

BUILD YOUR KINGDOM

The Book of Acts

PART 2: BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

DISCUSSION STARTER

Complete the following statement: *'I wish the Church would...'*

BIBLE STUDY

1. In what ways is the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives a tremendous gift to us?
2. **READ ACTS 2:1-4.** Is this experience of the Holy Spirit 'normative' for Christians today? In other words, does the filling of the Holy Spirit always happen this way?
3. What other common manifestations of the Holy Spirit's presence in a believer does Scripture mention? *(See 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 as an example)*
4. **READ ACTS 2:17-21.** What does the prophet Joel (and Peter) tell us about the way the Holy Spirit will manifest in His people? Are we still to expect this today? Why, or why not?
5. What parts of this prophecy still need to be fulfilled, and when will they be fulfilled?
6. **READ ACTS 2:37-41.** How did the crowd respond to Peter's message? Why did they respond this way? What convinced them that Peter was speaking the truth?
7. What does Peter say they must do to be saved, and what will be the ultimate proof of their salvation?
8. How is verse 39 a particularly bold statement from Peter as he addresses this crowd of 'devout' Jews? What is he perhaps implying here?
9. What role does the physical act of baptism play in our salvation? Is it really necessary?
10. **READ ACTS 2:42-47.** List the various activities the new-born church engaged in. How many of these activities are still common practice today, and which have fallen away? Why are some aspects no longer practiced, and how have some changed form?
11. Do you think the Church of today still enjoys the 'favour of the people' (vs 47)? Why, or why not?
12. How can the Church of today grow to be a better reflection of the Early Church of Acts? What can we do more of, and what can we perhaps do less of? Consider some of your responses from the discussion starter above...

PRAYER

Jesus, help us to become the kind of Church that makes a difference to the world. We long to see many come to salvation and added to our number. Empower us by Your Holy Spirit for this amazing mission.