

Dundonald Youth: Acts

Week 2: Receive the Holy Spirit!

Open in prayer: Ask God to be with you, speaking to you through his word, helping you to trust Jesus Christ.

DO THIS STUDY FIRST - then listen to Pete TG talk

RECAP week 1 (Acts 1:1-11) - The book of Acts (the follow-on from the gospel of Luke) is about what the risen Jesus (alive and in heaven) *continued* to do, through the Apostles. They are told to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit, which would empower them to be witnesses of Jesus' death and resurrection in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth - to *everyone, everywhere!*

The 'starting gun' = the arrival of the Holy Spirit.

The 'finish line' = the return of Jesus

And the mission will be a 'relay race' = generation after generation witnessing and proclaiming the good news about who Jesus is and what he has done.

Read Acts 2:1-4.

Draw and annotate a sketch of what happened!

It's not GCSE art, just go for it! Notice Luke's difficulty at describing what happened: a sound 'like' a violent wind (v2), 'what seemed to be' tongues of fire (v3) - this is a supernatural moment!!

Read Acts 2:5-13.

What is the reaction of the crowd?

'Bewilderment' (v6), 'amazed' (v7), 'amazed and perplexed' (v12)

Why? What do they hear?

How do those in verse 13 react?

Taking it further:

Read Genesis 11:1-9.

In what ways is Jesus now 'reversing the curse'?

NOW LISTEN TO THE TALK - Youth Bible Series: Acts 2

Dundonald Youth: Acts

Read Acts 2:37.

How do the crowd react to Peter's message? Why?

They were 'cut to the heart' - because what Peter is saying is true (!) and the Holy Spirit is driving it deep into their hearts. They're realising that they rejected Jesus, sending him to his death on the cross, but that Jesus is Lord & Messiah (!!) so they ask - what shall we do??

Read Acts 2:38-39.

What does Peter say to do? What will they receive?

Repent - Turn from sin (and rejecting Jesus) TO Jesus and putting faith in him

Be Baptized - in the name of Jesus, the ONLY person who can save us. Baptism is a public profession of faith, symbolizing that we're united to Jesus now, our old life is dead in his death, our new life alive in his resurrected life.

Receive forgiveness of sins - Jesus has taken the punishment. He took the death penalty so that we don't have to. Everything wrong we've ever done, completely forgiven, symbolized in the washing of baptism.

Receive the Holy Spirit - the personal presence of God. Helping to make us more and more like Jesus. Helping to produce the fruit of the Spirit. Helping us to prophesy and tell other people about Jesus.

How do you respond to the fact that Jesus is Lord & Saviour?

Most of us are pretty pleased to discover that Jesus is 'Saviour'... but discovering that Jesus is 'Lord' and therefore has the right to rule our lives can be more challenging. Think about your own heart, and your own life... Who do you live for? Who is your trust in? Who do you submit to? How does the reality that 'Jesus is Lord & Messiah' make a difference in your life?

What Peter says to do and to receive absolutely applies to us! Have you done / received these things?

Pray: Praise God for Jesus, risen and ruling, and that we would follow him as Lord & Saviour.

Listen/Sing: Jesus is Lord - Kanye West (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rns_n82HiMo)

Meditate: Acts 2:40-42