



# ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

How God Turned a Band of Nobodies into a Movement for Everybody

*How did a handful of ordinary people become ten thousand followers of Jesus in the year following his public execution? How did his movement gain so much momentum, especially as ten of the eleven charter members were crucified, burned, or stoned to death? How did ten thousand Christians become one million by the second century, and 3.3 billion today?*

*Written in the middle of the first century, The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of how Christianity spread like wildfire across the Roman Empire and beyond. For 25 weeks we will journey through Acts in pursuit of the truth behind history's most consequential movement.*

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## Discussion Guide: Week 2

### Acts 2:1-13

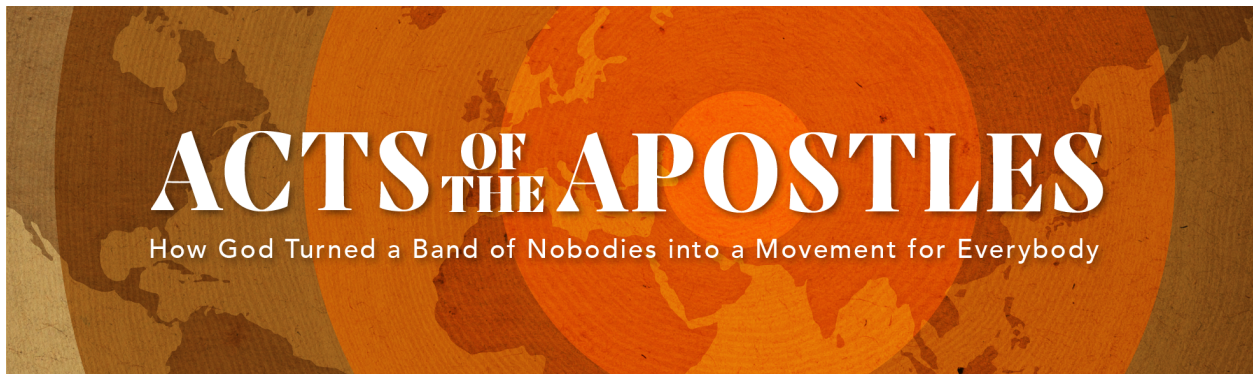
What is your experience with the Holy Spirit? Would you consider yourself charismatic, closed off, or unsure?

For the Jews, what is the day of Pentecost and what does it celebrate?

Acts 2:1 says they were “all together in one place” who is all and why is this important?”

### The Holy Spirit Comes in Power

What words are used to describe the Holy Spirit indwelling the disciples? What does this teach us about the Spirit's movements and presence in our lives?



### **The Holy Spirit Unites People**

In Acts 2:5-11 Luke says every nation under heaven was present in the crowd and then lists the people groups and regions they came from. This passage parallels the Table of Nations in Genesis 10 that precedes the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11:1-9. How can Pentacost be read as a reversal of Babel?

The Gospel does not seek manufactured uniformity, but unity. What is the difference between the two? How does the Holy Spirit produce unity among believers?

### **The Holy Spirit Produces Joyful Fearlessness**

Many in the crowd in Jerusalem thought the Spirit filled believers were drunk. Why would the crowds think this? How does the Holy Spirit transform our lives in such a way that makes us look strange to the rest of the world?

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### **Reflection Questions**

There is a difference between knowing about something and experiencing it? Is your faith primarily fact based or experiential?

To receive the Holy Spirit Jesus' followers didn't conjure Him up or follow a specific formula; they simply gathered together in prayer and waited. Have you waited and made yourself available to the Holy Spirit?