters to reveal the memory verse, Acts 2:32.

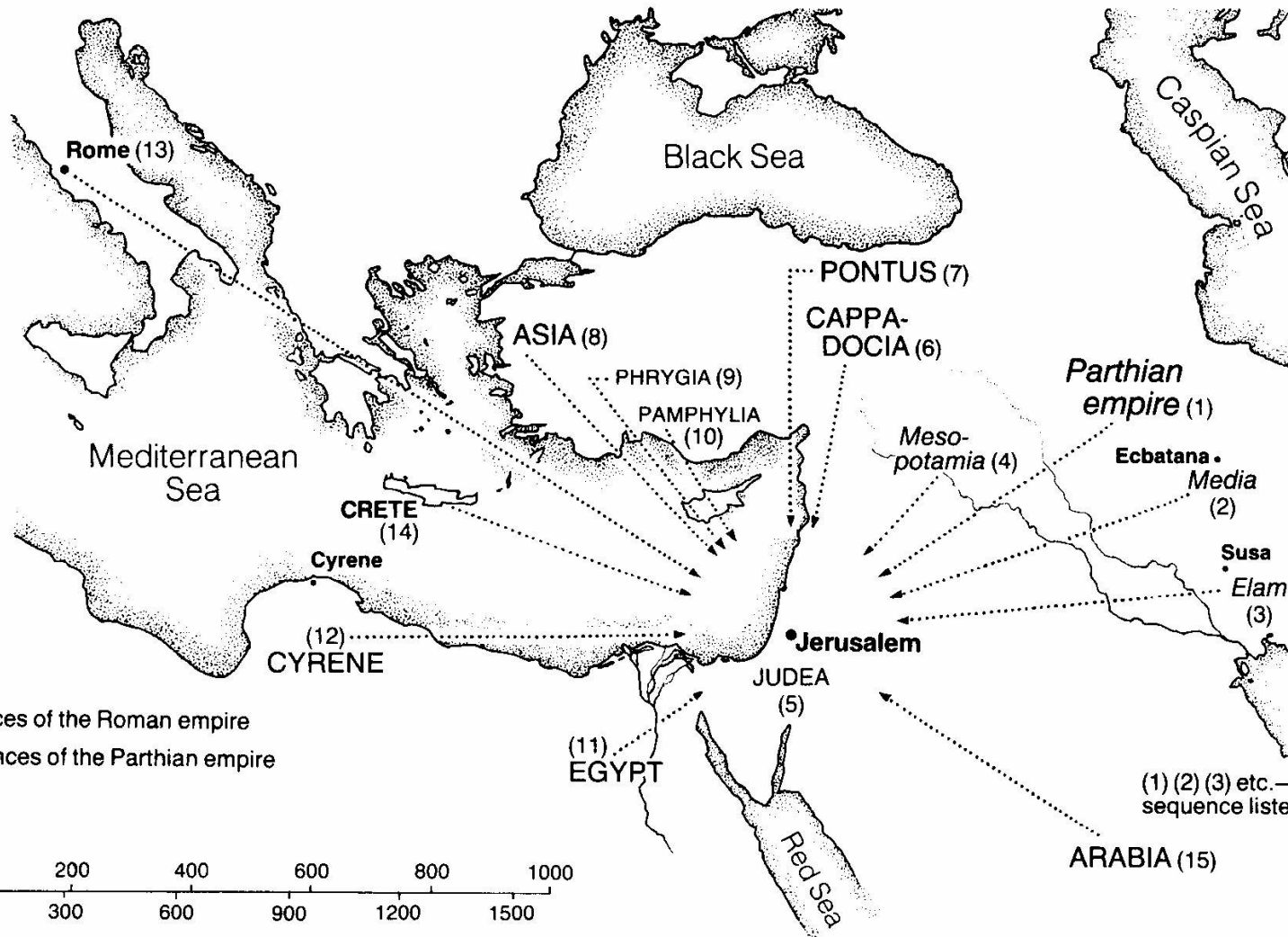
G\_\_d h\_\_s r\_\_i\_\_e\_\_ th\_\_s  
 J\_\_s\_\_s \_\_o \_\_i\_\_e, a\_\_d  
 w\_\_ a\_\_e a\_\_l w\_\_t\_\_ess\_\_s  
 of t\_\_e f\_\_c\_\_.

# From Every Nation

Using the maps in your Bible, label the countries on the map where these people were from: Parthians, Medes and Elamites, residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome; Crete and Arabia.

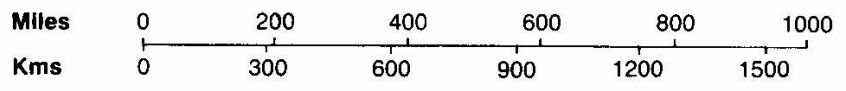


# From Every Nation



(1) (2) (3) etc.—Numbers indicate sequence listed in Ac 2:9-11

ASIA—Provinces of the Roman empire  
 Media—Provinces of the Parthian empire  
 Rome —Cities  
 CRETE—Island



# A. C. T. S.

## 2

**A**postles – Who was preaching? What was he preaching?

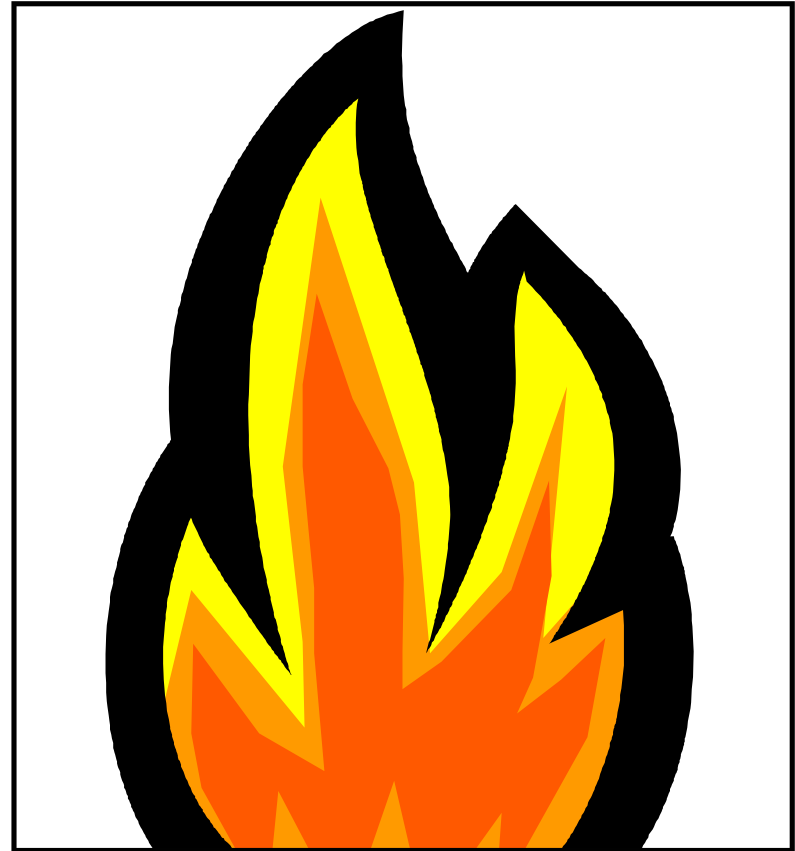
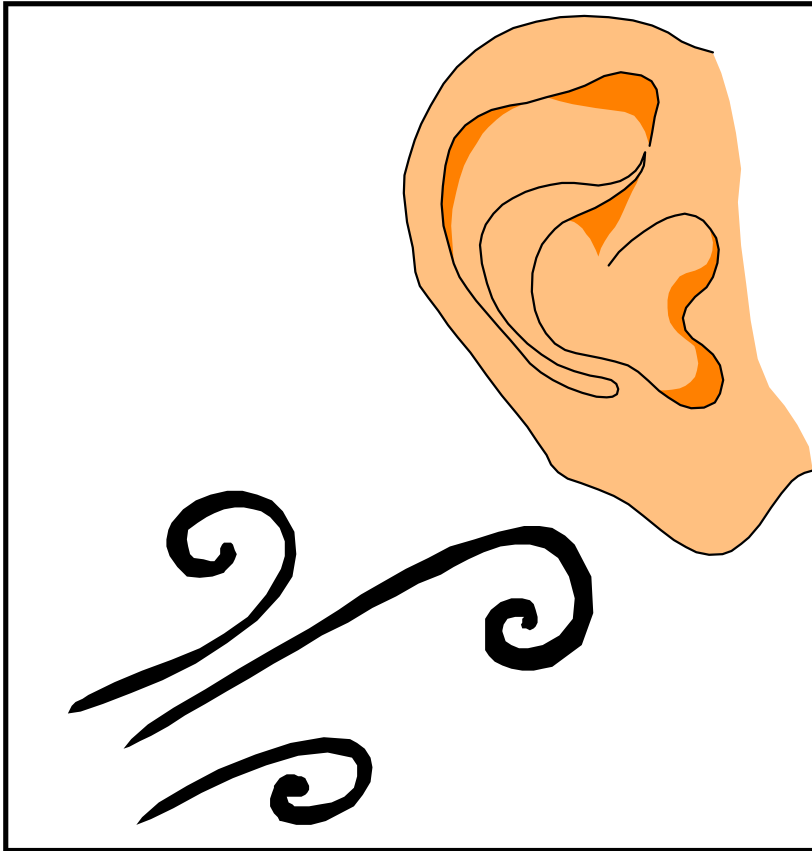
**C**ity – Where were the Apostles gathered and for what?

**T**rials/troubles – Peter’s preaching had made the people afraid.  
What had they done that had caused them this fear? What did Peter tell them to do?

**S**pirit – What things happened to show that the Holy Spirit had come upon the Apostles?

“God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.”

Acts 2:32



What did these things represent in Acts 2? Unscramble the letters to find out.

Y H O L

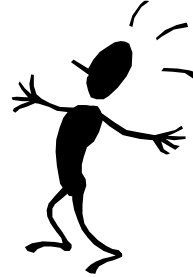
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T R I S I P

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# Declaring the Wonders of God

Can you speak a foreign language? You will find Acts 2:32 written in two languages for you. Try to pronounce them using the phonetic helps. Try to learn this week's memory verse in a second language as well as English.



## Spanish

**A este Jesus resucito Dios, de lo cual todos nosotros somos testigos.**

**Actos 2:32**

Ah es-tay Hay-sues ray-soo-see-toe Dee-yohs, day low ku-wal toe-dohs noh-soh-trohs soh-mohs tes-tee-gos.

## French

**Ce Jesus, Dieu l'a ressuscite; nous en sommes temoins.**

**Actes 2:32**

Suh jhay-zoo, Deeyuh lah ray-soo-see-tay; noo zahn sum tay-mwa(n).



# Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

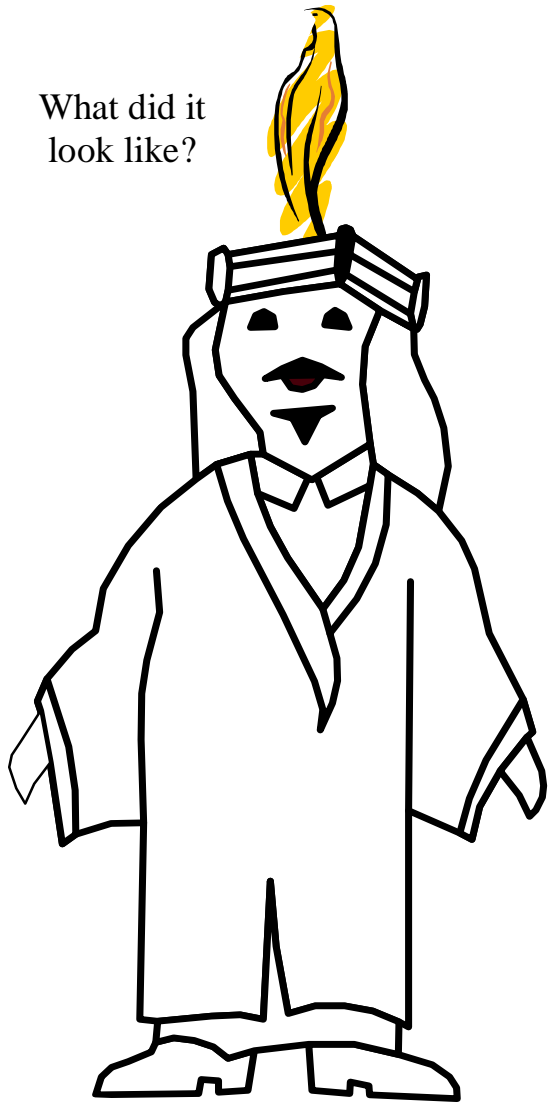
1. What happened to show that the Holy Spirit had come upon the Apostles?
2. What did Peter say to the people that had gathered?
3. How did the people respond? What worried the people from Peter's sermon?
4. What did Peter tell the people to do? How did the people respond?
5. How should you respond to Peter's words? If you have already accepted Christ, how well do you accomplish the four things listed in Acts 2:42?

*If we are His, Jesus has filled us with the Holy Spirit  
so that we might live in harmony with each other,  
and share Him with the world.*

## **Acts Chapter 2**

*"God raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact."  
Acts 2:32*

What did it look like?



*“They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.” Acts 2:3*

What things happened to show that the Holy Spirit had come upon the Apostles?

Acts 2:1 - 13

What did Peter tell the people to do, and how did they respond?

Acts 2:38 - 47

What does it mean to repent?

What is the purpose of baptism?

Have you turned from your sin to follow Christ?

# COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



What did it sound like?

*“Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.” Acts 2:2*



*“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved,” Acts 2:47b.*