

New Revised Standard Version	World English Bible	J.B. Phillips New Testament
<p><sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup>Peter 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. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.”</p> <p><sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.</p>	<p><sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are far off, even as many as the Lord our God will call to himself.”</p> <p><sup>40</sup>With many other words he testified, and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!” <sup>41</sup>Then those who gladly received his word were baptized. There were added that day about three thousand souls.</p>	<p><sup>37</sup> When they heard this they were cut to the quick, and they cried to Peter and the other apostles, “Men and fellow-Jews, what shall we do now?” <sup>38-39</sup> Peter told them, “You must repent and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, so that you may have your sins forgiven and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For this great promise is for you and your children—yes, and for all who are far away, for as many as the Lord our God shall call to himself!”</p> <p><sup>40</sup> Peter said much more than this as he gave his testimony and implored them, saying, “Save yourselves from this perverted generation!” <sup>41</sup> Then those who welcomed his message were baptised, and on that day alone about three thousand souls were added to the number of disciples.</p>
<p><sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.</p>	<p><sup>42</sup>They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and prayer. <sup>43</sup>Fear came on every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.</p>	<p><sup>42</sup>They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in their fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone felt a deep sense of awe, while many miracles and signs took place through the apostles.</p>
<p><sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.</p>	<p><sup>44</sup>All who believed were together, and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>They sold their possessions and goods, and distributed them to all, according as anyone had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread at home, they took their food with gladness and singleness of heart, <sup>47</sup>praising God, and having favor with all the people. The Lord added to the assembly day by day those who were being saved.</p>	<p><sup>43-47</sup>All the believers shared everything in common; they sold their possessions and goods and divided the proceeds among the fellowship according to individual need. Day after day they met by common consent in the Temple; they broke bread together in their homes, sharing meals with simple joy. They praised God continually and all the people respected them. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were finding salvation.</p>

## Acts 2:37-47

## Could you live the lifestyle of the first century believers?

1. How do you define these words? (a) repent; (b) baptize; (c) sin; (d) forgiveness; (e) forgive
2. Verse 37: What happened before this passage? What did the people hear? What did they ask? How is the action described in this verse different than the stereotype of the evangelist and the audience?
3. Verse 38: What does Peter tell the audience they need to do? Why does he say they need to do this? What will happen when they do this?
4. What do you think it means to “receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?”
5. Verse 39: What is the promise? For whom is it given?
6. Do you think people repented and were baptized at the end of verse 39? Why or why not?
7. Verse 40: What does Peter do? Why? How is the message of verse 40 different from the message of verses 38 and 39? Why does the message shift?
8. Consider the following (from <http://www.studylight.org/dictionaries/ved/view.cgi?n=614>):

**σκολιός** (Strong's #4646 – Adjective – skolios – skol-ee-os'): “curved, crooked,” was especially used (a) of a way, Luke 3:5, with spiritual import (see Proverbs 28:18, Sept.); it is set in contrast to orthos and euthus, “straight;” (b) metaphorically, of what is morally “crooked,” perverse, froward [*i.e., of a person difficult to deal with, Oxford Dictionaries*], of people belonging to a particular generation, Acts 2:40 (AV, “untoward”); Philippians 2:15; of tyrannical or unjust masters, 1 Peter 2:18, “froward;” in this sense it is set in contrast to agathos, “good.”

The interlinear uses the word “crooked” while the translation accompanying it uses “untoward.” The NRSV uses “corrupt” and the Phillips uses “perverse.” What are the different connotations of these translations?

9. Verse 41: What happens to how many people? Do you think that number is everyone who was present and listening? Do you think they are responding to the message of verses 38-39 or the message of verse 40, or a combination of the two, or to the preaching Peter did prior to where this passage picks up? Does it matter? Why or why not?
10. The end of verse 38 says “you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?” How does this passage describe this gift as being given? Why might this be important?
11. Verses 42-43: Who are the people who do the activities described in these verses? What are these activities? Conjecture about the period of time during which these activities take place.
12. Verses 44-47a: What are the activities described in these verses? Where do the different activities take place? Consider the following questions:
  - a. Given one of the places where some of the activities take place, do you think these believers see themselves as Jewish or non-Jewish?
  - b. Do you think they were living a communal lifestyle? Why or why not?
  - c. Do you think proceeds from the sale of their possessions were distributed to those outside the community of believers? Why or why not?
  - d. Where did they break bread together? Does this verse mean they were having communion in their homes? Why or why not?
  - e. What is their relationship to the larger community around them like?
13. Verse 47b: Why was the Lord adding to their numbers every day? Was it the message of the evangelists among them? The wonders and signs the apostles did among them? The lifestyle of the community of believers? Which of these things appeal to you? Which ones don't?
14. Which of these many activities does the modern church in American culture typically do? Which ones does it not do? Which of these many activities would your church be comfortable doing? Which of these activities would you be comfortable doing?