

## Personal weekly Bible readings to go deeper into Scripture.

*Memory Verse: Acts 16:30-31*

- Day 1 – Chapter 29 of “The Story”
- Day 2 – Romans 3-6; 8
- Day 3 – 1 Corinthians 12-13; 15-16
- Day 4 – Galatians 3: 5-6
- Day 5 – 1 Thessalonians 4-5

### Questions to consider while reading the Bible:

- Is there an example to follow?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- Is there a promise to rely on?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a challenge in which to respond?



***The Story: New Beginning***

*April 6-7, 2013*

*“The Story” Chapter 28; Acts 2:1-13*

Please use this space to take notes during the message today.



They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. Acts 2:3

Scan to go to  
the message blog or go to  
[www.gloriadeionline.wordpress.com](http://www.gloriadeionline.wordpress.com).

## Adult and teen small group discussion points

Please use these discussion questions in your small group or with your teens.

1. If we believe that Jesus was God among us, lived a sinless life, died for our sins, and rose again, we become children of God. How did you learn this truth and who did God use to share it with you?
2. Look up Ex. 3:2, and 19:18. Why do you suppose the Holy Spirit was portrayed as tongues of fire that came to rest on each believer at Pentecost and how does His relationship to believers change *after* this event?
3. God the Father was the most visible person of the Trinity in the Old Testament. Jesus, God the Son, was most visible in the gospels and now God the Holy Spirit becomes prominent in Acts. List what you learned about the Holy Spirit from this chapter. What did you learn about the empowerment of the Holy Spirit for your own life?
4. Jesus told his followers that their ministry would occur in four distinct locations (Acts 1:8, “The Story,” p. 389). How do you see God using you, your church, and the church at large to share the life-saving message of Jesus in each of the following places:
  - Jerusalem (your hometown/neighborhood)
  - Judea (your surrounding community and region)
  - Samaria (the tough places that many people avoid)
  - The ends of the earth (around the nation and world)How could your group members team up to get involved in sharing the love, grace, and message of Jesus in one of these places?
7. What accounts for the dramatic change in Saul of Tarsus from persecutor to preacher? Do you know anyone personally who has gone from being a strong opponent of Christianity to a Christ-follower? (Please be sensitive to privacy by refraining from mentioning names.)
8. What sorts of conflict and spiritual battle did the early Christians face as they tried to share Jesus’ message? How did they respond to persecution and resistance and how can this inspire us? Despite this opposition the church grew rapidly from the beginning. What factors might account for such growth?
9. Peter (Acts 4:8-12; “The Story,” p. 394), Stephen (Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60; “The Story,” pp. 397-399), and later the apostle Paul were clear that Jesus Christ was the Messiah, the only hope for salvation. How did people respond to that bold claim in the religiously diverse ancient world and how do they respond today? How do we continue sharing with boldness, even when others disagree with us?



Close in prayer.

## Family’s with kids discussion points

Please use these discussion questions with your children.

Memory Verse: “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in languages they had not known. The Spirit gave them the ability to do this.” Acts 2:4

1. When the disciples preached about Jesus and people saw the truth, the believers started eating and praying together. The Bible says they “shared everything.” Do you think this was hard for Jesus’ followers?
2. What would be the hardest thing for you to share?
3. Why did the early Christians help each other out so much?
4. Do you think Christians still look for ways to share with each other?
5. This chapter of “The Story” says Jesus’ followers had hearts that were “glad and honest and true.” How do you think they showed that?
6. Talk a little about being glad, honest, and true. If you could always live that way, how do you think people would look at you?

Pray together: Dear God, thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to call me to believe in You and to keep me in the true faith. Thank You for the gifts of the Holy Spirit that You have given to me, the gifts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Thank You for forgiving all of my sins and for the sure hope that when I die it will be to spend eternity with You. Amen

