

THE STORY



NEW BEGINNINGS

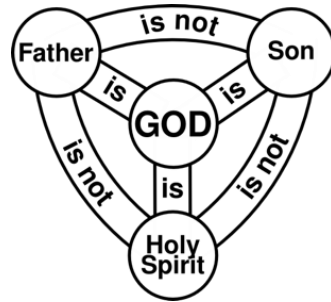
Acts 1-12

ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (Acts 1)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

John 19:38-42

The Holy Spirit was poured out on believers at _____.



SCENE 1: PERSECUTION (Acts 3-5)

*"They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. **But** many who heard the message believed; so the number who believed grew..."*

Acts 4:3-4

_____ can't stop the spread of the gospel!

SCENE 2: MARTYRDOM (Acts 6-7)

"On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria."

Acts 8:1b

Even the threat of _____ can't stop the spread of the gospel!

"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."

Tertullian

SCENE 3: JAILBREAK (Acts 12)

"But the word of God continued to increase and spread."

Acts 12:24

Even _____ can't stop the spread of the gospel!

Fire spreads the gospel seeds.

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Sermon on October 30, 2022
New Beginnings

Getting to Know Me

1. What personality traits do you see in others you don't know that makes you want to be their friend?
2. Have you ever had to appear as a witness in a courtroom? What was that like? When have you been a witness in a less formal setting (i.e. telling on your little brother)? What happened?

Digging Deeper

3. What new insight or information did you learn about the early church from reading chapter 28 of *The Story* or hearing Pastor Phil's sermon this Sunday?
4. Read Acts 1:4-8 together. What do you think the disciples expected from the baptism of the Holy Spirit? What kind of power do you think they envisioned? What kind of power did they receive?
5. Read Acts 1:8 again. What did Jesus expect the disciples to do with the power of the Holy Spirit? Do we receive the same power of the Holy Spirit when we follow Jesus? What are we called do with that power?
6. Compare the Peter we knew in the gospels to the Peter we see in the story of Acts. How has he changed?

7. What place did persecution and suffering play in the expansion of the Gospel? Read Acts 5:41-42. How could the apostles rejoice in being persecuted? What power do you have in your life that enables you to press on when you are suffering?
8. Phil spoke of the need for fire to open and scatter the seeds of a pinecone. How has God used hard things in your life to help you grow or further the good news of Jesus?
9. Who is in your Jerusalem (close proximity) that you need to love with the power of the Holy Spirit this week? How are you going to do that?

Where Do I Go from Here?

10. We who know Jesus are called to be witnesses of His love and saving power. Read Acts 4:12-13. Can people look at you and know you spend time with Jesus? How would they know? Are you spending time with Jesus?
11. Read Galatians 5:22-23 each day this week. What fruit does scripture say will grow in our life as evidence of the Holy Spirit's work in us? Ask God to grow these fruits in your life.

Prayer

Wrap up your time by praying for God's church both locally and globally, the persecuted church, your pastors and leaders, and the relationships around you where you're seeking to share the gospel.

"We exist to glorify God by guiding people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ."

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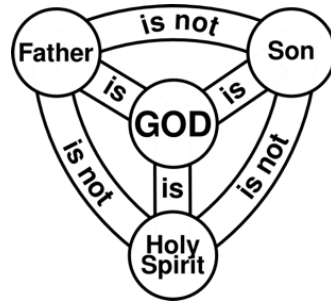
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John 19:38-42

The Holy Spirit was poured out on believers at Pentecost.



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Persecution can't stop the spread of the gospel!

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"But the word of God continued to increase and spread."

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Even imprisonment can't stop the spread of the gospel!

Fire spreads the gospel seeds.