

## Sharing the Gospel Story

**Kingdom value or skill you hope to see developed:** Students are able to share the gospel in a clear and concise way

**Who this is for:** Everyone

**Desired impact on disciples:** Comfortability with sharing the gospel

**Desired impact on campus/home/others:** More people hear the gospel

### Hear the word

Acts 2:1-15, 22-24, 36-41

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

- Imagine the scene - people speaking in all different languages, the Spirit resting on them like fire - what would you think, feel if you were there?
- How and why do people respond the way they do?
- Think of Peter's story - he had just failed miserably a few weeks before this by betraying Jesus. Jesus then reinstates and forgives him. Now he stands before thousands of people. What has changed within Peter?
- What do you notice about the way Peter shares with this crowd?

- What do you like, what don't you like?
- When they ask what shall we do, how does Peter respond?
- What do you learn from Peter's sharing?

### **Respond actively**

The world is broken, people are broken. We experience that in relationships, in our hearts, and in the world. Just like hunger points to food, our desire for something better shows us that there once was. God created the world, and humans, good to be in relationship with him. Sin (or failing to honor God) entered the world through Adam and Eve. Their disobedience separated them and us from God. Because God loves us, he didn't want us to live without relationship with him. He provided a way for us to be healed through Jesus. Jesus was God who came to the earth to show us a better way to live. He himself was perfect. He was killed on a cross for the punishment of our sins. God has raised this Jesus to life so that we can have life with him. All we need to do is to recognize the sin in our own life and turn to God for forgiveness. We are then sent out into the world as messengers of this forgiveness and healing.

- Practice sharing this story with someone in the group.
- What was difficult about sharing? What was easier?
- Share with someone this week.

### **Debrief and Interpret**

- How did it feel sharing the story with someone who wasn't familiar with it?
- How did they respond to you?
- What was hard? What was easy?
- What did you learn about God?

### **Expand the influence**

After telling the story, invite someone to learn more about Jesus