

acts

OF THE APOSTLES

Lesson 2 • July 14

Acts 2 • “Men of Israel, Hear These Words”

The disciples of Jesus had stayed in Jerusalem just like Jesus had told them ([Acts 1:4](#)).

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ([Acts 2:1-4](#))



People “from every nation under heaven” ([2:5](#)) had come to Jerusalem for the day of Pentecost, and suddenly, they were hearing words in their own language! But how? In [Acts 2:14-15](#)...

Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.”

In [Acts 2:22-24](#), the apostles start pointing the audience to Jesus.

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

The “Hear These Words” sermon really has four basic points:

1. God has a message that you need to hear ([2:14-21](#))
2. Jesus was part of God’s plan all along ([2:22-23](#))
3. You killed him, but he didn’t stay dead ([2:23-35](#))
4. God has made Jesus both Lord and the Anointed One ([2:36](#))

When the audience heard the message, they were cut to the heart. Let’s talk about what they did next...

For Class & Family Discussion:

- Just before his sacrifice for our sins, Jesus made the apostles a promise. Let's read that promise in [John 16:12-14](#) together. How does it help us understand what's going on in [Acts 2:1-4](#)?
- Have you ever been in a situation where you could hear lots of different languages being spoken at the same time? Why was it important for all of these people from all of those different nations to hear in their "own tongues the mighty works of God" ([2:5-12](#))?
- Would being drunk have helped the disciples of Jesus speak different languages ([2:13](#))? Why would anyone mock them like that?
- In [Acts 2:16-21](#), Peter and the other apostles use the prophecy of Joel ([2:28-32](#)) to explain what was happening on the day of Pentecost. How does it help us understand what was going on?
- Why was it really important for everyone to recognize that Jesus' miracles and sacrifice and death and resurrection were all a part of God's "definite plan" ([2:22-23](#))?
- Do you remember what Jesus told the apostles was their mission in [Acts 1:8](#)? What did they want all of those people from all of those nations to understand in [2:32](#)?
- When Luke tells us that those who heard the message were "cut to the heart" ([2:37](#)), what does he mean? What did they do with the message ([2:38-41](#))?
- Finally, notice what Luke tells us about the earliest Christians in [Acts 2:42-47](#). What stands out to you? Jesus had promised that something was going to start in Jerusalem. What was starting? It wouldn't end in Jerusalem, but what can we learn from its very beginning?