

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

*“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .*

*And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”*

# Let’s Worship God

5th-10th January 2014  
Acts



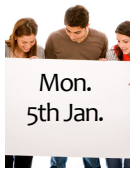
Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

[airdrierpcs.org](http://airdrierpcs.org), 01236 620107  
Part of the RFCS - [rpcscotland.org](http://rpcscotland.org)

**Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!**



Mon.  
5th Jan.

# Let's Worship God

**Verse To Learn**  
This Jesus God raised up,  
and of that  
we are all witnesses.  
Acts 2:32

## reading notes

Acts 1:23-26 - Choosing an Apostle

Based on the rules laid down by Peter, the disciples pick two men to fill Judas position: Joseph and Matthias. The disciples can't decide between them. So they leave the choice to God. Luke tells us that the believers pray that God will use the lots to show them which of the candidates He has chosen. Matthias is picked and so joins the eleven.

The number of the apostles is therefore restored to the original twelve. No other apostles are ever chosen after this, except for Paul who is specially chosen by the Lord Jesus to take the Gospel to the Gentiles. We know this is the case because we read later in Acts that James is not replaced when he is killed (Acts 12:2).

So the office of apostle does exist at the beginning of the church, but it doesn't continue after the original apostles die. Today's church has been given elders and deacons, officers who meet the needs of the church, and Scripture gives clear qualifications for the men who will fill these positions (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9).

## questions

1. Who was picked to take Judas place?
2. How did they pick him?
3. What offices are there in the church today?
4. Does God tell us the type of people who should be elders and deacons?

## praise pray

- Ps. 92B:7-13
1. Give thanks for our elders and deacons.
  2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
  3. Pray for family matters.



Sat.  
10th Jan.

# Let's Worship God

**Verse To Learn**  
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## reading

Acts 2:24-32 - The Death Defier

## notes

The key proof that Jesus is the Messiah, the promised Saviour, is the resurrection. The people crucify and kill Jesus. God however, is equal to that challenge; He raises Jesus up, freeing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him (Acts 2:24).

In quoting from a psalm of David - Psalm 16:8-11, Peter makes the point that whilst David is speaking about himself in the first part, he can't have been speaking about himself in the second phrase which says, 'You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your holy one see decay, because David's tomb still exists. So if David isn't speaking about himself, who is he speaking about? Peter explains that David is prophesying about the Messiah who will come from his line and die, but His body will not decay in the grave.'

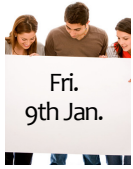
Peter then applies this prophecy to Jesus. He says that because Jesus rose from the dead, with himself and the other apostles as eyewitnesses, and according to David's prophecy, the Messiah will rise from the dead - Jesus must be the Messiah.

## questions

1. What was the key proof that Jesus was the Messiah?
2. Who prophesied the Messiah would rise from the dead?
3. Who were the eyewitnesses to Jesus resurrection?

## praise pray

- Ps. 95:1-6
1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
  2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
  3. Pray for family matters.



# Let's Worship God

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## reading notes

Acts 2:22-23 - Jesus, the Man who was the Son of God

The Jews need to see that Jesus is chosen by God to be the go-between, between God and man, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12b). So Peter's job is to show them who Jesus is, so as to convince them that He is the only way to God the Father.

Peter begins by telling the story of Jesus' life. Jesus is a man from Nazareth where He has lived most of His life. However, He is no ordinary man, for He has performed miracles, wonders, and signs - all of which prove that Jesus' claims to be the Son of God and the Saviour of His people are true. Yet many people have ignored this and willingly participated in Jesus' death by handing Him over to Pontius Pilate to be crucified. So although it is the Jewish leaders who have conspired to kill Jesus, and the Romans who have actually killed Him, many ordinary people are also guilty.

We must be careful, though, not to forget that all of this happens because God wants it to happen, so that we will be saved. Jesus is handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge. God is overseeing these events, using even the evil actions of the people to accomplish His purposes.

## questions

1. Who is the go-between for us and God?
2. What town was Jesus from and lived in most of His life?
3. What was the proof that God was with Jesus?
4. Who was responsible for Jesus' death?

## praise pray

- Ps. 94:7-12
1. Give thanks that God can use evil for good.
  2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
  3. Pray for family matters.



# Let's Worship God

**Verse To Learn**  
This Jesus God raised up,  
and of that  
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Acts 2:32

## reading notes

Acts 2:1-4 - The Holy Spirit Comes

## notes

Acts 2 tells us about one of the most important events in history: the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the small group of Christ's disciples. This happens at Pentecost which is one of the three great annual feasts of the Jews. It comes 10 days after Jesus has returned to Heaven. The disciples are all together in a house somewhere in Jerusalem when, without warning, the Holy Spirit comes.

When the Spirit comes there is the sound of a very strong wind. Then tongues of fire appear on all the disciples' heads. This fulfils the prophecy of John the Baptist that Jesus will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire (Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16).

Besides these two outward signs that the Holy Spirit has come, there is a sign inside each of the believers. The Spirit is not just with the disciples; He is inside them, guiding them, and making them His spokesmen by enabling them to speak in many different languages.

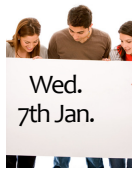
Jesus' promise to His followers has been fulfilled. The Spirit has come, and the disciples have received power. The next step is for them to use the power they have been given.

## questions

1. When did the Holy Spirit come?
2. What were the 2 outward signs that the Holy Spirit came?
3. What was the inward sign that the Holy Spirit came?

## praise pray

- Ps. 93A:all
1. Give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit.
  2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
  3. Pray for family matters.



Wed.  
7th Jan.

# Let's Worship God

**Verse To Learn**  
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Acts 2:32

**reading** Acts 2:5-13 - Workers and a Field

**notes** Jerusalem at Pentecost, this great feast of the Jews, is full of Jews from all over the world. When these Jews hear what the disciples are saying, they are confused and amazed because they can hear the disciples speaking in the same languages of their homelands. Part of their amazement comes from the fact that the disciples come from Galilee, which everyone sees as being full of uneducated people. Yet they can not deny what they are hearing: these Galileans have somehow mastered the languages of eastern lands, Asia Minor, North Africa, and Rome. In these different languages the disciples are telling of the wonderful things God has done.

The crowd has two reactions. Part of the crowd make fun of the disciples and think they are drunk. Others are confused and ask, What does this mean?

So, the coming of the Holy Spirit not only prepares the disciples to work in God's harvest field, it prepares a field for the harvest. A crowd is gathering, watching, and wondering, and the disciples must give an answer. They have been given the power to be Jesus' witnesses - and the opportunity, as well.

**questions**

1. Who had gathered at Jerusalem?
2. Why were they amazed at the disciples?
3. What were the 2 reactions to the disciples?
4. What two things did the Holy Spirit do when He came?

**praise  
pray**

- Ps. 93B:all
1. Pray for opportunities to speak to others about Christ.
  2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
  3. Pray for family matters.



Thur.  
8th Jan.

# Let's Worship God

**Verse To Learn**  
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Acts 2:32

**reading** Acts 2:14-21 - The First Proclamation

**notes**

A bold, confident Peter steps forward to explain what has happened and to preach the Gospel. Peter first answers the mockers. He tells them that the disciples are not drunk, that something much more important is going on - God is fulfilling a prophecy. These are things that God says He will do in Joel chapter 2 verses 28-32. So those who are making fun are not just laughing at the disciples, they are doubting God. Each time we hear the Bible preached and walk away unchanged, we do the same thing - question God's seriousness, which is a very dangerous thing to do.

Joel's prophecy says that its fulfillment will come in the last days. The death, resurrection, and return to Heaven of Jesus has begun a new, final age. The coming of the Holy Spirit, according to Joel, will affect male and female, young and old, and masters and servants. They will prophesy (just as Peter is doing), see visions (both Peter and Paul have visions in Acts 10:9-16 and Acts 16:9), and dream dreams.

The final verse Peter quotes from Joel contains a magnificent promise: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Here is the great hope of the new age. Salvation is going out to Gentiles as well as Jews, for Christ is building His church from every nation, tribe, and tongue.

**questions**

1. Who prophesied that the Holy Spirit would come?
2. What kind of people would the Holy Spirit affect?
3. Whose name must we call on to be saved?

**praise  
pray**

- Ps. 94:1-6
1. Give thanks for the preaching of God's Word.
  2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
  3. Pray for family matters.