

**Groups@First**

**UNCOMMON**

**The Adventure through Acts**

Over the summer we will take a deep dive into the book of Acts. The experience will take shape with three distinct environments.

**Gatherings:** The weekend gatherings will focus on a systematic working through the book.

**Groups:** Group time will consist of readings and reflections based on a thought, direction, or integration of the text as in keeping with the systematic flow as set by the weekend gatherings. Group material will not be a rehashing of weekend teachings but an additional readings leading to group discussion.

**God time:** God time will be personal reading through the book of Acts using a journal format. Copies of the stand alone book of Acts are available.

## **Week One: Uncommon Power**

### **Acts 2:1-13**

**Getting Started:**

Have you ever waited for the power to be restored? How long? What did you do while waiting?

Beginnings are important. The church begins with a super natural out pouring of the promised HOLY SPIRIT. Until this event the presence of the Holy Spirit did not permanently indwell those who by faith that believed in God. Only King David and John the Baptist had the permanent presence of the Holy Spirit before the event we have recorded here in Acts 2. The uncommon power had a powerful launch of the church.

Read Acts 2:1-13

**Reflections:**

This passage is often misused or misunderstood. The events of Pentecost were prophesied throughout the Old Testament and now had come into reality. The following are some thought points

- There were 120 people gathered in the upper room. These folks were those who had followed Jesus throughout various stages of His earthly ministry. You could call them the church launch team. They had seen the power and authority of Jesus. Although they had experienced and witnessed Jesus they didn't have a deeper understanding of the spiritual transformation that the Holy Spirit would provide.
- They were instructed to wait. Wait they did. They waited upon what was promised. The waiting was unpleasant. Fear waited with them, doubt surrounded them, and confusion regarding the promise consumed them. They waited in spite of the circumstances.
- The Holy Spirit appeared as tongues of Fire. It is important to note that this was known languages. God was sending the clear message that His church would be for all people starting with the Jews and then to the whole world. Speaking in tongues was not nor is it ever a sign of salvation. God chose to use this sign intentionally to break the barriers of racism. The Jewish people were known for their exclusivity. Although the first church was made up of Jewish People God was setting them up to change the world.
- There was a holy boldness about the folks who were huddled in the upper room and then rushed forth to proclaim the gospel. They went from slinking cowards to bold evangelist.

Group Questions:

1. As you read this passage what “jumped out” at you?
2. How has reading this informed you or inspired you?
3. Do you think God could choose to reenact this Pentecostal event today? Why or Why not?
4. How has the Holy Spirit revealed Himself to you?
5. How are you going to live out what you just read?