



# ACTS

Of All the Apostles

## You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

## Lesson 5



# Peter's Sermon

## Acts 2:13-36

### Supplemental Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-2  
Philippians 1:6-11, 27-28

### Memory Verse

Keep your eyes on Jesus,  
who both began and  
finished this race we're in.  
Hebrews 12:2 (MSG)

### Lesson Goals

Understand that  
preparation is necessary  
to run a race

Understand the need to  
start the race well

Understand that a race is  
run best when the goal is  
kept in sight

**NOTE:** Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

What do you do when people question what you're doing and how you are worshipping God, when they don't believe it is real? Let's see what Peter, one of the disciples, did.

In our last lesson, we talked about the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus had promised to send the Holy Spirit. The disciples obeyed by waiting in Jerusalem, by preparing themselves with prayer and Bible Study. Who remembers what the disciples would receive along with the Holy Spirit? Power. What would they need power for? To be witnesses, to run the race.

What did the disciples do at the moment that they were filled with the Holy Spirit? They began to speak foreign languages, languages they had never learned, but which the visitors to Jerusalem could understand. When this happened, some of those who lived in Jerusalem began to make fun of what they didn't understand. Instead of realizing that God was doing something amazing, all they could imagine from this noise they couldn't understand was that these men must be drunk!

Peter stood up and spoke to these men, and to all who were gathered around. "It is only 9:00 in the morning," he said, "these men are not drunk." Peter explained that God was keeping His promise, not only to the disciples, but also to the prophet Joel who had prophesied of God pouring out His Spirit on all people.

Peter continued, "Men of Israel, listen to this! Jesus of Nazareth was a man who had God's approval. . . . With the help of evil people, you put Jesus to death. You nailed Him to the cross. But God raised Him from the dead." (Acts 2:22-24 NIV) Peter explained that Jesus died and was buried, but did not decay in the ground. Jesus had risen from the dead. The disciples had been witnesses of this and now Jesus was in heaven at the right hand of God. To be at someone's "right hand" was to be in a place of honor. Peter ended with this reminder, "So be sure of this . . . You nailed Jesus

## Application

How about you? Do you know that you, too, have played a part in Jesus' death? Do you know why Jesus died? Was it for any sin that He had done? No. "Christ didn't have any sin. But God made Him become sin for us. So we can be made right with God because of what Christ has done for us." (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV)

Do you know that you are a sinner? (Romans 3:23) The punishment we deserve for our sin is death. (Romans 6:23) But while we were still sinning and disobeying God, Jesus died for us. (Romans 5:8) And because of that amazing gift, we can be with Him forever. Will you confess with your mouth that Jesus is in control of your life? Do you believe that God raised Him from the dead? You can be saved! (Romans 10:9)

If this is something you have already done, get off the starting block, begin the race, and be His witness!

to the cross. But God has made him both Lord and Christ."

Had the Jews in Jerusalem literally nailed Jesus to the cross? No. So what did Peter mean? Peter meant that because of their unbelief, the Jews played a part in Jesus' death. They failed to believe that Jesus is both Lord (Master) and Christ (Messiah), the Promised One from God.

Why did Jesus have to die? He died to pay the price for your sin and for my sin. So, we nailed Jesus to the cross with all of our disobedience. Peter shared good news with the unbelievers that day. It was a prophecy from Joel; "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." —(Joel 2:28-32) Does that mean only the Jews who were living back then? No, it means everyone, and that includes you. Will you join the race today?

## Review

1. Who received the gift of the Holy Spirit? (Believers)
2. What kind of preparation did the disciples have for "running the race"? (prayer and Bible Study)
3. How did the people in Jerusalem react to the disciples' filling of the Holy Spirit? (they accused them of being drunk)
4. What did Peter say? (What happened was from the Holy Spirit.)
5. What else did Peter say? (Peter told the men from Jerusalem that they killed Jesus, but that God had raised Him from the dead and that He is at God's right hand.)

Next Week  
What Should We Do?  
Acts 2:37-47

# Preschool Lesson

Do you remember last week when we talked about the disciples and how they were filled with God's Holy Spirit? What did the disciples do once they were filled with the Holy Spirit? They began to speak foreign languages, languages they had never learned. The visitors to Jerusalem who were believers in God could understand. When this happened, some of those who lived in Jerusalem began to make fun of what they didn't understand. Instead of realizing that God was doing something amazing, they made up other reasons why these men must be acting this way!

Peter stood up and spoke to these men. Peter explained that God was keeping His promise. Peter even told the men that they had killed Jesus. "You nailed Him to the cross," Peter said, "but God raised Him from the dead." (Acts 2:23-24 NIV) Peter explained that Jesus died and was buried, but did not decay in the ground. Jesus had risen from the dead. The disciples had seen this and now Jesus was in heaven at the right hand of God. To be at someone's "right hand" was to be in a place of honor. Peter ended with this reminder, "So be sure of this . . . You nailed Jesus to the cross. But God has made Him both Lord and Christ."

Had the Jews in Jerusalem taken a hammer and nails and nailed Jesus to the cross? No. So what did Peter mean? Peter meant that because they didn't believe that He was God, the Jews played a part in Jesus' death. They didn't believe that Jesus is both Lord (Master) and Christ (Messiah), the Promised One from God.

Why did Jesus have to die? He died to pay the price for your sin and for my sin. So, we nailed Jesus to the cross, you and I, with all of our disobedience. Peter shared good news with the unbelievers that day. It was a prophecy from Joel; "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." —(Joel 2:28-32) Does that mean only the Jews who were living back then? No, it means everyone, and that includes you. Will you join the race today?

# Activities

**Memory Verse Activity** - Play Hopscotch, H-O-R-S-E (basketball), or Concentration with the memory verse. Be sure that everyone can tell you the verse when they get ready to leave.

Bring a wooden cross or a cross cut from brown poster board. Post the cross in a visible place in your Bible Study area and make thumbtacks or small nails available. Provide each of your students with a piece of paper roughly the size of an index card. Talk about Peter's sermon. Encourage your students to write any unforgiven sins on their paper and then to fold the paper. Give them the opportunity to nail that sin to the cross, reminding them that Jesus died on the cross for that sin.

Sing "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations" and "I Will."

Continue to discuss the analogy of running a race. Review last week's lesson and talk about the physical preparation needed for a race compared to the spiritual preparation we need to be Christ's witnesses. Continue the comparison discussing getting off the starting block and running well.

Run relays with your students. Be sure to tie the physical to the spiritual needs we have of being ready to begin, and of getting out of the stands. Talk about a runner's focus on the finish line. What should our focus be? Review the memory verse.

We have a saying around here at Mission Arlington - "Hang out and Hover." It may sound like a plan to get absolutely nothing done, but the longer version is "Hang out on property and hover around John 3:16." When you hang out with people, where they are, and don't rush off, you gain an audience. So, once you have an audience, what do you talk about? John 3:16 (the Gospel), of course. Discuss the implications of this saying (or mandate) in light of Peter's sermon from our lesson. Aren't you ready to adopt this saying as your own?



Keep your eyes on Jesus,  
who both began and  
finished this race we're in.

Hebrews 12:2

# Racing Riddles

Using the key below, fill in the spaces to find out how we should run the race.

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_    \_ \_    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ,  
 P V V K    B L F I    V B V H    L M    Q V H F H

\_ \_ \_ \_    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_    \_ \_ \_ \_    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 D S L    Y L G S    Y V T Z M    Z M W    U R M R H S V W

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_    \_ \_    '    \_ \_    \_ \_ .  
 G S R H    I Z X V    D V    I V    R M

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_    1 2 : 2  
 S V Y I V D H

## KEY

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

# Racing Riddles

Using the key below, fill in the spaces to find out how we should run the race.

K E E P   Y O U R   E Y E S   O N   J E S U S ,  
P V V K   B L F I   V B V H   L M   Q V H F H

W H O   B O T H   B E G A N   A N D   F I N I S H E D  
D S L   Y L G S   Y V T Z M   Z M W   U R M R H S V W

T H I S   R A C E   W E ' R E   I N .  
G S R H   I Z X V   D V   I V   R M

H E B R E W S   1 2 : 2  
S V Y I V D H

## KEY

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A



# Word Search

b e j w y u s r i p s y o l  
i n u r a i t w a f a s h h  
b u s u l p r l s i d e o t  
l p e n e e r e e f k e l g  
e r s t o l i o y t n n y n  
s a s h j i p j o a o r s e  
k d e e p s t h r i r u p r  
u r n r e u y a i a e p i t  
d a t a r g l i r u t e r s  
y r i c w o o t o a e l i i  
v k w e e s i m o r p n t m  
s o n o t p e t t i r e g o  
p b i b l e s t u d y v r r  
s t u d y l i t d y c l s p

preparation

prayer

Bible Study

Holy Spirit

Peter

promise

Joel

run the race

gospel

# Word Search

b e j w y u s r i p s y o l  
i n u r a i t w a f a s h h  
b u s u l p r l s i d e o t  
l p e n e e r e e f k e l g  
e r s t o l i o y t n n y n  
s a s h j i p j o a o r s e  
k d e e p s t h r i r u p r  
u r n r e u y a i a e p i t  
d a t a r g l i r u t e r s  
y r i c w o o t o a e l i i  
v k w e e s i m o r p n t m  
s o n o t p e t t i r e g o  
p b i b l e s t u d y v r r  
s t u d y l i t d y c l s p

preparation

prayer

Bible Study

Holy Spirit

Peter

promise

Joel

run the race

gospel