

# Home Bible Studies

## *Acts*

Study #4 Acts 2:14-28

### Peter Addresses the Crowd, Part I

#### KEY:

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| A. (READ)         | What does it say?        |
| B. (RE-EMPHASIZE) | What does it mean?       |
| C. (REFLECT)      | What does it mean to me? |

**14.** *Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.*

**A. (READ)**

**B. (RE-EMPHASIZE)** Peter was a powerful communicator. He called out to defend the disciples. While the other disciples were speaking in different languages, Peter spoke so that everybody could understand. It was important to God’s plan that the disciples not lose their integrity.

**C. (REFLECT)** If the disciples became known as drunkards, how would it affect their effectiveness in sharing the precious Gospel message? If you were known as a drunkard, how will it affect people’s opinion of your message when you try to share the Gospel?

**15.** *These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning!*

**A. (READ)**

**B. (RE-EMPHASIZE)** Peter explained straightforward the fact that New Wine (fermented from sweet, fast-rotting grapes) could not have been drunk, as it was not grape season. Besides, if they did have them in the morning, the grapes would not have fermented yet since they did so only in the heat of the day, under the rays of the mid-day sun.

**C. (REFLECT)** The world makes false accusations against believers regularly, to distract from their own sinfulness. (in essence, “I’m not that bad- even Christians do it”). Suppose that coworkers of yours made accusations that “Christians are all hypocrites (liars). Would you defend yourself & fellow believers? How?

**16. *No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:***

**A. (READ)**

**B. (RE-EMPHASIZE)** Peter claims that the events were prophesied by Joel, hundreds of years before this time.

**C. (REFLECT)** Since the people in the crowd were sympathizers with the Jewish faith (arriving for Pentecost), they would treasure the prophesies of the Old Testament. Have you memorized any verses from the Old Testament? Suppose you were talking with a Jew (either in real life or on the internet). How might you use that/those verse/s to tell about Jesus?

**17. *“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.***

**A. (READ)**

**B. (RE-EMPHASIZE)** Peter said that the Prophet Joel’s prophecy was fulfilled that day & implied that it would continue to be fulfilled over the upcoming days, weeks, and even centuries. The prophecy said that God’s Spirit would cause children to prophesy, young people to see visions and older people to have dreams.

**C. (REFLECT)** In light of what you know about the early church, in what way are these three fulfilled: 1) children prophesying (revealing truths of Scripture), 2) young people seeing visions (seeing clearly, & following-through with God’s plan for reaching the world), & 3) old people having dreams (about long-term effects of the Gospel upon the world)?

**18. *Even on my servants, both men & women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, & they will prophesy.***

**A. (READ)**

**B. (RE-EMPHASIZE)** The servants/slaves will become Christians also, & will give direction to the people. Servants/slaves were not given much extra responsibility in the New

Testament times, since they might try to consider themselves more important than their masters. Yet Peter said they would be given leadership positions to use their abilities in the church.

**C. (REFLECT)** In the church, prophesy (preaching) is usually granted only to those trained in Bible School. Yet sometimes God touches untrained believers & challenges them to teach. As God leads them in this direction, how can the church come alongside of them so that their training is deeper in Biblical knowledge?

**19. *I will show wonders in the heavens above & signs on the earth below, blood & fire & billows of smoke.***

**A. (READ)**

**B. (RE-EMPHASIZE)** Prophetic books like Joel & Revelation tell about what will happen at the end of time. In Peter's impromptu sermon, he generalizes, to take-in what will be happening soon, as well as in the far distant future. Since this was prophesied in Joel, Jews had been trying to figure out what this had been referring to for hundreds of years. Now Peter is saying that the "wonders in the sky" & the "signs on the earth" will begin to happen soon.

**C. (REFLECT)** If "blood" & "fire" & "billows of smoke" referred to what would happen soon, how might the memory of this sermon comfort the new believers when persecutions did come, & the Romans crucified Christians, burned down their houses & fed them to the lions?

**20. *The sun will be turned to darkness & the moon to blood before the coming of the great & glorious day of the Lord.***

**A. (READ)**

**B. (RE-EMPHASIZE)** There will be many incredible signs of the Lord's return. The explosions and fires and darkness will cause such pollution that the atmosphere will make the moon seem deep red in color.

**C. (REFLECT)** Since there will be such intense signs, what would be your response if someone told you that they were the Messiah, or that Jesus had already come?

**21. *And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'***

**A. (READ)**

**B. (RE-EMPHASIZE)** The requirement for salvation here is that the unbeliever must call upon the Name of the Lord.

**C. (REFLECT)** Anybody can call on the Name of God. Many do this in profanity. What is the difference between calling on God as profanity and calling on God for salvation? Can a person who is unable to talk (mute) call upon the Name of the Lord?

**22. *“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders & signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.***

**A. (READ)**

**B. (RE-EMPHASIZE)** The fact that Jesus is the Messiah was proven by God Himself, through miracles, wonders and signs.

**C. (REFLECT)** Please relate a few of the miracles, wonders & signs that Jesus had performed while upon the earth.

**23. *This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan & foreknowledge; & you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.***

**A. (READ)**

**B. (RE-EMPHASIZE)** The “you” mentioned in this verse refers to the thousands present whom Peter was preaching to. However, the “wicked men” who helped them crucify Jesus were the Roman soldiers.

**C. (REFLECT)** Have you ever considered that our sins nailed Jesus to the cross? None of us has ever literally murdered a fellow human being. We have social & legal safeguards against that. We have moral character which honors human life and dignity. However, our sins required death to keep us from Hell. Please formulate a brief prayer at this time to thank Jesus for making the “ultimate sacrifice” to ensure that we would be with Him in Heaven someday.

**24. *But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.***

**A. (READ)**

**B. (RE-EMPHASIZE)** Peter says there is agony in death. This means that death is not the end, but that it is followed by either agony in Hell or ecstasy in Heaven. Also, it was impossible for death to keep its hold upon Jesus. Since the first sin in the Garden of Eden in Genesis, death has been the punishment for sin. Adam & Eve eventually died. However, Jesus had never sinned. Therefore, death could not keep its hold on Jesus, since He was sinless.

**C. (REFLECT)** There is comfort in knowing that all of our sins were cast upon Jesus when He died upon the cross. Also, that they were paid for & that we could take hold of that salvation through praying the sinner's prayer. 1) Have you prayed that prayer? 2) After Jesus suffered the agony of the cross to pay for our sins, how do you think God would feel if we reject that gift of eternal life & try to pay for it ourselves? Since we have sinned, if we tried to pay for sin ourselves, we would be in torment for always in hell, paying for our sins.

**25. David said about him: “I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.**

**A. (READ)**

**B. (RE-EMPHASIZE)** King David was comforted by the constant presence of Jesus by his side. When difficulties arose, Jesus helped bear him through those challenges.

**C. (REFLECT)** The world cannot understand the “blessed assurance” that we believers have since Jesus is ours. What were some of the trials that King David confronted, which Christ helped him through?

**26. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope,**

**A. (READ)**

**B. (RE-EMPHASIZE)** Due to the constant presence of Christ in our lives, we are happy and our soul bursts forth in praises to Him.

**C. (REFLECT)** What is your favorite praise song to the Lord? Let us sing it now.

**27. because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay.**

**A. (READ)**

**B. (RE-EMPHASIZE)** Even as the promise was made the Jesus would not rot in the ground, even so, we are assured that our eternal soul will not rot in Hell.

**C. (REFLECT)** When we get new, indestructible bodies in Heaven, what is the first exercise you would like to do with that exciting, never tiring body (aside from praising God)?

**28. *You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.***

**A. (READ)**

**B. (RE-EMPHASIZE)** The presence of Jesus brings us unending joy. Jesus also gives us direction on how to not just “add years to our lives” but to “add life to our years”.

**C. (REFLECT)** Plan now (briefly) what great goal you would accomplish for God, if you were guaranteed to live 120 years & that God would make anything you attempt for Him to be fun.