A nobody telling *anybody about somebody.*

> *Pentecost arrives with wind and fire, and a fisherman who once denied his Lord stands up to explain what God is doing.*

ABOUT THIS PASSAGE

The Spirit has just fallen on the believers in Jerusalem, and the crowd of pilgrims from many nations splits between amazement and mockery. Peter steps forward with the eleven and answers the charge of drunkenness by pointing to an old promise from the prophet Joel. The passage shows that the outpouring of God's Spirit reaches further than anyone in that crowd expected.

OPEN THE ROOM

Think of someone who surprised you by becoming a completely different person than the one you first met. What changed?

READ THE PASSAGE

Read the passage aloud together before any questions. Split the verses across two or three readers.

Acts 2:14–21

> *God's power, not Peter's character, is what changed everything in that upper room.*

Acts: Be the Church

OBSERVE: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. What does Peter say is happening, and where does he say it came from?
2. Reading Joel's list in verses 17-18, who does God say He will pour His Spirit on?
3. How does verse 21 end, and what does it promise to everyone who calls?

INTERPRET: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

INTERPRETATION

1. Peter once denied Jesus three times. What does it tell us that God chose to use him in this way?
2. Peter says this is happening "in the last days." How does that phrase change the way we read our own moment?

APPLY: HEAD, HEART, HANDS

HEAD

What belief about yourself might be keeping you from sharing your faith, and how does Peter's story challenge it?

HEART

Peter's crowd heard the promise "to you and to your children" after they had rejected Jesus. Where in your week do you hold back from speaking about Jesus, and what fear sits behind that hesitation?

HANDS

Name one person (a coworker at Thursday's lunch, a neighbor you pass on Saturday, or a sibling you text on Sunday night) and what you would actually say to them this week.

THE GOSPEL TURN

The crowd saw that they had rejected the Messiah they waited for, and Peter answered with repentance and forgiveness, not guilt. If you have ever felt too far gone for God to use, what does "this promise is for you" sound like to you?

Acts: Be the Church

BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit is for everyone, and He uses willing, imperfect people to proclaim that Jesus is Lord and Messiah.

CROSS-REFERENCES

01 Joel 2:28-32: Peter's opening quote, noting the repeated "all people" and "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

02 Psalm 16:8-11: David's words about not being abandoned to the grave, which Peter argues point past David to Jesus.

CULTURAL / HISTORICAL

Peter's name means "rock" in both Aramaic (Cephas) and Greek (Petros), and Jesus gave it to him long before Peter looked like one. Pentecost was the Jewish harvest festival, so the crowd included Jews from many nations hearing the apostles in their own languages, which explains Peter's words about those "far away."

IF THE GROUP GOES OFF-TEXT

If the conversation drifts to tongues or Spirit baptism, acknowledge it briefly, then ask: "What does Peter say the Spirit is for?"

Plan for 30 seconds of silence after each question. Five questions that go deep beat ten that go fast. Your job is to draw out, not deposit, so speak less than 10% of the meeting.

Acts: Be the Church

PER-QUESTION NOTES

- **OBSERVE 1**

  Strong answers notice Peter claims no credit and points to Joel. If quiet, try: "Is Peter explaining this as something new or something old?" Watch out for: jumping straight to debating tongues.

- **OBSERVE 2**

  Strong answers list sons, daughters, young, old, servants, men, and women. If quiet, try: "Is anyone left off that list?" Watch out for: skipping past the details. Have someone reread the list.

- **OBSERVE 3**

  Strong answers land on "calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." If quiet, try: "What does a person have to do to be included?" Watch out for: adding conditions the text does not state.

- **INTERPRET 1**

  Strong answers say God's power changed Peter, not his character. If the group stays surface-level, ask: "What did Peter do to earn this?" Watch out for: turning this into a self-improvement plan.

- **INTERPRET 2**

  Strong answers say "last days" means the period between Jesus' first and second comings, so the Spirit is available now. Watch out for: end-times speculation. Bring it back to what the Spirit is for.

- **APPLY HEAD**

  Strong answers sound like "I'm not qualified" or "I've blown it before." If quiet, try: "What reason would you give for why someone else should do the talking?" Watch out for: reassurance that skips the honest belief. Let it be named first.

- **APPLY HEART**

  Strong answers name fear of awkwardness or rejection. Go first with your own example. If quiet, try: "What's the worst thing you imagine happening?" Watch out for: correcting anyone's fear. Receive it, don't fix it.

- **APPLY HANDS**

  Push for a name, a day, and actual words. If someone says "in my life," ask "Which friend? Which day?" Watch out for: "I'll just live it out." Ask what they would say.

- **GOSPEL TURN**

  This is the strongest landing and where you are steering. Never answer it for the group. It lands harder when they say it.

PRAY AND SEND

In one sentence, thank God that the promise of His Spirit reaches even someone who has failed as badly as Peter did. Then pray for the specific person each member named in Question 8, and send everyone out to speak the name of Jesus by Thursday.