



Discussion Guide Church — Part 1 LEADER GUIDE

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You were made for more than a comfortable, self-focused faith. You were made to be part of something bigger. In this series, we're rediscovering what the church was always meant to be: not a program to consume, but a Spirit-filled, Jesus-shaped community that's alive, vital, and still changing the world. We'll look at the stories competing for our hearts, and rediscover the one true story we were made for!

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

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"He rightly reads scripture who turns words into deeds."

[Bernard of Clairvaux]

LEADER RESOURCES || Leader Note *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well.*

- **Passage Summary**
 - Peter's sermon continues with his singular focus on the exaltation of Christ and helping his hearers come to clarity about Jesus. He arrives at clarity through the teaching of Scripture—including how Christ fulfilled prophecy, the fact of the resurrection, and the witness of the Spirit through the first believers and apostles.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || Leader Note *The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another's hearts and building joy together.*

If you could meet one of the original apostles for coffee, who would you pick and what would you ask them?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || Leader Note *Begin your time together thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, taking a posture of humility and dependence!*

Spirit of Truth, please help us to see Jesus better. Help us understand. Amen.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE || Leader Note *Help your group memorize the new verses together by having each person read them aloud. The goal is to enjoy hiding God's word in our hearts together.*

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

[Hebrews 10:24-5, ESV]

BIG IDEA || Leader Note *Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today's reading and discussion.*

The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus and shines a clarifying light on His death and resurrection.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they're for guidance!

Have someone read aloud Acts 2:24-41 in the ESV.

1. What do we learn about David from these verses? *It might not be obvious to those who know David as a psalmist, shepherd, soldier, and king that he was also a prophet. But, as Peter points out here, David's psalms do contain multiple prophecies, especially Messianic ones that Christ fulfilled.*
2. What do we learn about Jesus from these verses? *There are lots of things to point out—but this portion of Peter's sermon is focused on the fact that Jesus' resurrection was foretold. It was foretold by someone these people trust as reliable—a prophetic witness. And here stand gathered far more current witnesses than necessary to prove that it happened. There can be no doubt that these people crucified the Messiah, the promised savior.*
3. What is Peter's call to action—the answer to the question, “what shall we do?” *Repent—that's more than confess, more than be sorry about your sins. Repentance is changing how you think and how you behave. It's getting off the path you were on and walking on a new path. Then be baptized to mark the change.*
4. Have you ever been “cut to the heart” by a message? What was the message? *Interestingly, a message that penetrates tends to not be impressive, complicated, or anything but plain and simple truth. The Spirit is the one who makes the message land, like a surgeon wielding an ordinary but sharp scalpel. He cuts us to the heart, and His word is effective to do its good surgical work.*
5. What are you confident in? *Answers will vary. We can be rightly confident about a lot of things.*
6. How confident are you that God will do what He says He will do? *These men had just seen it with their own eyes, and they were brimming with confidence they could share with those who hadn't shared their experience. For those who have been waiting for answered prayers for a long time, it's hard to hold onto that confidence.*
7. How did God bring you to connect with Jesus? *The sermon describes it as an attachment, an identification, and a real union with Jesus Christ. Faith that is rooted in Him might start small, but it grows as He nurtures it. Let's share our stories of coming to faith in Christ and how He's grown that faith since we first came to know Him.*
8. Has the Spirit been nudging you in a direction for a next step in your faith? *Some may be currently living out the last things the Spirit has asked or waiting on instruction. But sometimes the Spirit asks us to do something else, and we hold back out of fear. This is the time to encourage each other and spur each other on to the joy of obedience to Christ.*
9. What do we as a group need to do together to grow in faith? *Ideas may vary. It will be worth praying about this, possibly even asking each person to pray about it for the next week, then report back next week with what they heard.*

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.

God deals with us in a **fundamental way, not incidental or superficial.**

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) Is there something the Lord needs to cut out of you to make you whole again? 2) How can you live this week looking to Christ, no turning back?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 2 or 3 for this question, so each person has others praying with them for the needs they're taking before the throne.

PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note *Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes to pray together. Try the prayer activity below or pray for one another's personal requests!*

"Lord, bring us to real repentance. Cut out anything that needs to go and let Your word penetrate our hearts like medicine. Bring what is dead to life again. Bring what is sick to health again. Get Your church ready to worship You and take Your gospel to the ends of the Earth. Amen."