

The Story Series
“New Beginnings”

Acts 1-10, 12

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1:4-5 (NIV)

Jesus leaves.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Acts 1:8-9 (NIV)

The Holy Spirit Arrives.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?”

Acts 2:2-8 (NIV)

Peter preaches the good news.

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every 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. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 2:36-41 (NIV)

The Church is born.

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

The church is not a Movie theater.

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:42 (NIV)

The church is not a Retail Store.

All the believers were together and had everything in common.

Acts 2:44 (NIV)

The church is not a Restaurant.

They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

Acts 2:45 (NIV)

The church is not a Gas station.

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

Acts 2:46 (NIV)

The church is not a Gym.

...praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:47 (NIV)

SO WHAT?

The church is a Family.

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

The Story continues...

Notes

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Share when something happened that changed everything.
2. When you think of the Holy Spirit what do you think of? How is the Holy Spirit sometimes misunderstood?

How have you experienced the Holy Spirit in your life?

3. Peter preached the good news and thousands responded. When did you first hear the good news? How did you respond?

4. When you hear the word church, what do you think of?

What do people outside of the church typically think of?

5. Re-read Acts 2:42-47. How does this description compare to what came to your mind in question #2?
6. Why is it so easy to view church as a retail store or a restaurant where we can shop around and look over the menu to find the things we like and meet our needs?
7. What would change if we stopped seeing church services as something to watch and started seeing them as something in which we participate?
8. What is keeping you from being a part of the church as one adopted into a family?