

GOD'S NEW COVENANT**Acts 1:1-11; 2**

Memory Verse: *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”* (Acts 1:8 ESV).

Background Helps:


The new covenant promise in Jeremiah 31:31-34 includes the provision: “I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts” (v. 33b). This promise is fulfilled by the indwelling Holy Spirit who was poured out on the day of Pentecost. He gives us a new heart and empowers us to obey the law of God. In previous lessons, we have already seen the promise of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament Prophets: see, for example Ezekiel 36:26-27. In this week's passage in Acts 2:17-21, the apostle Peter quotes from the prophecy of Joel 2:28-32 with its promise of the Spirit.

Lesson Helps:

This week's lesson could be similar to last week's, with a potential application to either non-believers or believers. Here's a suggested lesson plan based on this aim: My students will learn about the new covenant promise of the Holy Spirit, so that they will repent and trust in Jesus Christ to receive the Spirit (or, so that they will share this promise of the Holy Spirit with others).

1. **Hook:** Begin your lesson with a story of an important gift received (from your own experience? from the Bible? from another resource?)
2. **Book:** Explore the new covenant promise of a new heart through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps you could:
 - a. Begin with the new covenant promise of a new heart through the gift of the Spirit found in Jeremiah 31:33 and Ezekiel 36:26-27.
 - b. Tell the story of Pentecost in Acts 1:1-11; 2. Emphasize Jesus' promise of the Spirit in Acts 1:4-5, 8 and the outpouring the Spirit on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, in fulfillment of Joel's prophecy in Joel 2:28-32. Review the Christ-centered sermon of Peter, climaxing with the promise of forgiveness of sins (last week's emphasis) and the gift of the Spirit in Acts 2:38-39. Three thousand received his word and were baptized (v. 41)!
3. **Look:** For non-Christians, discuss how this promise of the gift of the Spirit (and forgiveness of sins) can become ours through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ (expressed publicly in baptism). For Christians, discuss how the Holy Spirit empowers us to proclaim this message of the promised Spirit (and forgiveness of sins), using the memory verse, Acts 1:8.
4. **Took:** Invite your students to receive the gift of the Spirit through repentance, confirmed by the step of baptism. Or, invite your students to write down the name of one friend with whom they will seek to share the new covenant promise of the gift of the Spirit this week, and ask for the Spirit to empower them to do so.

Home Assignment:

 Read Acts 3:1–4:31.

 Memorize Acts 4:12 ESV.

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