

You will be my witnesses

1. Read Acts 1:1-11. List as many appearances of the risen Christ as you can recall.
2. The coming of the Holy Spirit was such a special blessing that Jesus did not want his disciples to miss out on it. What gifts would the Holy Spirit give to them? (See also John 14:26.)
3. What was the mission plan for the disciples?
4. Why was it so important that Jesus ascend into heaven?
5. Explain how the words of the angels were both a gentle rebuke and a profound comfort.
6. The disciples wanted information about Jesus' second coming. Jesus said they should focus only on what God wanted them to do now. How can we apply this to ourselves?

An apostle to replace Judas

7. Read Acts 1:12-16. What did the disciples do between Jesus' Ascension and the Day of Pentecost?
8. Peter knew that a replacement had to be found for Judas. How did he know that?
9. What qualifications were essential for the apostle who would replace Judas? Why were such high standards set?
10. Peter used the Holy Scriptures in verses 16 and 20 to give guidance to the group. Explain how his example gives direction to us when we are facing difficult decisions.
11. We no longer select men to be "apostles." However, we still call Christians to serve in the public ministry. For apostles, Jesus emphasized the importance of being with him and hearing his words (John 17:6-12). Read 1 Timothy 3:1-12. What should we look for in our ministers? What shouldn't we focus on when looking for a minister?

Miraculous tongues announce the wonders of God

12. Read Acts 2:1-21. The Holy Spirit equipped believers to speak in all the languages their audience spoke. What was the content of the apostles' message?
13. Why was Pentecost a good time for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the worldwide spread of the gospel?
14. What was the purpose of the signs and the gift of tongues?
15. Peter quoted Joel as prophesying that the events of Pentecost would occur "in the last days." If Pentecost happened in the last days, what does that say about the time in which we are now living? Why is that important to know?

You crucified the Messiah, but He is your Savior too

16. Read Acts 2:22-41. Peter knew that the people had no sense of what they had done. They were not terrified over God's impending wrath because of their rejection of his Son. What did Peter have to do before he could comfort them with the message that their sins were forgiven?
17. The knowledge that Jesus rose and now sits at God's right hand is comforting. But how did Peter's listeners handle the message of the resurrection, at least at first?
18. After describing the resurrection of Christ, Peter told the crowd, "King David said this very thing would happen." How did Peter demonstrate that the words of David from Psalm 16 referred not to David but to someone else?
19. From Jesus' resurrection, Peter moved on to Jesus' ascension. Again, Jesus' ascension is very comforting to us Christians. Yet Peter described it in such a way as to strike fear in the hearts of his audience. How did Peter do this?
20. Terrified sinners asked, "What shall we do?" (verse 37). Peter directed them to a wonderful gift, Baptism. What could they be certain Baptism would do for them?
21. Peter clearly assigned blame and guilt for the crucifixion of Christ to his audience. At the same time, he said that Jesus was handed over to them by God's set purpose and foreknowledge. What comfort does this give Christians when it appears that the forces of evil are succeeding?

The Christian family grows in faith and in numbers

22. Read Acts 2:42-47. The early Christians devoted themselves to four things. Explain how each was important to their life of faith.
 - The apostles' teaching
 - Fellowship
 - The breaking of bread
 - Prayer
23. While early Christians did not practice pure socialism (there was still private ownership—see Acts 4:32–35), what were they clearly eager and willing to do? Compare their congregational life to your own. In what practical ways might we reflect that early Christian spirit?
24. "Day by day, attending the temple together." What benefits do you think this daily activity brought into Christians' lives? How might we learn from their example?