

Transition:

The gospel according to Luke and the book of Acts is actually one text. The title, Acts of the Apostles, was added sometime in the second century. Many call this book the “Acts of The Holy Spirit” since it is an account of the Spirit’s work through the apostles. These acts begin in chapter 2. “They were all filled with the Holy Spirit...” (Acts 2:4) – this is the birth of the Church! The ministry of the disciples depended on them being filled with the Holy Spirit and relying on His power.

Tell the Story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don’t stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the Story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can we earn the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? (Acts 1; Luke 11:13).
2. Is the Baptism/Filling with the Holy Spirit a one-time event? (Acts 4:8; Eph 5:18)
3. When speaking in tongues, did the Holy Spirit take over their bodies and speak through them? (Acts 2:4)
4. Why is speaking in tongues important? (Jam 3:2-12)

Fundamental:

Holy Spirit Baptism (Proof) - The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues, but is different in purpose and use (1 Cor 12:4-10,28).

1. Why is a prayerful life of submission, surrender, and obedience important to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?
2. How do we know that, when we speak in tongues, it is not self-generated or a counterfeit of the enemy? (Luke 11:13)
3. What is the difference between the spiritual gift of tongues and praying in tongues? (Rom. 8:26; 1 Cor. 14:2,4-5; 1 Cor. 13:1; 14:2,14)
4. For whom did God intend the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? (Acts 2:38-39; Joel 2:28-29)

Homework/Challenge:

1. “Be filled with the Holy Spirit” is a command from Scriptures. What should be your response?
2. Please read Acts 3 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Be bold about sharing your personal testimony of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, your struggles and obstacles on the way. How have you overcome them? Or how do you plan to overcome them?

Prayer:

Challenge your group to be “of one accord” and seek the Baptism. Spend time in prayer. Perhaps devote an entire small group meeting to devote to prayer (the disciples in Acts 2 waited 10 days!).