

CROSS POINT DISCUSSION GUIDE

Acts 2:14–41 | “The First Sermon”

This message explores Peter’s first sermon in Acts 2 and what happens when ordinary people are empowered by the Holy Spirit. Peter, who once denied Jesus out of fear, now boldly stands before the crowd and proclaims the gospel. His confidence did not come from his own ability, experience, or preparation. It came from the power of the Holy Spirit working through him.

The message reminds us that God often calls us into moments that feel uncomfortable or beyond our ability. Like Peter, we may feel nervous, unqualified, or uncertain about stepping out in faith. But God does not ask us to rely on our own strength. He gives us His Spirit to guide, sustain, and empower us.

Throughout the message, we see that Peter continually points people back to Jesus. His sermon was not about building his own platform or proving himself. It was about helping people see that Jesus is the Savior they had been searching for all along. The same Holy Spirit that empowered Peter is still working today, drawing people to Christ and giving believers courage to live boldly for Him.

Intro Prayer

Father, thank You for bringing us together today. Thank You for the gift of Your Spirit and for the hope we have in Jesus. As we open Your Word, help us grow in courage, humility, and faith. Teach us to trust You more deeply and follow You more boldly. Open our hearts to hear from You and strengthen us through our conversation together. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you had to step into something that felt intimidating or outside your comfort zone. What helped you move forward?

Key Verses

1. Acts 2:14-21 — Peter explains the work of the Holy Spirit
2. Acts 2:22-24 — Jesus' death and resurrection
3. Acts 2:36 — "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah"
4. Acts 2:37-39 — The crowd responds to the gospel
5. Romans 10:13 — "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"

Questions

1. Peter had never preached publicly like this before, yet God used him powerfully. Why do you think God often chooses ordinary people to accomplish His purposes?
2. The message talked about reframing anxiety as excitement and opportunity. What stood out to you about that perspective?
3. One line from the message was, "Maybe you can't do it, but God can do it through you." How does that truth challenge the way we think about insecurity or fear?
4. Peter's sermon continually pointed people back to Jesus instead of himself. What are some ways our culture encourages self-focus instead of Christ-focus?
5. The message emphasized that the Holy Spirit empowers believers with boldness and courage. What does it look like practically to rely on the Holy Spirit in everyday life?
6. The message reminded us that "the Spirit was working before you showed up, and the Spirit is working after." How can remembering that truth relieve pressure when sharing your faith or encouraging others?
7. Peter explained that Jesus is the one people had been searching for all along. Where do people today tend to look for hope, identity, or fulfillment apart from Christ?
8. What is one area of your life where you sense God inviting you to trust Him more boldly right now?

Life Application

This week, take one intentional step of faith in response to this message:

- Identify one area where fear, insecurity, or anxiety has been holding you back and invite God to help you move forward in faith.
 - Spend time each day asking the Holy Spirit to guide your conversations, decisions, and responses.
 - Pray for one person in your life who needs hope and look for an opportunity to encourage them or share your story.
 - Practice pointing attention toward Jesus instead of yourself through humility, encouragement, or service.
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Key Takeaways

1. God empowers ordinary people through the Holy Spirit.
 2. Courage grows when we trust God more than ourselves.
 3. The gospel always points people to Jesus.
 4. The Holy Spirit works through our weakness and insecurity.
 5. Sharing our faith is about obedience, not controlling outcomes.
 6. Jesus is the hope people have been searching for all along.
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Ending Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for reminding us that You use ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things through Your Spirit. Help us trust You when we feel afraid, insecure, or unqualified. Fill us with courage to follow You boldly and point others toward Jesus. Teach us to rely on Your Spirit instead of our own strength. Give us eyes to see the people around us who need hope, and help our lives reflect the love and truth of Christ. Use us to bring renewal in the church, revival in the city, and awakening across Middle Tennessee. In Jesus' name, Amen.