

## “Get Going” (Acts 2:1-21)

For the week of September 27, 2015

### Testimony

Have a volunteer (one who agreed last time the group met) to share their testimony. Take 5-10 minutes. A simple three-point approach can be used:

1. What was your life like before you committed your life to Christ?
2. How and when did you surrender your life to Christ?
3. Since you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, how has your life in Christ made a difference? How has Christ met your needs? What does a relationship with Him mean to you now?

### Tell the Story

Have your volunteer(s) (who agreed last time the group met) to tell the story of Acts 2:1-21 to the group. Next, have everyone open their Bible and read the passage. Discuss any details missing from the telling of the story and reading of the story. Finally, have everyone close their Bibles and as a group rebuild the story from scratch.

1. Pick out one aspect of this great passage that impacted you and discuss it with your group.
2. This story shows the promise of the Holy Spirit realized. When the Spirit is at work in a follower of Christ, change happens. It can be slow and gradual or sudden and radical, but transformation takes place. How can we grow more responsive to the leading of the Spirit? Be specific and use examples on how the Spirit has been active in your life.

3. In his book **Forgotten God**, Francis Chan says this about Acts 2:

*“If we read and believed these accounts, we would expect a great deal of the Holy Spirit. He would not be a mostly forgotten member of the Godhead whom we occasionally give a nod of recognition to, which is what He has become in most American churches. We would expect our new life with the Holy Spirit to look radically different from our old life without Him. Yet this is not the way it is for most people. We don't live this way. For some reason, we don't think we need the Holy Spirit. We don't expect the Holy Spirit to act. Or if we do, our expectations are often misguided or self-serving. Given our talent set, experience, and education, many of us are fairly capable of living rather successfully (according to the world's standards) without any strength from the Holy Spirit.”*

Do these comments ring true to you? Do you neglect the Holy Spirit? Discuss in your group.

4. Acts 2:1-21 tells the story of the miraculous coming of the Holy Spirit. While the Holy Spirit, as a member of the Trinity, has always existed and was active even in Creation (Genesis 1), Pentecost ushered in a more intimate and personal relationship between the Spirit and members of the body of Christ. Read Romans 8. What does this chapter teach us about the role of the Holy Spirit in our relationship with God and our daily lives?

5. Although God did a great work through the power of the Spirit, there were still some who mocked and refused to believe (v. 13). Describe a time you have seen God work through the Spirit, but some still refused to believe. Why do you think some respond to the presence and work of the Spirit and others remain unmoved and resistant?

### Keys to the Text

Let's examine the symbols associated with Pentecost.

- **Wind** – The wind is a symbol of invisible power. Jesus said, "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). Like the wind, the Spirit is irresistible, invincible and invisible.
- **Fire** – A twofold symbol in the Old Testament. It represents that which purifies, because fire consumes impurities. It also represents enthusiasm, passion and purpose. A church that is on fire has been seized by a purifying, holy passion.
- **Speaking in languages they had not learned before** The disciples spoke in real, known languages that were recognized by people from other nations and cultures. They made powerful proclamations. Empowered by the Spirit, they spoke of the wonders of God. The tongues described in the book of Acts appear to be different than the gift of tongues mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12-14. In Acts it is a one step process where those filled with the Holy Spirit can speak miraculously in languages they didn't previously know. In 1 Corinthians it is a two-step process where someone has the gift of tongues that can only be understood by someone who has the gift of interpretation.

These symbols of wind, fire and tongues show us that God intended His church be filled with power, passion and proclamation. If time permits look at **Luke 3:16** and **Ephesians 5:18** and discuss the meaning of each verse in relation to fire and being filled with the Holy Spirit.

### Next Week

1. Ask for a volunteer to share their testimony.
2. Next week's passage is long: Acts 2:22-41. So ask for two volunteers to tell the story the best they can from memory. After telling the story, then have everyone read Acts 2:22-41. Compare the telling and the reading of the story. Finally, have the group retell the story together with their Bibles closed.

### Prayer

- Write down below a prayer for RiverLakes Community Church, that it might become all that God wants it to be. Ask God to make you faithful to serve, give and pray.

- Examine your heart. Confess any obstacles hindering your walk with the Lord. Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your life.

**The Bottom Line** – The Spirit empowers us for a worldwide mission of salvation from judgment. God has given us the Spirit and left us here for a single purpose to glorify God by being a growing disciple who makes other disciples of Jesus.