



(4) Receiving Power - Acts 2

Aim: To begin to understand the power of the Holy Spirit and his equipping us for the task of being witnesses throughout the world.

Opening up!

Catch up with one another. Share your experiences of where you have called upon the Holy Spirit as comforter and counsellor in the past week.

At a school of nursing, a group of older students wanted to communicate the message of Jesus to the incoming class of new students. They realised that there was only one source to accomplish this task—the power of the Holy Spirit. So they decided to pray for each new student by name, weeks before they arrived on campus. As a result, many who did not know Jesus when they arrived graduated as maturing Christians.

What do you think that it would be like if there were no Holy Spirit?

Listening in!

1 Read Acts 2.

Imagine that you were there on the Day of Pentecost.

What do you think it would have been like for you as one of the crowd looking on?

2 How do the Jews respond to the power of the Spirit which they witness?
Why do you think they react in this way? (Verses 5-13 may help)

3 Here (verse 14 onwards), we see Peter as a dynamic leader and preacher. It is the power of the Holy Spirit which has changed this man, who was once a coward that denied Jesus three times. Look at the book of Joel, particularly Joel 2 verses 28-32. What message does the book have for the bewildered crowd?

4 What does Peter have to offer to those who are responsive to his message (verses 37–39)?

5 Discuss how your life has been affected by the gift of the Holy Spirit?

- 6 Describe the fellowship of the believers in this young church (verses 42–47).
What were their priorities? (All of which were signs of the Holy Spirit at work)

Looking Out!

Summarise what the scripture has taught you about the power of the Holy Spirit during the past four weeks. Think about and discuss what you would love to see the Holy Spirit do in your life, and in the life of God's family? Are there any specific actions you still need to take, as you seek a deeper relationship with the Spirit?

Now and Later!

Turn what you have learnt from Jesus about the Holy Spirit into prayer. Perhaps you might want to ask for a greater understanding of the Holy Spirit and for him to equip you for the task of being a witness to others.

End this time by using the words of either the hymn or song below as a prayer.

Holy Spirit, we welcome you,
Holy Spirit, we welcome you!
Move among us with holy fire
as we lay aside all earthly desire,
hands reach out and our hearts aspire.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome you!

Holy Spirit, we welcome you,
Holy Spirit, we welcome you!
Let the breeze of your presence blow
that your children here might truly know
how to move in the Spirit's flow.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome you!

Holy Spirit, we welcome you,
Holy Spirit, we welcome you!
Please accomplish in us today
some new work of loving grace we pray -
unreservedly have your way.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome you!

O Breath of life, come sweeping thru us,
Revive Thy church with life and pow'r;
O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us,
And fit Thy church to meet this hour.

O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,
Till humbly we confess our need;
Then in Thy tenderness remake us,
Revive, restore, for this we plead.

O Breath of love, come breathe within us,
Renewing thought and will and heart;
Come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us,
Revive Thy church in ev'ry part.

O Heart of Christ, once broken for us,
'Tis there we find our strength and rest;
Our broken, contrite hearts now solace,
And let Thy waiting church be blest.

Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating,
While harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive, us Lord, the world is waiting,
Equip Thy church to spread the light.