

Acts 2

Observation Questions, "What does the passage say?"

Acts 2:1-13

1. When do the events in this section occur?
2. Where are "they"?
3. What happens? Where does the noise come from?
4. Who was filled with the Holy Spirit?
5. What did they do as a result of the filling?
6. How are the "Jews" described in vers 5?
7. What is their response to the men and the filling?
8. What nations are listed in verses 9ff?
9. Note any other observations made.

Interpretation: What does this passage mean?

Acts 2:1-13

1. What is the day of Pentecost?
2. What is the significance of "tongues of fire"? Look up Isaiah 5:24-25 and 30:27-30.
3. What do you think they were saying? What was the content of the utterance?
4. Is this what Jesus was speaking of in Acts 1:5? Is the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the filling of the Holy Spirit the same thing? Look up 1 Corinthians 12:1-13 and Ephesians 5:1-21.
5. What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?
6. Look up the following passages in Acts: 8:14; 10:44; 19:6. Note the similarities and differences.
7. What is the gift of tongues? Have you experienced tongues? Should you have to?
8. Bring other discoveries from your study to the group.

Application: What does the passage mean to me?

Acts 2:1-13

1. How does this passage make you feel?
2. What does it mean for you to be filled with the Spirit?
3. Relate a time when you were filled with the Spirit?
4. How have you spoken of the mighty deeds of God this week?

Observation Questions, "What does the passage say?"

Acts 2:14-36

10. Who speaks up for the apostles? Who is with him?
11. What explanation does he give for their behavior?
12. Who does Peter quote?
13. What does the passage from Joel say?
14. Who does Peter address in verse 22?
15. What does Peter tell us about Jesus?
16. What does Peter tell the audience, the "you"?
17. What are we told about David?
18. What does the passage claim that God does?

Interpretation: What does this passage mean?

Acts 2:14-36

9. This passage quotes heavily from the Old Testament: Look up Joel 2:28-32; Psalm 16:8-11; Psalm 110:1. Why does Peter do this?
10. Look at verses 1-21 (the quotation from Joel). What is the content of the prophecy? When does Peter say it is fulfilled? What are the last days? Did all of these things happen? How do you explain Peter's usage of this passage to explain Pentecost and the behavior of the disciples?
11. Outline Peter's sermon. Who is it addressed to? What is the point? What is his conclusion?
12. What main points does he make? What things does he emphasize about Jesus?
13. Answer other questions that came up in your observation and study time. Make a list of questions that still need answering. (Like: Why is death described as "agony"? Is there suffering after death?)
14. What key words do you need to define? Foreknowledge. Hades.

Application: What does the passage mean to me?

Acts 2:14-36

5. Where did Peter get his boldness? How was he able to pull off this incredible statement in a hostile environment? How can you learn this dependency on the Holy Spirit?
6. Remember/share a time when you were guided by the Holy Spirit to say or do something challenging.
7. How has God challenged you personally through this passage?

Observation Questions, "What does the passage say?"

Acts 2:37-47

19. How does verse 37 describe the response of the hearers to Peter's message?
20. What does Peter tell them they should do?
21. What will happen to them when they do this?
22. Who is the promise for (v. 39)?
23. What else does Peter exhort them to do (v. 40)?
24. What did the people who received the words of Peter do? How many?
25. What does verse 42 say that the believers did "continually"? and what does verses 44-47 tell you that the people did?
26. What did the people feel?
27. What did God do?
28. What else do you see/observe?

Interpretation: What does this passage mean?

Acts 2:37-47

15. Is baptism necessary for salvation? For the gift of the Spirit?
16. What is the gift of the Spirit?
17. What is the promise referred to in verse 39?
18. Why does he need to tell them they needed to be saved from "this perverse generation"? What was perverse about it?
19. What practices mentioned here are "musts" for the church?
20. Describe the characteristics of the community that is portrayed here?
21. What words struck you as needing definition, study?
22. What questions do you still have unanswered?

Application: What does the passage mean to me?

Acts 2:37-47

8. Describe your conversion.
9. What does repentance mean for you? Are there any areas in your life that need repentance?
10. Have you fully experienced and granted forgiveness in your life, with God, others, self?
11. What practices of the church that are listed here are you involved in? What is missing from your life?
12. How else has this passage impacted, challenged, encouraged or confronted you?