

The Book of Acts: God in a Multicultural Movement

Week #1 / September 22-28 / Acts 2:1- 42

"The Movement Takes Off"

Introduction – This week we dive into Acts as a small group. Before getting to this page we've already heard two sermons on chapter 1, as well as heard the sermon last Sunday on our passage for this study/discussion. I want to remind you that while we do seek to better understand the passage we want to make sure we give at least equal time to: 1) sharing with the group what God is currently doing in our lives – especially as the message of Acts starts getting under our skin; and 2) coming up with a simple, doable, concrete action we will commit to taking this week as an application of something this week's passage (God!) is directing us to do; 3) prepare to report on how that action step went when you all reconvene for next week's group meeting.

Last Sunday (September 22nd) the passage and sermon focused on among other things the power of God to accomplish his purposes.

Getting Started

- What are you looking forward to in this small group and in the preaching series this fall?
- Have you ever seen / experienced a dramatic manifestation of Holy Spirit power? If so, please share what happened.
- Please read the passage out loud.

What Does It Say?

1) What was the the message given in various tongues (v.11), and in light of the focus of our "witness" (1:8, 22) what do you imagine the content of the message to have been?

2) Can you identify the ancient places referred to in vv. 7-11 and connect them with our current world? What does this have to with the commissioning in 1:8?

3) If you had to boil Peter's sermon down into three points, what would those points be?

4) What was the immediate and then the ongoing response of the hearers to Peter's sermon (vv. 37-42)?

What Does It Mean?

1) Why did God provide the Holy Spirit in such a dramatic way (why not quietly but still with preaching in foreign tongues?), and what was the immediate effect of this blast?

2) How does Peter's sermon differ from the typical sermon in today's American church?

3) What are some of the things we learn about life and ministry together at FPC from this rich passage?

4) Does it say anything directly or indirectly about being a multicultural church?

What Does It Mean to Us/Me?

1) What is one "take away" insight that has made an impression on you either from the discussion today or Sunday's sermon.

2) What is one, simple, concrete thing from the sermon or today's study you believe you ought to take action on and do in the coming days? Will you commit to trying it and ask the group to ask you how it went next week when you gather again.*

*This step is what makes the difference between harmless discussions versus periods of spiritual growth where people began to have experiences of God because they have stepped out in faith. ("Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." James 1:22)