



Teaching Guide
AND Essentials

- **FOR ADULTS** -



GROUP MEMBERS USE *THE BRINK*, *FUSION FAMILY*, OR *FUSION NEXT*
DEVOTIONAL STUDY GUIDES



MAY/JUNE 2024

Volume 20 • Number 5

ISSN 1946-7648

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Adult Teaching Guide & Essentials is published bi-monthly by D6 Family Ministry, 114 Bush Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37217.

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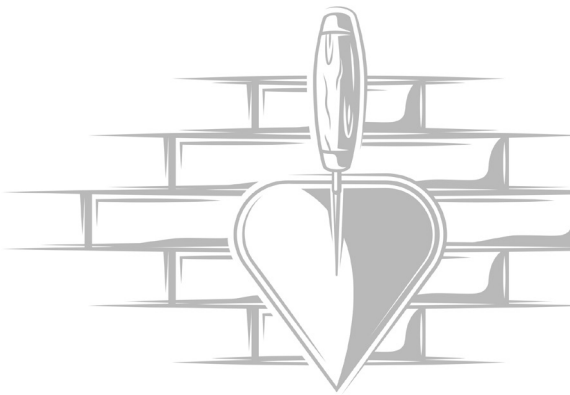


FAMILY THEME

The Church Is Born

LESSON OBJECTIVE: Learners walk under the influence of the Holy Spirit daily. The Church was born as the Spirit came to indwell all who trust in Christ for salvation.

STUDY TEXT: Acts 2:1-47



CHECKLIST

- Study the biblical text and Adult Teacher's Guide.
- Review the *Adult Teaching Outline* (Adult Handout 3-1 or AH 3-1). You can take notes on this editable document as you study. You can also use it as a guide to teach from.
- Review *PowerPoint 3* and insert your own questions if needed.
- Print and make copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 3-2), the *Put Priorities Into Practice Handout* (AH 3-3), and *Parent Page* (PP-3) if necessary. For free access to these handouts, scan the QR code on page 3 of this teaching guide or go to d6.family/6673.
- Distribute *Parent Page* (PP-3) to those who will benefit from it.

Key Truths

- As Promised, God's Spirit Indwells Believers (Acts 2:1-21)
- The Church Grows as the Gospel Is Preached (Acts 2:22-41)
- The Church Grows as Believers Live Out the Gospel (Acts 2:42-47)

Verses of the
Month

MARK 12:30-31

CONNECT

Choose one of the **Connect** options to capture attention and get this session started.

OPTION 1: Show this video from Dr. Sean McDowell that discusses if the early church was socialist: tinyurl.com/EarlySocialist. Due to some of the faulty arguments being made by people today, this video is helpful in letting us see that the early church gave out of love for God and others and not out of forced obligation. Discuss the video with your group. After discussion, say: *The early church was motivated by love and a desire to share the gospel. Today we'll examine how we can continue living out that role.*

OPTION 2: Ask your learners to name tools, appliances, devices, and machines that must be connected to a power source to operate. Examples might include a coffee pot, vacuum cleaner, hair dryer, etc. After several examples are given, discuss how these items are beneficial to us, but must have a source of power. After discussion, say: *Today we will see how the Church was born and how God sent the Holy Spirit to empower His people.*

OPTION 3: Begin by asking your learners to name what they feel are the important purposes or activities that the church should be involved in. Answers might include evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, prayer, etc. Write their answers on the board and discuss why these activities are important. After discussion, say: *Today we will explore how the Church was born, and how believers began to carry out the purposes and characteristics of the risen Lord.*

LEARN + EXPLORE + APPLY

Distribute copies of the *Adult Member Outline* (AH 3-2).

It is commonly held that Luke the physician, who penned the gospel of Luke, also wrote the book of Acts. Acts serves as an inspired history book of the early church and chronicles the church's growth and expansion. Most conservative scholars believe the book was written around AD 62, and it provides a bridge between the Gospels and the Epistles.

For the disciples, the weeks following Christ's resurrection from the dead were an emotional roller coaster. They had seen Christ brutally crucified, only to witness His miraculous resurrection three days later. They also had observed Jesus' ascending into the clouds, disappearing from their sight. Even though they had personally



AH 3-1



AH 3-2

TEACHING TIP

Use gestures and movements. Don't be frozen behind a podium or stuck in your chair.

encountered the risen Christ, they were still unsure about the events that would soon follow. Christ's followers banded together in fervent prayer and waited for further instructions. Soon afterwards, the Holy Spirit came upon them as promised in [Acts 1:4-8](#), and the Church was born.

 **KEY TRUTH: As Promised, God's Spirit Indwells Believers ([Acts 2:1-21](#))**

After being instructed by Jesus to remain in Jerusalem and wait for the coming of the Spirit, Jesus' disciples and other followers gathered together on the day of Pentecost (**verse 1**). They numbered about 120 people ([Acts 1:14-15](#)).

EXPLORE:

Pentecost, commonly called the Feast of Weeks, was a ceremony instituted in the Old Testament ([Exodus 34:22-23](#) and [Deuteronomy 16:10](#)). It was held fifty days after Passover, and it marked the anniversary of the Law given to Moses on Mount Sinai. Its purpose was to celebrate the blessings of God, particularly the harvest, and all Hebrew men were to appear before the Lord at this festival.

Coming together in close fellowship had become a characteristic of these early Christians. Luke described them as being *together* in [Acts 1:6, 14; 2:1, 44, and 46](#). Luke also stated the believers were *with one accord* or *united* in prayer, which was another way of describing their unity and cohesiveness (1:14). In the same way, it is important that believers today spend time with one another. Genuine, lasting discipleship is built on relationships.

DISCUSS:

- *What benefits come from being an active part of a local church?*

As these early Christians met together on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit suddenly came upon them. They heard a sound like a violent wind and saw what appeared to be tongues of fire resting upon each of them (**2:2-3**). This phenomenon signaled the coming of the Holy Spirit as Jesus had promised ([Acts 1:4-8](#)). They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in different human languages previously unknown to them (**2:4-6**). Up to this point they had been a relatively small group gathered in an upper room praying and waiting (see [Acts 1:12-14](#)). After they received the Holy Spirit, they went out in public prophesying and proclaiming the gospel to thousands. The

APPLY:

All believers need close fellowship in a local church family.



PowerPoint 3

The discussion questions can be found on the *Adult Teaching Outline* (AH 3-1) and on *PowerPoint 3*, which is customizable. Files 3A and 3B are provided for customization.

Spirit's presence and power were so unmistakable that many people trusted Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

DISCUSS:

- *What does it mean that the Holy Spirit dwells in believers?*
- *How is the Spirit's indwelling in the New Testament different from His work in believer's lives in the Old Testament? (The Spirit temporarily came upon God's people in the Old Testament to empower them for certain tasks. The Spirit now dwells permanently in New Testament believers to lead, guide, and empower them.)*

EXPLORE:

The *other tongues* mentioned in **Acts 2:4** refers to human languages that were unknown to the disciples gathered in the upper room. The word *language* in **verses 6 and 8** signifies a specific dialect or language.

The power of the Spirit and the miracle of the languages allowed the early believers to have a broad scope of outreach. Jews and proselytes from all over the known world, speaking many different languages and dialects, were gathered in Jerusalem for the celebration of Pentecost (**verse 5**). Nothing in the passage indicates that the crowds heard the rushing wind or saw the tongues of fire. They were *amazed* and *bewildered*, however, when they heard the believers clearly speaking their individual languages (**verse 6**).

In **verses 9–11**, at least fifteen language groups are listed, indicating the variety of people who were able to hear the good news and the mighty works of God in their native tongues. As often happens when the gospel is proclaimed outside the church building, some in the crowd began making fun of the believers. They accused them of being drunk. Some unbelievers instinctively become critical, sarcastic, and defensive when the gospel is shared.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, and energized with a heavenly boldness, Peter called for the attention of the crowd and launched into his sermon. **Acts 2:14–41** records this first public address of the Church. Not only did Peter confront the accusation of the disciples being drunk—which he said was nonsense since it was only 9:00 a.m. (**verses 14–15**)—he also answered the question asked in **verse 12**: *What does this mean?* Although Peter's sermon at Pentecost took place nearly 2000 years ago, the message he proclaimed is the same message the Church is called to deliver today.

APPLY:

The Holy Spirit dwells in every believer.

APPLY:

We can expect mixed response when we share the gospel with unbelievers.

The first text of Peter's sermon was from [Joel 2:28–32](#). He used Joel's words to provide the setting for his message (**verses 17–21**). Peter, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, understood the coming of the Spirit to be the beginning of the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. According to Joel, God would pour out His Spirit on all people in the last days. Peter was saying to the Jewish listeners, *This is what Joel was talking about!* He quoted from Joel 2 to signify that the church age is the *last days*, which will be concluded with the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

EXPLORE:

The passage from Joel indicates other wonders will also transpire in the last days (**Acts 2:19–20**). Joel prophesied about blood, fire, and smoke. He said the sun would be darkened, and the moon would turn to blood. According to Joel, all these events will occur before the great and magnificent day of the Lord. Based on the context of Acts 2, Pentecost was only a partial fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. The final cosmic wonders are yet to occur in complete fulfillment.

The Church was born with the coming of the Spirit. It is made up of those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and have the Holy Spirit living in them and empowering them. As each believer lives under the control and influence of the Spirit, the Church together continues the work of Christ on earth.

APPLY:

The Church continues the work of Christ on earth as each believer lives under the control and influence of the Spirit.

DISCUSS:

• *How does this passage show God's desire for His gospel to go forth to the nations? What are some practical ways we can be a part of taking the gospel to the nations?*

KEY TRUTH: The Church Grows as the Gospel Is Preached ([Acts 2:22–41](#))

The focus of Peter's sermon was the salvation that would be given to those who call upon the name of the Lord (**verse 21**). Peter explained that the Lord spoken of by Joel, and the Lord spoken of by David (**verses 25–28**), was none other than Jesus Christ (**verses 22–24, 36**). God validated Jesus by doing signs, wonders, and miracles through Him (**verse 22**). The first-century Jews were unable to dispute Jesus' miracles because they were eyewitnesses.

DISCUSS:

• *Joel prophesied about signs and wonders that would accompany the coming of the Spirit. What “signs” helped convince you of the truth of the gospel?*

Peter had been completely transformed because of the Resurrection. Just as he quoted Joel to reveal the partial fulfillment of the last days at Pentecost, he also quoted David to show that Christ was God’s Messiah (**verses 25–28**). The quoted text is from Psalm 16:8–11. In quoting the two Old Testament passages, Peter divulged that Christ was the link between the old and new covenants. Instead of undertaking the task of proving Christ’s resurrection, Peter simply gave the evidence that supported the Resurrection: David was not the one spoken about in Psalm 16. His body was still in the tomb. He was speaking about Jesus (**verses 29–31**), the eyewitnesses (**verse 32**), and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at that moment (**verse 33**). The multitude of eyewitness accounts gives validity and credibility to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

DISCUSS:

• *How did Peter use the Old Testament to show that Jesus is the Promised Messiah?*

The ultimate goal of Peter’s sermon was the salvation of the listeners. Peter confronted them with their sin, but also God’s offer of forgiveness. Conviction gripped the hearts of many who were listening (**verse 37**). When they asked how they should respond, Peter told them to turn from sin to trust Christ, and to demonstrate that by being baptized. Those who would trust Christ would receive the Holy Spirit (**verse 38**). As a result, several thousand people accepted Christ as their personal Savior (**verse 41**). Peter explained that the Jesus they killed was the only one who could save them. The message we proclaim must clearly articulate that a gracious and holy God offers salvation to everyone through faith in Jesus Christ, and there is absolutely nothing we can do to earn it.

DISCUSS:

- *Why do we need a Savior? Why can’t we save ourselves? (We fall short of God’s perfect standard and cannot earn salvation by doing good works; Jesus paid the penalty for our sins and gives us His righteousness; etc.)*
- *The disciples’ lives were changed because of Jesus. How has Jesus changed your life? How are you sharing that change with others?*

APPLY:

Jesus’ signs, wonders, and miracles affirmed that He is the Promised Messiah.

APPLY:

The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is the heart of the gospel message.

APPLY:

A gracious and holy God offers salvation to everyone through faith in Jesus Christ.

KEY TRUTH: The Church Grows as Believers Live Out the Gospel (Acts 2:42-47)

In these verses we see the important activities of the newborn church. The apostles' teaching, communion, and prayer were how the people focused on God (**verse 42**). These elements were so valuable that the early Christians made them a priority in their lives. They were devoted to the truth and to one another. Fellowship, sharing, and sacrificing to meet the needs of their group members were how they loved each other (**verses 42, 44-46**). The unity of the body was of premier importance. They looked out for one another and went to great lengths to provide care when needed. Wonder, joy, and praise were their prevailing temperaments (**verses 43, 47**), and they worshiped God together and through their daily lifestyles (**verse 46**). The Holy Spirit's power was so evident that reverence and awe engulfed them (**verse 43**). Increasing in number on a daily basis was the norm (**verse 47**). As they lived out their love for God and for one another, the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

APPLY:

The Church grows when believers have the following priorities: Learning and obeying God's Word, prayer, communion, fellowship, caring for each other, and sharing the good news of Christ.

DISCUSS:

- *The early church members were devoted to learning and obeying God's Word, prayer, communion, fellowship, caring for each other, and sharing the good news of Christ. Why are these activities vital for healthy churches?*
- *What do churches sometimes put their attention into that might cause them to get distracted from these key priorities?*
- *The Church looked out for the needs of each other. How can we meet each other's needs? How can we deepen our fellowship?*
- *As Christians, what is our responsibility when it comes to the growth of the Church?*

Being devoted to these same priorities will make us a positive witness to the world around us. The church can have the greatest impact on the culture and the world when it proclaims the gospel clearly and lives the gospel consistently.

RESPOND

Use one or more of these **Respond** options to help your group members put into action the principles they learned in this lesson.

OPTION 1: It is important for believers to keep godly influences in our lives that come from all age groups. What are some intentional ways

your group can work together to develop relationships with people who are from a different stage of life? Perhaps you could arrange a time for young adults to meet with senior adults for breakfast or an after-church fellowship one afternoon or evening. Come up with an idea and make an intentional effort to set it up.

OPTION 2: Encourage your learners to focus this week on living in the power of the Spirit. Encourage them to begin each day this week by asking the Lord to fill and empower them with His Spirit. Encourage them to listen to the Spirit's prompting and to follow and obey with His help.

OPTION 3: List on the board the important activities found in Acts 2:42-47 that believers are to practice. Encourage learners to put several of these into action this week. *AH 3-3 Put Priorities Into Practice* can help your learners put these activities into practice this week.

Building Blocks

Share these Bible basics with your learners.

The New Testament church began with the coming of the Holy Spirit. The church is a local organization of Christians who meet for worship, instruction, fellowship, accountability, and witness.

Pray!



AH 3-3

Encourage your group members to complete the daily devotions in the D6 devotional magazines this week.



PP-3

Give copies of the *Parent Page* (PP-3) to those who will benefit from it and encourage them to use it at home this week. *Parent Page* is also available for **FREE** download at D6home.com. (No password required.)

Notes

