

**ASCENSION OF JESUS CHRIST; BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Lesson Aim:** Learn how the first church in Jerusalem is an example to churches today.

**Suggestion:** Have the students read the Scriptures and answer the questions in the student lesson; then ask the following questions for class discussion.

**What is the difference between the baptism of the Spirit and the filling of the Spirit? 1:5; 2:4****BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT**

1. Performance of the Spirit to indwell us – 1 Cor 12:13
2. Permanent: one baptism – Acts 1:5
3. Inward evidence: implants the divine nature – 2 Pet 1:4
4. Given to all believers – Rom 6:3; 1 Cor 6:19-20

**FILLING OF THE SPIRIT**

1. Power of the Spirit to change us – Eph 5:18-21
2. Temporary: many fillings – Acts 2:4; 4:31
3. Outward evidence: enables us to witness – Acts 1:8
4. Given to obedient believers – Acts 4:31

Note: the Spirit baptizes all believers into the body of Christ when they are saved and dwells in them; those in the upper room were saved, but the Spirit had not baptized them into the body of Christ and dwelt in them until Pentecost.

The first church had both blessings of the Spirit; these blessings should be experienced by all believers in churches today.

**How did Jesus answer His disciples about the Kingdom being restored to Israel? 1:6-7**

Christ told His disciples it was not for them to know when the Kingdom would be restored to Israel. He did not deny a literal Kingdom on earth; He simply said it has been delayed. The time of the Kingdom was His Father's business. Peter believed it was delayed and preached about the blessings of Christ's Kingdom when it comes to earth (Acts 2 and 3). Until the Kingdom comes, Christ is building His church to do His work on earth today.

**How were the believers to use the gift of the Spirit that they would receive very soon? 1:4, 8**

They would be given the Holy Spirit to receive His power so they could witness for Christ effectively. That is one reason why believers are given the Spirit today; they must use His power to witness.

**What did two angels tell the believers after Jesus ascended to Heaven? 1:11; see Zech 14:1-4**

They told the believers that Jesus would return to earth, the same way that He ascended to Heaven. When all nations attack Jerusalem in the day of the Lord (the Tribulation), He will return to the Mount of Olives to deliver Jerusalem from her enemies. When His feet touch the mountain, it will split, forming a great valley toward the Dead Sea. All church believers will be with Him, which we await.

**What did the believers do in Jerusalem while they waiting for the Holy Spirit to come? 1:14-26**

They prayed and elected Matthias to replace Judas. Churches should pray and can do business while they wait for God's gift.

**How did the believers know that the Holy Spirit had come and had filled them? 2:2-4**

The Spirit came as a rushing mighty wind and tongues of fire rested on each of the believers. Then they witnessed to the Jews, who came from various countries, in their foreign languages. Believers today know by the Word of God that they have the Spirit with His power to witness (1:8; 4:33; 5:32).

**What were the main points of Peter's message to these Jews? Joel 2:28-32; Ps 16:8-11; 110:1**

He used Joel's prophecy to prove these believers were filled with the Spirit, not drunk with new wine. Then he took David's prophecy to prove that God raised Jesus from the dead, whom they had crucified with wicked hands. Finally, he took another prophecy of David to prove that Jesus Christ, whom they crucified, is now seated at the right hand of God the Father. Using God's Word brought many under great conviction of sin. Believers must learn to use God's Word as a weapon against sin.

**What happened when Peter told them what to do? 2:38-41, 47**

Peter told them to repent (change their mind about Christ) and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ because (see Mt 12:41) of the remission of sins, and they would receive the gift of the Spirit. He told them to save themselves from this ungodly generation and 3,000 responded to his invitation; the Lord added them to the Jerusalem church. This is what believers in churches must do today.

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**Another Lesson Plan for Acts 1-2****I. Preparation for the Church - 1:1-26****A. Proof of the Resurrection - 1:1-3**

Jesus Christ depended on the Holy Spirit to work through His apostles to prove to others that He was alive. **Now we must cooperate with the Holy Spirit to do this work.**

**B. Promise of the Spirit - 1:4, 5**

On many occasions Jesus had promised believers the gift of the Holy Spirit from the Father (Lk 11:13; Jn 14:16, 26; 15:26) Now Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem until they received the Spirit before they began to witness of Him. The Holy Spirit would baptize them into the body of Christ and fill them with power to do their work. **Now the Holy Spirit baptizes into one body when we are saved and indwells us. He fills us when we obey Him and gives us power to witness.**

**C. Problem of the Kingdom - 1:6-8**

Jesus' followers wanted to know if the arrival of the Holy Spirit would signal the arrival of His Kingdom. Jesus said that was His Father's business, but their business was to be His witnesses. They were to begin in Jerusalem and proclaim the truth about Jesus Christ in ever-widening circles until the whole world had heard it (v. 8). **This still remains His commission to all believers and it begins at home.**

**D. Pondering Christ's Return - 1:9-11**

Jesus gave his disciples His last instructions before He left earth to ascend into Heaven. Two angels told upward-gazing apostles that Jesus would return the same way. Until that time, they were to be His witnesses. **We must faithfully witness of Jesus Christ to serve Him well.**

**E. Patiently Waiting - 1:12-14**

Obediently, the disciples prayed together and waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit. They were welded together by prayer. **We will be in one accord with fellow-believers through prayer.**

**F. Prerequisite of Judas' Replacement - 1:15-22**

After Judas committed suicide, his office needed to be filled for the work ahead. There were two requirements for his successor: (1) he had to be a companion of Jesus from the baptism of John (v. 21), and (2) he had to be a witness of His resurrection (v. 22). **We need to take church elections seriously.**

**G. Prayerful Choice - 1:23-26**

The company of believers prayed to know which man God had chosen. He knows who is most capable. **We must seek God's guidance in our election business.**

**II. Power for the Church - 2:1-13****A. Power Granted - 2:1-4**

The Holy Spirit cannot be seen, so He sounded like a mighty wind and appeared as a tongues of fire on each believer. This marked the beginning of the Holy Spirit's special ministry to all believers in this age. **Now the Holy Spirit dwells in us since we were saved. He will give us power when we obey Him.**

**B. People Confounded - 2:5-13**

The believers were bold and spoke in foreign languages, which amazed and confounded the unbelievers. **The Spirit will make us bold and enable us to witness when we yield to His control (Romans 6:13).**

**III. Preaching of the Church - 2:14-40****A. Defending the Disciples - 2:14-21**

Peter used Joel's prophecy to defend the behavior of the believers that spoke in tongues. This was the work of the Spirit, which wants to control all classes of people without discrimination. **We must be ready to face mockers with the truth to be faithful witnesses (cf. John 15:18).**

### **B. Declaring the Resurrection - 2:22-36**

Peter declared that God allowed them to crucify Jesus, but raised Him from the dead as David prophesied in Psalm 16. These 120 believers were witnesses of Jesus' resurrection. When He ascended to Heaven to sit at God's right hand, He sent the Holy Spirit to believers, who caused the marvel they heard. Peter concluded that Jesus is both Lord and Christ (Messiah). **We must declare the resurrection of Jesus in our witness.**

### **C. Disclosing a Response - 2:37-40**

When the people heard they had crucified their Messiah, it stung their consciences and they asked what they could do. Peter told them to repent for the remission of sins. Baptism was proof that the repentance was genuine. **We must tell sinners to repent and baptism is a sign of true repentance from their sins.**

### **IV. Pattern of the Church - 2:41-47**

The Holy Spirit taught this new church how to exist in a hostile world. They observed the ordinances; they shared their goods with needy believers; they taught new converts so they would not return to Judaism; they were thankful and praised God. They were respected by their community for their godly lives; and they were blessed by God with continued growth. **We should seek to have a church like this.**