

# The Church: DEFINED

## Study Questions

### Week 4

“And all were amazed and perplexed.” Who could blame them? It’s not normal for people to suddenly speak in languages they don’t even know. That’s crazy talk. Perhaps it was all a fluke, or even a never-before-seen side-effect from one-too-many breakfast cocktails! The natural and oh-so-important question is, “What does this mean?” Enter one Apostle Peter.

**MAIN TEXT:** Acts 2:14-41

### 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?

### LEARN

3. Read the following Old Testament passages: Joel 2:28-32 (we looked here last week too); Psalm 16:8-11 and Psalm 110:1. Why do you think Peter is drawing so extensively from these passages in his response to the crowd?
4. Peter is indicating, through Joel, that these events signal the beginning of the “last days,” when God “will pour out [His] Spirit on all flesh.” How is this different from the Spirit’s activity previously?<sup>1</sup>
5. Verse 23 includes the charge, “this Jesus...you crucified.” Verse 36 repeats, “this Jesus whom you crucified.” Why is this charge so central to Peter’s sermon? Try to answer this from Peter’s own words in the passage.
6. The people are “cut to the heart” in verse 37. Where can we see God’s grace on display in Peter’s response (verses 38-41)?

### APPLY

7. What does it (or should it) mean to you that we are living “in the last days” (verse 17)? How can this reality help us live with both a sense of purpose and urgency?

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<sup>1</sup> NT scholar, Darrell Bock, writes, “Before this new period, the Spirit had been distributed to a few people on special occasions for special enablement (see Luke 3:4–6 [Isa. 40:3–5], 16–17). This is a key sign that the new era has come.”

8. The identity of Jesus, the work of Jesus, and the people's response to Jesus are *the* core issues in this passage. When you think about the gospel, are these the core issues you think about? If not, describe the difference(s).

9. Based on this passage, what can we learn or be reminded of about the Holy Spirit's role in and among the community of God's people?

10. We will get a chance to listen in on other gospel presentations as we go through Acts. In this first example, though, what stands out to you? How do Peter's words compare with other presentations of the gospel that you've heard or personally given?