

**The Book of Acts
Week 4**

Study Guide and Discussion Questions

The Birth of the Church

Read Acts 2:38-47

1. Verse 38: “Then Peter said unto them, *Repent*, and *be baptized* every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall *receive* the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Last week we read that the Jews hearing Peter speak were “cut to the heart” by his message – a result of the Holy Spirit bringing conviction. They asked, What must we do? Peter answered them with three commands. What does each one mean?

1. Repent:

2. Be Baptized:

3. Receive the gift of the Holy Ghost:

2. In verse 39: “For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

What does this mean? What promise?

At the end of verse 39, “*even as many as the Lord our God shall call,*” what do you think is

meant by that phrase? Why didn't he just say to all who call upon the Lord? What is the difference and why does it matter?

Verses 40 -43 we see that Peter continued to preach and exhort and that 3000 were added to the number of believers that day! They continued in the things the Apostles taught, in breaking bread and in prayer. They are being knit together by their new found faith in Messiah.

3. In Verse 43 – we learn that the Apostles are doing signs and wonders and this instills a fear among the believers. Why would they be filled with fear?

4. Verses 44-47 We see the new believers, joined to the disciples are now called Apostles.

Why are they now called Apostles and not disciples? Does anyone know what this word means?

Together they are building a community of believers, this is the birth of the Christian church. How are they laying the foundation? Let's look at 12 key phrases from that passage:

2:44 *And all that believed were together, and had all things common;*

2:45 *And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.*

2:46 *And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,*

2:47 (a) *Praising God, and having favour with all the people.*

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5. What is the result of this common union? Look at verse 47 (b):

6. What can we take away from tonight's study? What stands out to you most?
