

Salford Elim's Kid's Church

Acts Chapter 2:14-41

Hi everyone, hope this week has been a good one! This week we're looking at the next part of Acts Chapter 2. Here we see Peter talk to the crowd, (backed by the other 11 disciples), that had gathered after they'd started to declare the wonders of God in many other languages. He basically reframes their long followed story of faith in God with the knowledge that Jesus is the Messiah, He fulfils God's promises and that what they've just seen was always part of the plan and what they've been waiting for, it just doesn't look like what they were expecting. Like we mentioned last week, he tells them all they need to know in a way that fits in with what they already believed and in a way he knows they will understand.

Hopefully, there's something from the stuff below that you can use with your household and, as always, please share anything on the Beyond Sunday Facebook page. 😊

GAME:

- **Ages 7+:** How about having a go at making a house of cards?! This might be suited to those children over the age of 7 as it requires a fair bit of patience and a steady hand. How many layers can you make before it collapses? Children can do this alone or can compete against you or other members of your household, if you like the element of competition. Ask them if they notice the obvious fact that each card needs the others in order to stand or be a part of the house. One card alone doesn't make a house of cards, but take one away and you can't progress.
- **Ages 3-7:** For younger children, you could do something similar but this time use plastic cups to stack a pyramid. Or maybe Lego bricks or wooden blocks. Point out to them that the top brick or cup needs all those under it to hold it up, or it'd all fall down.
- **Ages 7+:** How about a game of 'Consequences'? To play this you'll need paper and a pen. The first person writes the first sentence of a story and then folds the paper over before handing it to the next person, who writes the next part of the story without looking at the first. They then fold it over and hand it to the next person who carries the story on. This continues until everyone has had a turn and the page is full. Then someone unravels the paper and reads the complete story to everyone. Be

prepared for some strange stories... Highlight the need of the other 'players' for this game.

- **Ages 3-7:** For younger children, you can do something similar, but instead of using paper and pen, just go round each person and ask them to tell part of a story and then the next person continues it. You'll probably (maybe) get less strange stories, but you never know! Tell them that they needed each other to join in and that sometimes makes things more fun.

BIBLE BIT: Here's the text from the International Children's Bible 😊 Perhaps if you have children of a reading age, you can let them read it to you, or take turns. For younger children, it's probably better for you to read it yourself and re-tell it in a shorter and more simple way, or they could listen to me on the video reading it from The Storyteller Bible.

Acts 2:14-42

Peter Speaks to the People

14 But Peter stood up with the 11 apostles. In a loud voice he spoke to the crowd: "My fellow Jews, and all of you who are in Jerusalem, listen to me. Pay attention to what I have to say. 15 These men are not drunk, as you think; it is only nine o'clock in the morning! 16 But Joel the prophet wrote about what is happening here today:

17 'God says: In the last days

I will give my Spirit freely to all kinds of people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your old men will dream dreams.

Your young men will see visions.

18 At that time I will give my Spirit

even to my servants, both men and women.

And they will prophesy.

19 I will show miracles

in the sky and on the earth:

blood, fire and thick smoke.

20 The sun will become dark.

The moon will become red as blood.

And then the great and glorious day of the Lord will come.

21 *Then anyone who asks the Lord for help*

will be saved.' Joel 2:28-32

22 *"Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus from Nazareth was a very special man. God clearly showed this to you by the miracles, wonders, and signs God did through him. You all know this, because it happened right here among you.*

23 *Jesus was given to you, and you killed him. With the help of evil men you nailed him to a cross. But God knew all this would happen. This was God's plan which he had made long ago. 24 God raised Jesus from death. God set him free from the pain of death. Death could not hold him. 25 For David said this about him:*

'I keep the Lord before me always.

Because he is close by my side,

I will not be hurt.

26 *So I am glad, and I rejoice.*

Even my body has hope.

27 *This is because you will not leave me in the grave.*

You will not let your Holy One rot.

28 *You will teach me God's way to live.*

Being with you will fill me with joy.' Psalm 16:8-11

29 *"Brothers, I can tell you truly about David, our ancestor. He died and was buried. His grave is still here with us today. 30 David was a prophet and knew what God had said. God had promised David that he would make a person from David's family a king just as he was. 31 David knew this before it happened. That is why he said:*

'He was not left in the grave.

His body did not rot.'

David was talking about the Christ rising from death. 32 So Jesus is the One who God raised from death! And we are all witnesses to this. 33 Jesus was lifted up to heaven and is now at God's right side. The Father has given the Holy Spirit to Jesus as he promised. So now Jesus has poured out that Spirit. This is what you see and hear. 34 David was not the one who was lifted up to heaven. But he said:

'The Lord said to my Lord:

Sit by me at my right side,

35 until I put your enemies under your control.' Psalm 110:1

36 "So, all the people of Israel should know this truly: God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ. He is the man you nailed to the cross!"

37 When the people heard this, they were sick at heart. They asked Peter and the other apostles, "What shall we do?"

38 Peter said to them, "Change your hearts and lives and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 This promise is for you. It is also for your children and for all who are far away. It is for everyone the Lord our God calls to himself."

40 Peter warned them with many other words. He begged them, "Save yourselves from the evil of today's people!" 41 Then those people who accepted what Peter said were baptized. About 3,000 people were added to the number of believers that day. 42 They spent their time learning the apostles' teaching. And they continued to share, to break bread, and to pray together.

Here's an animation from Chapter 2. It recaps back to Jesus' ascension and goes to the end of the chapter, but that's ok 😊

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwJJJoSGw84>

- **For all ages** After reading, or watching the story, ask your child/ren what stands out to them? Did they understand it all? It's quite an abstract passage in some ways for younger children to apply to them, but reminding them that in this story God has kept His promise in giving the Holy Spirit means we can trust Him, is great.
- Last week we heard how the coming of the Holy Spirit enabled them to speak in languages they didn't know. This week, we find out the reason: so that they could spread the good news of Jesus to all the world. Did those listening to what Peter was saying know about Jesus already?
- **For older children** why do you think Peter started telling them about Jesus by going way back hundreds of years to what Joel and David said? This was likely to have been because he knew they were Jews and will know that they knew these scriptures and so he was framing what they'd just seen in a context they could understand and showing them that Jesus is the one they've been waiting for. Like using a language they can

understand, he related the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit to their current knowledge. Do you see how useful it is to be able to tell the gospel using words, examples, or anything, you know your friends or family can relate to?

- Read verses 17-21 again. Have you experienced any of those 'signs' of the Holy Spirit? Ever seen, or been around when it's been someone else who has? Would you like to be able to dream God's dreams or prophesy or see visions?
- Read verses 37-42 again. Does anything stand out? Notice verse 40. It's quite a challenge to read Peter pleaded or begged them to save themselves from a corrupt generation. Do you think we live in a corrupt generation? If so, what are the things that corrupt your friends, family and us? Do you feel the need to plead with those who don't know God to be saved?

When we're filled with the Holy Spirit, we're more in-tune with God and are more likely to be able to hear what He's saying to us, feel what He feels, see people as He sees them, dream His dreams but also ACT on all of it.

Peter promises that all who call on Jesus receive the Holy Spirit. Have another chat about the Holy Spirit and the support that he gives. He is the comforting helper that takes over when even we don't know how to pray or when we need to know God is with us. But unlike a comfort blanket, a cosy cuddle with our carer or anything else we might do to help make us feel better, the Holy Spirit has a special power that really makes things stir and change. He doesn't just want us to feel better, or know what to pray, he wants to fill us to be moved into action. Most importantly, he should stir in us a desire to serve God and further His kingdom by sharing the news of Jesus' saving sacrifice and the need to have Him as leader of our lives.

For all ages: Think back to the game activity at the start. What do you notice about your tower or house of cards and Peter? Remember Peter stood up to speak, but he wasn't alone. He had the other 11 apostles around him as, just like a block in a tower or a card in a house of cards, one needs the other for support and to keep going and growing. We're like that as Christians too. We need support from each other to tell others the gospel and understand more about Go.

SONG: Ian's done a bit of a song with a memory verse of you to have a go at learning! Here's the link: <https://youtu.be/d9MkOrFQBao>

He's used verses 17 and 21:

"In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord will be saved." 😊

CRAFT: Ages 3-5: Could you make a Good News Story Caterpillar? You'll need some circles of coloured paper (yellow, red, black and green) or you could use white paper and colour it. Cut out a circle of each colour and a white one too. Each colour represents something different of the gospel message.

BLACK: This represents the sin we all do.

RED: This is for Jesus' blood that was shed when he died on the cross, taking on our sins.

WHITE: This represents us being washed white as snow when we ask God for forgiveness, through Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection.

GREEN: This is for growth and how, as followers of Jesus we should do what we can to grow in our understanding and love for God, through things like reading our bibles, asking questions, praying and serving God and those around us.

YELLOW: This represents the new heaven and new earth that we, as followers of Jesus, will one day live in.

While you cut or colour a circle of each colour, explain to your child/ren what each colour means and maybe they could draw or write a few words on each colour to help them remember. Then assemble the circles with a dap of glue and stick them together to form a caterpillar. You can give it an eye and a smile too! It might look something like this:



