

## PETER'S SERMON

Acts 2:14-43

### INTRODUCTION

Peter seized the God-given opportunity to address the crowds by preaching a powerful sermon explaining the coming of the Holy Spirit and exposing the people's sin against God. Peter had the keys to the kingdom of heaven—the gospel message—and offered it to the crowds.

### OBSERVATION *What does it SAY?*

Discover key details of the passage by reading Acts 2:14-41 and then answering the following questions:

1. Take notice of the people in the passage to whom Peter was speaking in v. 14. Where did they come from, what kind of people were they, and why were they there in Jerusalem (c.f. 2:5, 8-11, 22-23)?
2. Peter uses three passages from the Old Testament in this sermon:
  - In vv. 17-21, Peter uses Joel 2:28-32. What does this prophecy say about the Spirit?
  - In vv. 22-33, Peter uses Psalm 16:8-11. What does this Psalm say about the events surrounding God's anointed One?
  - In vv. 34-36, Peter uses vv. Psalm 110:1. What is this passage intended to say about the Messiah?
3. In your own words, describe from v. 37 the response of the crowd to Peter's sermon:

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Day 1: Gen 10:1-11:9**

**Day 2: Luke 21:7-28**

**Day 3: 2 Sam 7:1-29**

**Day 3: Psalm 16:1-11**

**Day 4: Ezek 2:1 - 3:11**

**Day 5: 1 Cor 15:1-**

**Day 6: Isa 2:1-22**

**Day 7: Matt 24:15-51**

4. What does Peter say will grant the Jew's forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit (v. 38-39)?
5. How does Peter describe that generation of Jews to whom he was speaking (v. 40)?
6. What was the result of Peter's sermon (v. 41)?

## INTERPRETATION *What does it MEAN?*

7. The passage in Joel that Peter references has two aspects: One is the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on all flesh (vv. 17-18). This aspect was occurring in a partial way right before their eyes. The other aspect is judgment on the enemies of God (vv. 19-21). This aspect had not occurred yet. Read Matt. 24:29-25:46; Rev. 20:4-6 for a further description of what this is. What is implied by the fact that Peter included this aspect of judgment in his proclamation to the Jews? What did Peter anticipate here (v. 40)?

### WORD STUDY

#### **Foreknowledge**

(Gk. *prognōsis*) (2:23; 1 Pet. 1:2)  
 Strong's #4268: The Greek term indicates "knowledge beforehand," either of things that are seen or things that are intended or arranged. These meanings are illustrated in Acts 26:5; Rom. 11:2; 1 Pet. 1:2, 20; 2 Pet. 3:17. In the present context, the word denotes God's knowledge of His Son's death on the Cross long before the event occurred. This is clearly affirmed by Peter (see 1 Pet. 1:20) and is the implication of Rev. 13:8. Jesus' death for our redemption was not an afterthought; it was part of God's eternal plan.

8. Why does v. 24 state that it was impossible for Jesus to stay in the grave (John 11:25; Heb. 2:14; Luke 24:46; John 2:18-22; 1 Cor. 15:16-26)?
9. Refer back to reading on Day 4 (Ezek 2:1-3:11). How would you describe Israel's past attitude towards God's messengers?
10. There are two different words in Greek that translate either God's will or God's plan. The term for will is '*boulami*' and it means 'what one wishes to happen; that which is desired'. The other term which is translated here in v. 23 as "determined plan" is the term '*thelema*' and it means "the unchangeable nature of his resolve". In light of this meaning, what is Peter saying here about the death of Jesus— was it God's doing, or man's doing? Explain:
11. Look at v. 37. What was happening with the Jews here?

12. In v. 39 is the word 'promise'. What specifically is the promise to which Peter is referring to in this context (see v. 33 and 38)?

13. What is the context of the word 'saved' in v. 40? Saved from what?

### **APPLICATION** *Why does it MATTER?*

14. Despite facing opposition and persecution, Peter boldly proclaims the Gospel to the crowd gathered in Jerusalem. His sermon results in the conversion of many (Acts 2:41).

- Describe a time when you witnessed someone being bold for Jesus. What was the situation? What stuck out to you? What was the result?
  
- What do you think are some things that hinder boldness about sharing Jesus with others?

15. This passage highlights the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.

- Describe a time in which you sensed the Holy Spirit assisting you share truth with someone else. What was the result?
  
- Describe a time in your life when you clearly sensed a leading by the Holy Spirit to change your attitude, actions, or perspective. What was it about? What was the result?

### **TAKE AWAY** *How does this change me?*

16. What does this passage reveal about God?

17. What does this passage reveal about humanity?

18. What is the Holy Spirit revealing in this passage about your life?

**Have your kids do the word find puzzle on the next page or read to them Acts 2:14-41. Ask them the following questions:**

1. Who was talking in the story? What do you think he was talking about?

Help them identify Peter as the person speaking and explain that he was talking about Jesus and telling people how much Jesus loves them.

2. What happened to the people who were listening?

Explain that many people were happy and surprised by what Peter said. Some of them decided they wanted to be friends with Jesus too.

3. Why do you think it's important to be friends with Jesus?

Help them understand that being friends with Jesus means He helps us and loves us very much. It's like having a special friend who is always there for us.

4. What did Peter say people needed to do to be friends with Jesus?

Simplify the concept of repentance and forgiveness by explaining that when we say sorry to Jesus for things we do wrong, He forgives us and makes us feel better.

5. What can we do to show Jesus we love Him?

Encourage simple acts of love and kindness, like saying prayers, being kind to others, and thanking Jesus. for the good things in their lives.

**Take some time to listen to your child's answer and then lead them in a prayer that calls upon God to help them yield to him and depend on his strength to follow him**

# WORD FIND

Acts 2:14-41

**Peter** stood up with the Eleven, **raised** his voice, and proclaimed to them, "**Fellow** Jews and all you residents of Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and pay attention to my **words**. For these **people** are not drunk, as you suppose, since it's only nine in the morning. On the contrary, this is what was spoken through the **prophet** Joel: And it will be in the last days, **says** God, that I will **pour** out my **Spirit** on all people; then your sons and your daughters will **prophesy**, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream **dreams**. I will even **pour** out my **Spirit** on my servants in those days, both men and women and they will **prophesy**. I will display wonders in the **heaven** above and signs on the earth below: blood and fire and a cloud of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and glorious day of the **Lord comes**. Then everyone who **calls** on the name of the **Lord** will be saved. "**Fellow** Israelites, listen to these **words**: This **Jesus** of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs that God did among you

through him, just as you yourselves know. Though he was delivered up according to God's determined plan and foreknowledge, you used lawless people to nail him to a cross and kill him. God raised him up, ending the pains of death, **because** it was not possible for him to be held by death. For **David says** of him: I saw the Lord ever before me; **because** he is at my **right hand**, I will not be shaken. **Therefore** my heart is **glad** and my tongue rejoices. Moreover, my flesh will rest in hope, **because** you will not **abandon** me in Hades or allow your **holy** one to see decay. You have revealed the paths of life to me; you will fill me with gladness in your presence. "Brothers and sisters, I can confidently speak to you about the patriarch **David**: He is **both** dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a **prophet**, he knew that God had sworn an oath to him to seat one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to **come**, he spoke concerning the resurrection of the Messiah: He was not **abandoned** in Hades, and his flesh did not experience decay. "God has **raised** this **Jesus**; we are all witnesses of this. **Therefore**, since he has been exalted to the **right hand** of God and has **received** from the Father the **promised Holy Spirit**, he has **poured** out what you **both** see and hear. For it was not David who ascended into the heavens, but he himself says: The Lord declared to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.' "Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this **Jesus**, whom you crucified, **both Lord** and Messiah." When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to **Peter** and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" **Peter** replied, "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of **Jesus** Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will **receive** the gift of the **Holy Spirit**. For the **promise** is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the **Lord** our God will call." With many other **words** he testified and strongly urged them, **saying**, "Be saved from this corrupt generation!" So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them.

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