

Responding to Peter's Message:

Repentance, Baptism, and the Gift of the Holy Spirit

Introduction:

Begin by reading Acts 2:36-41 aloud. Explain that this passage describes Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost and the response of the people to the Gospel message.

Discussion Questions:

1. What significance do you see in Peter's declaration that "God has made [Jesus] both Lord and Christ"?
2. How do you think the people felt when they realized they had crucified the Messiah?
3. Why do you think the people asked Peter and the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" How does this question reflect a heart seeking repentance and guidance?
4. What does Peter mean by "Repent and be baptized...for the forgiveness of your sins"? Why is repentance necessary for receiving forgiveness?
5. How does baptism symbolize the inward change of repentance and the outward declaration of faith in Jesus Christ?
6. What do you understand by "the gift of the Holy Spirit" mentioned by Peter? How is this gift related to salvation and the Christian life?
7. Peter emphasizes that the promise of salvation is for "you and for your children and for all who are far off." How does this inclusive language reflect God's desire for all people to come to Him?
8. In what ways can we "save ourselves from this crooked generation" as Peter exhorts? How does living out our faith reflect a departure from the ways of the world?
9. Reflect on the response of the people to Peter's message: "So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls." What lessons can we learn from this mass response to the Gospel?
10. How does this passage challenge you to respond to the Gospel in your own life? What steps of repentance and obedience do you need to take?

Application:

1. Share personal testimonies of repentance and baptism, highlighting the impact of receiving the Holy Spirit in your life.
2. Encourage group members to reflect on their own response to the Gospel message and to consider if there are areas in their lives where repentance and obedience are needed.
3. Pray together, asking God to grant the group a deeper understanding of His grace and to empower each member to live faithfully in response to His love.