



ACTS OF THE
Holy Spirit

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR CONNECT GROUPS

7 & 8 JAN 2023

“THE SPIRIT OF THE CHURCH”

ACTS 2.1-4, 32-33, 42-47

Suggestions for Making the Most of your Group Time

1. Begin by reviewing the video of the sermon, preferably before you meet together (see <https://www.brmc.org.sg/services/sermons/>).
2. Read the Scripture passage together, before entering into discussion.
3. Spend time on both question components, namely:
 - a. Comprehension (*Who? What? When? Why? How?*);
 - b. Application / Transformation (*So what? What action should I take? Perspective should I adopt? Value should I uphold? Emotion should I embrace? Habit should I develop? Desire should I nurture? etc*)
4. Discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group’s current context and present stage in life.
5. Before ending your group session, allocate some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another.

Discussion Questions

1. From your review of the sermon and your reading of the Scripture passage, recap the key points of this sermon.

Context: What's taking place in Acts chapter 2?

The narrative of Acts picks up from Jesus's promise in the last chapter of the Gospel according to Luke. In Luke 24.45-49, Jesus explained how he, the Messiah (Christ) fulfilled the Scriptures through his suffering, death and resurrection. Jesus also declared that the forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in his name to all nations, that the disciples would be his witnesses, and that they would receive his power from on high (Luke 24: 45-49)

In Acts 2, we follow the disciples who, having received the Holy Spirit, were empowered from on high to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- In 2.17-21, Peter draws from Joel 2:28-32 to explain the events happening around the disciples. Just as, both then and now, the Holy Spirit has been poured out (Acts 2.17-18 // Joel 2.28-29), similarly both then and now, the time has come to repent, and to call upon the name of the Lord (Acts 2.21 // Joel 2.32) and to wholeheartedly follow Christ as a united church community.
- Notice how Peter explains, in verses 22-36, his confidence that Jesus is indeed Lord and Messiah (Christ). How do these words also give you confidence and encouragement?
- As you read on in 2.42-47, what hallmarks of that earliest church community did you observe? Did you notice that:
 - People were convicted, repented, and gave their allegiance to Jesus (vv.37-42, 47)
 - Jesus' followers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching about Jesus, and devoted to each other (vv.42-46)
- Are these hallmarks also the priorities in your CG? Are you committed to, and acting out your commitment to these? Are these what you truly desire deep within? Why, or why not?

2. The Christian church began with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost (2:1-4) and brought about the “first fruits” (cf. Leviticus 23:16, Numbers 28:26) of 3000 believers in Jesus Christ. The separate “tongues of fire” that came upon each disciple on that day shows that the Holy Spirit is given to every believer (1Corinthians 6:19). Share: what does having the Holy Spirit living in you mean for you personally and practically?

3. Consider 2:32-33. Today, BRMC is one of millions of churches in the world who witness to our trinitarian God—Father, Son, and Spirit. We witness not to a legend or myth, but the historical reality of Jesus Christ who lived, died, and was resurrected in Jerusalem around AD 35.

a) Do you think and feel that BRMC has been faithful in fulfilling our witness and mission on the Hill? As a congregation, how have we fared in bearing witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ? Share honestly with each other.

b) Having shared honestly, pray! Don't skip over discussion item 5 below.

4. Acts 2:42-47 describes the life of the early church, with Luke the author highlighting the generosity of the first disciples (vv.44-45). That “they sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need” presupposes that the believers were open to one another about their needs and struggles.

a) On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the openness of your CG to share your needs with one another? Turn takes to share your “score” and explain why you have chosen it.

b) In what ways can your CG increase your level of authenticity and vulnerability to one another, so that your fellowship would be “with glad and sincere hearts” (v.46)?

Prayer Items

5. Look back at your honest sharing in item 3. Take some time as a CG, or split into smaller sub-groups, to pray for BRMC: for our pastors and leaders, our people, ourselves, and whatever the Holy Spirit brings to your heart.

6. Pray for one another, that we would be empowered by God to live out the specific areas of application and transformation raised during the discussion time. Pray also for any needs that were mentioned.