

Acts 2:36-47

Fizz or Fizzle

Scripture: Acts 2:36-47

Memory Verse: Acts 2:42 *“They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*

Lesson Focus: These few verses show us what a healthy church being led by the Holy Spirit looks like. The word of God is proudly proclaimed, people respond and repent with excitement and joy, and they continue together growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. We pray that the kids’ faith will “fizz” as they learn about the early church!

Activities and Crafts: The Early Church Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: Fizz for Jesus Popper

Starter Activity: Soda Pop Illustration

Consider getting the lesson started with an illustration that should help remind the kids about the very important Person (God the Spirit) that made His appearance in our lesson last week (in the first half of Acts 2).

Before Jesus ascended to heaven He told His disciples to wait until they received the promise of the Father that would help them go and make disciples of all nations (**Acts 1:8**).

Q: Who was this promised One? A: The Holy Spirit! *

That’s right! And in our lesson last week we saw God the Spirit come and empower the first disciples to boldly proclaim the gospel, the good news about Jesus’s death and resurrection for sinners, to a large audience of Jewish people.

Teachers: At this point, pull out two cans of sparkling water that we will provide for you. * Before class open one of them slightly enough so that the can loses its fizz. Share that these two cans represent the early Christians before and after the Holy Spirit came. First open the one that lost all of its fizz and point out how without the Holy Spirit the Christians didn’t have much sparkle or power. But then take the other one and start shaking it as you explain how once the Holy Spirit came they were overflowing with power or “fizz” and gushed out the good news of the gospel (and if you are brave enough, consider opening it with a trash bag nearby to help contain the mess)!

That is where we will pick up the story. The Holy Spirit empowered Peter to boldly proclaim the truth of Jesus’s death and resurrection for sinners and let’s review a few of the verses that we covered last week before we see what happens next.

Bible Study:

Acts 2:36: We begin with a basic lesson of Bible reading.

Q: When you start a passage of Scripture that says “therefore”, what should ask yourself?

A: What is it “THERE FOR”? Or what came beforehand? Well, what came before was Peter’s sermon on the death and resurrection of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Peter looks them in the eye and says that they should know this for CERTAIN: that the Jesus that they crucified is risen, is God, and is the Savior! *

Acts 2:37: It says the people were “cut to the heart.”

Q: What do you think that means? A: It means that they were truly ashamed, sorry, and broken. * The “fizz” of the Holy Spirit was reaching their hearts through Peter’s message and they asked what they needed to do to make things right.

Acts 2:38a: The first thing * Peter says is that they must “repent”. This was the same thing that Jesus said over and over again in the gospel of Luke that we just finished.

Q: What does it mean to “repent”? A: It means turning AWAY from sin having a change of mind and heart so that you turn TOWARD God and walk in His ways. (**Teachers:** Consider putting up a sign that says SIN and a sign that says GOD on two opposite sides of the room * and invite a volunteer up to demonstrate doing a repentance “twirl” where they are first facing SIN and do a “180” and face God) *

Acts 2:38b: And one of the first things new believers were to do was to get baptized which shows that their repentance and faith was real! *

Q: How many of you have been baptized? If you are a believer in Jesus and have not been baptized, talk to your parents about taking this important step of faith!

Acts 2:39: Check this out! The promised “fizz” of the Holy Spirit wasn’t just for the disciples. It was for these Jewish people, their kids, and for everyone afar off who is called and responds to the gospel! That includes you and me!

Acts 2:40-41: Wait a minute, what?

Q: How many people repented, believed, and were baptized? A: 3000! That was the difference the Holy Spirit made! Before this day there were about 120 disciples quietly following Jesus (without the “fizz”) and then after the Holy Spirit came, 120 multiplied to 3000!

But what now? While this is a wonderful move of God the Spirit on the hearts of people, there is a bit of a problem here. How are these 3000 new believers in Jesus going to know how to live as followers of Jesus? * How will their newfound faith not just “fizzle”?

Acts 2:42: Well, they **continued** in several important spiritual activities. *

Q: What does it mean to **continue** something? * A: It means you don’t STOP! In repenting they turned away from their sin and toward God. But they don’t just stay there! They will **continue** and move closer to God with these activities. Let’s talk about them: *

- 1) The apostle's doctrine or teaching is simply hearing and responding to the word of God. (**Teachers:** Consider holding up your Bibles at point how we have the apostle's teaching preserved for us to "**continue in**" today!)
- 2) Fellowship: This is not just "hanging out" with other Christians. This describes FAMILY! Fellow Christians are our brothers and sisters in God's family!
- 3) Breaking of bread: What is one important thing families do together? EAT! These believers gathered regularly for "family meals" together which probably also included the Lord's Supper. (**Teachers:** Consider bringing in a snack for your kids after the lesson to put this activity into practice) *
- 4) Prayers: And they would pray together and for one another!

Boys and Girls: This describes the church! Not the building, but the **people**. These four activities capture the heart of what the church is supposed to be: A people who regularly and faithfully continue in these activities that they might move closer to Jesus together! *

Acts 2:43: Wow! We don't get details, but the apostles are working miracles and they have the attention of the people! *

Acts 2:44-45: Here we see how these new believers truly treated one another like family. For they were generous and helped take care of one another's needs. I bet many of you have "hand-me-downs". These are clothes or items that are "handed down" to you from others who might not need them anymore.

Q: But who typically hands them down? A: Family, like older cousins or siblings. In the same way, these believers saw each other as family and would generously "hand down" valuables to whoever had needs among God's family. *

Acts 2:46-47: Can life be any better than this on earth? I don't think so! This is what the church was like at the beginning and what God wants the church to be like today. * Who wouldn't want to belong to a family and community like this? The people on the outside certainly took notice as each day more and more people repented, believed, got baptized and joined God's family! *

Key Point: Let's not think this was just how it was back then. NO! God isn't done with His church. This is what God wants for us at RMC and other churches even today! Remember at the beginning of our lesson we had the two soda cans. One had no fizz, and one exploded with fizz. And the "fizz" represented the Holy Spirit.

Q: Which can do you think describes these early believers? A: The one with fizz! They were excited to meet together, to hear the apostles teach about Jesus, to pray, and praise God. AND they were excited to tell and invite others to come and see! Well, it should be the same today! If you are a believer in Jesus, you have the same Holy Spirit inside of you Who wants you to "fizz" with excitement for Jesus and His church. Don't let your love for Jesus "fizzle" as you go out into this week, but **continue** just like they did!

And if you are not a believer in Jesus, come and join His family today: repent of your sin and believe in the gospel just like these people did so long ago! *

FIND THE TREASURE



Read Acts 2:42
What 4 activities did the early church practice?

PARENT CHALLENGE
What do you like best about church and why?

Read John 13: 34-35
What makes the world know that the church is following Jesus?

