



CHAPTER TWO

Telling the Story

ACTS 2:1-41

Chapter 2: Telling the Story

Acts 2:1-12, 38-41 (NRSVue)

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ⁵Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Discussion Questions from the Biblical Text:

1. In this story the crowd is astonished at hearing all of their languages. When have you heard other languages spoken in a public setting? What was that experience like?
2. How many different places are referenced in this story? What does this say about the work of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost?
3. What do you notice in this story? What wonderings are stirred for you?

Discussion Questions from *Bearing Witness in Acts and Today* by Troy M. Troftgruben:

1. Consider experiences you—or others—have had in trying to learn a new language. Now consider what the Spirit did at Pentecost. What does this suggest about the things God calls us to do today? (page 33)
2. What are your greatest fears or concerns with talking about your faith with others? What would help you feel more interested or excited about it? (page 33)

Discussion Questions from *Opening Space: A vision for Fresh Expressions of Church and Creative Mission* by Shannon Kiser:

1. Fresh Expressions seek to build new Christian communities in spaces of everyday life. This is an invitation to “risk, in the way of an incarnational God, to enter into the lives of people right where they are” (page 13). Examples include a dinner church that meets in a restaurant, a Christian gathering that unfolds in a running group, or a group that meets in a tattoo parlor. What places and gatherings of people do visit outside of home and church?