

ST ARMANDS KEY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SARASOTA, FLORIDA

**COME, JOIN THE CONVERSATION!**  
ON  
**THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

Lesson Plan for Thursday – January 24, 2013

Resource Book – Kerygma Series - *“into the world”*

Chapter 3 – *“The Birth of the Church”*

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**Our Objectives this week:**

1. To become further acquainted with one another and value each person’s contribution to our Conversation on Acts.
2. To be able to describe in one’s own words the meaning of Pentecost for the early church and the church of today.
3. To identify some significant points at the core of the apostolic teaching, as found in Peter’s first sermon in Acts 2:14-36
4. To indicate how these points of significance illustrate Peter’s conviction that the church’s identity is firmly tied to Israel’s history and prophetic mission.
5. To list several features of life in the early church as portrayed in Acts 2:42-47, and relate them to life @ SAKLC.

**Opening Prayer and a reading of ACTS 2:1-13 (Pentecost Narrative)**

*(distribution of Resource 3A & 3B will be made in Ogram Hall)*

**I) A CLOSER LOOK AT THE EVENTS OF PENTECOST:**

1. Eruption of sounds from heaven and wind
2. Tongues of fire are seen
3. Recognition of this being fulfillment of the promised Holy Spirit
4. Gift of speech in other languages
5. From Upper Room to the Street
6. Crowds gather in bewilderment
7. Opportunity for proclamation
8. A message profoundly unsettling and deeply threatening
9. Rationalized and scornful response

**II) SIMILARITIES TO LUKE 4: *(eg. - start of Jesus’ ministry in Nazareth - a pattern that will be repeated)***

**III) IMPORTANCE OF WIND & FIRE IN OLD TESTAMENT SYMBOLISM:**

*(distribution of Resource 3C & 3D will be made in Ogram Hall)*

IV) **PETER'S SPEECH** (Acts 2:14-40; this text from CEB)

<sup>14</sup> Peter stood the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! <sup>15</sup> These people aren't drunk, as you suspect; after all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning! <sup>16</sup> Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> *In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.  
Your young will see visions.  
Your elders will dream dreams.*

<sup>18</sup> *Even upon my servants, men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.*

<sup>19</sup> *I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.*

<sup>20</sup> *The sun will be changed into darkness,  
and the moon will be changed into blood,  
before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.*

<sup>21</sup> *And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

<sup>22</sup> "Fellow Israelites, listen to these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man whose credentials God proved to you through miracles, wonders, and signs, which God performed through him among you. You yourselves know this. <sup>23</sup> In accordance with God's established plan and foreknowledge, he was betrayed. You, with the help of wicked men, had Jesus killed by nailing him to a cross. <sup>24</sup> God raised him up! God freed him from death's dreadful grip, since it was impossible for death to hang on to him. <sup>25</sup> David says about him,

*I foresaw that the Lord was always with me;  
because he is at my right hand I won't be shaken.*

<sup>26</sup> *Therefore, my heart was glad  
and my tongue rejoiced.*

*Moreover, my body will live in hope,*

<sup>27</sup> *because you won't abandon me to the grave,  
nor permit your holy one to experience decay.*

<sup>28</sup> *You have shown me the paths of life;  
your presence will fill me with happiness.*

<sup>29</sup> "Brothers and sisters, I can speak confidently about the patriarch David. He died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this very day. <sup>30</sup> Because he was a prophet, he knew that God promised him with a solemn pledge to seat one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Having seen this beforehand, David spoke about the resurrection of Christ, that *he wasn't abandoned to the grave, nor did his body experience decay.* <sup>32</sup> This Jesus, God raised up. We are all witnesses to that fact. <sup>33</sup> He was exalted to God's right side and received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit. He poured out this Spirit, and you are seeing and hearing the results of his having done so. <sup>34</sup> David didn't ascend into heaven. Yet he says,

*The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right side,  
<sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'*

<sup>36</sup> “Therefore, let all Israel know beyond question that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

<sup>37</sup> When the crowd heard this, they were deeply troubled. They said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, “Change your hearts and lives. Each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> This promise is for you, your children, and for all who are far away—as many as the Lord our God invites.” <sup>40</sup> With many other words he testified to them and encouraged them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.”

**V) SIX BASIC AFFIRMATIONS - THE FAITH OF THE CHURCH**

1. ***Consult your Resource Book*** – page 26 – then in your own words briefly list those avowals!

- i)
- ii)
- iii)
- iv)
- v)
- vi)

**2. *For Thought and Discussion:***

- i) How many of the key points in Peter’s speech relate the Pentecost experience to Israel’s history and mission?
- ii) Which elements of the speech are most important? Why?
- iii) To what extent do Peter’s affirmations remain important for the church today?

**VI) POWER OF THE KERYGMA – A RESPONSE TO PROCLAMATION:**

i) ***Acts 2:41-47*** - <sup>41</sup> *Those who accepted Peter’s message were baptized. God brought about three thousand people into the community on that day.* <sup>42</sup> *The believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers.* <sup>43</sup> *A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles.* <sup>44</sup> *All the believers were united and shared everything.* <sup>45</sup> *They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them.* <sup>46</sup> *Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity.* <sup>47</sup> *They praised God and demonstrated God’s goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.*

- ii) Descriptions of life together in the Jerusalem Church:
  - a) Devotion to teaching
  - b) Temple worship
  - c) Fellowship
  - d) Breaking bread with glad/generous hearts
  - e) Prayer
  - f) Communal ownership of goods
  - g) Praising God
  - h) Goodwill among people
  
- iii) To what extent do these activities characterize our own congregation?

## **Closing Prayer**

### **Preparation for our next meeting – Thursday, January 31, 2013**

1. Resource Book – Chapter 4 - *“The Power of the Gospel”*
2. In Scripture read: Acts 3:1 – 4:31

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