



SDG Discussion Guide

Acts 2

May 20, 2018

For starters:

Have you ever traveled to a place where you did not speak the language or you could not otherwise communicate? What happened?

What are you usually doing at 9 AM on a Saturday? On a Sunday? On a weekday?

Where have you felt the most encouraged in your faith?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.)

As you can, read aloud the passage in your group. Before you begin the discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. What else did you notice? Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. Why did God wait until Pentecost, a Jewish harvest festival (Deut 16:9-10), to give the Holy Spirit?
2. How far have these pilgrims come (vv 9-11)? What attracts them to the disciples? How does being filled with the Spirit relate to bearing witness to Jesus?
3. In what way is Luke 24:44-49 reflected in Peter's address to the crowd? Given the audience, why would Peter quote from the Old Testament?
4. How familiar were these people with the events of Jesus' life? How might they be dealing with rumors of the empty tomb? Given that, why does Peter emphasize the resurrection (vv 24, 31-32)?
5. What are the implications of the resurrection and ascension for Jesus (vv 24,30-31,33-36)? For the people? What would it mean to the people that Jesus is a spiritual King far greater than their greatest earthly king (vv 35-36)?
6. How would you put Peter's answer (vv 38-40) in your own words to explain what it means to become a Christian? What is required? What is promised?
7. Have you ever seen the gift of tongues used this way? Another way? When have you, if ever, experienced an empowering from God to share about Christ?
8. When did you make your initial commitment to Christ? Who was influential in that process? What convinced you of your need for Christ?
9. When was the last time you were able to share Christ / God's goodness? What happened? Was anyone with you at the time? What encourages you as you watch Peter?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to fall afresh on you and your group. Pause and be in silence a while. Ask God to fill you anew with His Life. Ask Him to help you to pray-- to see what you need to see in your world. Ask Him to empower you to go forth this week with renewed energy and purpose in Christ.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).