

**Book of Acts**

**Session 15: Acts 11-12**

**Speaking in Tongues**

1. Read Acts 10:44-48. After Peter preached the good news about Jesus, how did the Holy Spirit show yet again that God desired all to be saved, including Gentiles?
2. What are the “tongues” they spoke?

**The believers encourage one another**

3. Read Acts 11. We see a division among the believers in Jerusalem. There were three groups who thought differently about circumcision. Some no longer practiced Jewish laws. Some practiced them as reminders of Jesus’ work and did not insist that others do the same. Others felt that circumcision was required if a person wanted to be a Christian. Which group challenged Peter?
4. What was the outcome of Peter’s explanation? What does this say about the power of the Word? What does this say about God’s wisdom to foresee what the church needs?
5. What begins to happen in Antioch?  
A reminder about the different groups of Jewish Christians:
  - a. Hebrews = Jewish Christians who spoke primarily Aramaic (born and raised in Israel)
  - b. Hellenists = Jewish Christians who spoke Greek (born and raised outside Israel due to diaspora)
6. How did the episode with Cornelius help the church in the next stage of its development?
7. Agabus predicted a famine. Explain how Christians used this tragedy as opportunity.

## **Pride leads to persecution, which leads to prayer**

8. Read Acts 12. The love of human praise led both to Peter's arrest and to Herod's death. Explain.
  
9. Give evidence that makes it appear the jailers were well aware of what happened the last time Peter was thrown into prison (See Acts 5:18, 19.)
  
10. Notice the response of the people in Mary's house who were praying for Peter's release? Why is it sometimes surprising when God answers our prayers?
  
11. Why did the Lord put Herod to death?
  
12. The apostle James died by Herod's sword. The apostle Peter miraculously escaped from prison. Doesn't the Lord say that He works out all things for the good of His people?
  
13. In the past, pastors often remained with their flocks in times of plague or persecution. They wanted to serve their people with the Word. Was it wrong for Peter to leave Jerusalem?