

190929 Peter's Preach. Acts 2:14-41

- Vs. 12-13 speak of a range of reactions to what is going on. There were some who were amazed, some who were perplexed and some who were dismissive and mocking. How do these 3 reactions fit with your own experience as a Christian and how people respond to your faith and the way it is lived out.
- V. 14 The Peter stood up... Peter's sees the opportunity and steps up to share the Gospel. On a scale of 1-10 how easy do you find it to share your faith? How often do you see opportunities to share faith and what might affect this?
- Ben said that the difference between Peter here and the Peter who denied Jesus 3 times a few weeks before was that he had seen Jesus resurrected and was full of the Holy Spirit. In what ways does the resurrection of Jesus 'change everything'? (cf. 1Cor. 15:12-20). How does being filled with the Spirit spur evangelism?
- Peter stood up 'with the 11'. Why is it so important to have others standing with us when it comes to sharing faith? Who are those people for you? When was the last time you asked others to support you in this way?
- Peter says he wants to 'explain' things and urges the crowd to 'listen carefully'. Do you ever rule yourself out of sharing faith because you don't feel qualified to explain it? How does Acts 4:13 help us in this?
- Does the Gospel really need explaining or will people just 'get it' if we love them enough?
- In quoting Joel Peter says how the Spirit is poured out on all flesh. Young and old, rich and poor, men and women: 'All who call on the name of the Lord'. Have you ever ruled yourself or others out of this inclusive outpouring for any reason? What is the challenge here and how can we respond?
- Ben spoke of 5 key elements of the Gospel. For each of them you may want to discuss why it is important to the Gospel message, the difference it makes in our lives today or how you might explain that aspect to someone new to the Gospel (use whichever idea works best for your group):
 - Vs. 22. Jesus was a man. He was a human being, who was born and lived.
 - Vs. 22 He was no ordinary man, but was accredited by God doing miracles, signs and wonders.
 - Vs. 23 you put him to death on a cross (but it was part of God's plan and foreknowledge).
 - Vs 24-32 Jesus was raised from the dead – death could not hold him.
 - Vs 33-35 God has exalted Him to His right hand (i.e. the ascension) and sent the Holy Spirit.
- Vs 36 What is Peter's conclusion here? Why is he confident? Do you share his confidence? Why or why not?
- Vs 37. The people were cut to the heart. Do you need to feel or experience this sort of reaction to the Gospel to be 'really saved'? How do we have assurance of salvation?
- Peter goes on to talk about repentance and baptism – a complete and public change. Phil Moore says this is about us understanding the Gospel not as something Jesus has done for us so what else can I get, but a call to give our lives for Him and asking what else I can give. Peter does not make it easy to accept this message (baptism into a new faith for a Jew would be unthinkable!) The call and cost into faith in Jesus is high as well as free. In what ways can cheapen grace in how we share the Gospel and how do we learn from Peter's preach how to avoid this?
- Practically chose to respond in one of the following ways: i) Make a commitment to naming who you will share your faith and the Gospel with this week ii) Pray for one another to be filled with the HS for the purpose of evangelism. iii) Answer the question 'what would make me more confident sharing my faith?'