

# Membership Covenant

The 5 G's  
Groups  
Giving  
Gifts  
Grace  
Growth

## A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Acts 2:14-24

Message for the Week: The Gift of the Good News

Sunday, February 4

### Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

What gifts has God given you for sharing the Good News?

### Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

### Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Acts 2:14-24](#) out loud.

[Clicking the link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

## **Respond / Reflect:**

Since Jesus gave spiritual gifts in accordance with God's will and plan, how should we view ourselves in comparison with others? How much respect should we give to others when they are able to do something better than we might be able to do that same thing?

Since the Scriptures are true and cannot be broken, how are you receiving and acting on the promises of verses 17 & 18?

What do verses 19 & 20 point to in the past? In the present? In the future?

How has the Holy Spirit equipped you to proclaim the Good News? What gifts has God given you?

Who is the 'you' in verse 23? How/where do you fit into that 'you'? What is your role in that 'you'?

How are verses 22-24 *THE* gift?

## **Try It:**

This week, try using one of the gifts the Holy Spirit has given you to share the Good News.

## **Prayer:**

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father, thank you for the gift of the Good News and the Holy Spirit in me that allows me to take hold of the gift of salvation. Through the Holy Spirit, equip me to be a sharer of the Good News wherever I am. AMEN

## **Missional/Spiritual Practice: Gifts**

I commit to discovering, developing, and deploying the spiritual gifts God has entrusted to me for the building of the body of Christ.

I commit to using my spiritual gifts to be a witness in this world and to usher in the Kingdom of God.

## Acts 2:14-24

### New International Version

**2** <sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> “‘In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood  
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved.’<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>22</sup> “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup> This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men,<sup>[b]</sup> put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

### Footnotes

a. [Acts 2:21](#) [Joel 2:28-32](#)

b. [Acts 2:23](#) Or of those not having the law (that is, Gentiles)

### The Message

**2** <sup>14-21</sup> That’s when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: “Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people aren’t drunk as some of you suspect. They haven’t had time to get drunk—it’s only nine o’clock in the morning. This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen:

“In the Last Days,” God says,

“I will pour out my Spirit  
on every kind of people:

Your sons will prophesy,  
also your daughters;  
Your young men will see visions,  
your old men dream dreams.

When the time comes,  
I’ll pour out my Spirit

On those who serve me, men and women both,  
and they’ll prophesy.

I’ll set wonders in the sky above  
and signs on the earth below,  
Blood and fire and billowing smoke,  
the sun turning black and the moon blood-red,

Before the Day of the Lord arrives,  
the Day tremendous and marvelous;

And whoever calls out for help  
to me, God, will be saved.”

“Fellow Israelites, listen carefully to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man thoroughly accredited by God to you—the miracles and wonders and signs that God did through him are common knowledge—this Jesus, following the deliberate and well-thought-out plan of God, was betrayed by men who took the law into their own hands, and was handed over to you. And you pinned him to a cross and killed him. But God untied the death ropes and raised him up. Death was no match for him.