

# The Church: DEFINED

## Study Questions

### Week 3

“Wait.” That’s a tough word to hear, yet it’s the word Jesus used last week to instruct His followers back in chapter 1. They were to *wait* for the promise, and to *wait* in Jerusalem. But for how long? Would the wait be worth it, and what exactly were they waiting for? These questions begin to be answered in spectacular fashion here in chapter 2!

**MAIN TEXT:** Acts 2:1-13

### CONNECT & OBSERVE

1. What did you find most significant from Sunday’s sermon?
2. Read the passage in Acts. What questions come to mind as you consider these verses?
3. Phrases, like “filled with the Holy Spirit” and “divided tongues as of fire” have potential to get us excited or make us uneasy (or maybe some of both). What’s your reaction?

### LEARN

4. Read the following Old Testament passages: Exodus 3:2; Joel 2:28-29; Ezekiel 36:26-27.<sup>1</sup> How do these verses relate to this week’s passage out of Acts?
5. The coming of the Holy Spirit is described here as something that’s both audible and visible. We’ll talk a lot more about the Spirit in coming weeks, but a helpful starting point may be to watch *The Bible Project’s* [video on the Holy Spirit](#). What stands out to you from this video?
6. Back in chapter 1, verse 8, Jesus makes a clear connection between the power His followers would receive and the purpose for it: *to be Jesus’ witnesses to the end of the earth*. In what ways do these events in our passage begin this witness?<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> We always encourage you to consult the surrounding verses to get a better idea of how these fit into their context. The Exodus passage (and others in Exodus—the pillar of fire, the summit of Mt. Sinai, etc.) reminds us of how fire is a sign that often accompanies God’s presence. The passages in Joel and Ezekiel are examples of where the OT prophets spoke of a future day when God’s Spirit would be “poured out.”

<sup>2</sup> Geographically, note the extensive list of regions surrounding Jerusalem represented by the crowd. In a related sense, many have observed how these events mark the beginning of the undoing of the “Tower of Babel” incident in Genesis 11.

## APPLY

7. Waiting is tough, yet we see God act “suddenly” in this passage to give the Holy Spirit...who, Himself, allows us to wait (actively and purposefully) until Christ’s return.<sup>3</sup> How does the same Spirit we see in Acts help us today as we also wait?

8. One of Calvary’s [shaping values](#) is *Confident Witness*. What has your experience been as one of Jesus’ witnesses in the Spirit’s power (Acts 1:8)? Many of us feel deficient (or even defeated!) in this area, so take time to pray for each other—that we would see God move in and through us as His witnesses as we journey through Acts.

9. “Amazed,” “perplexed,” “mocking”—these describe the crowd’s responses. Are these descriptions true to life for how you’ve seen people respond to God’s work?

10. What should these descriptions (from the previous question) tell us about what we should expect as we witness in the Spirit’s power?

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<sup>3</sup> The fact that the Spirit’s purpose, in part, is to enable us to wait isn’t explicit from Acts 2:1-13, but is clearer in other passages. For example:

“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”  
Ephesians 1:13–14 (ESV)

“And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.” [guarantee can also mean “down payment”]

2 Corinthians 1:21–22 (ESV)