



SERIES: ACTS - WHEN THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN
MESSAGE TITLE: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS
DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

BIBLICAL TEXT(S): Acts 2:1-13

In Acts chapter 2, God's promise to the disciples is fulfilled. The Holy Spirit is poured out on them. A great wind blows through the room where they are at and tongues of fire appear on top of their head, signifying that God is present with them. They are enabled to speak in other languages. People from all over the world who were in Jerusalem for the festival of Pentecost observe this.

These people from around the world hear these uneducated disciples speaking in their own languages talking about what God has done. This is just the beginning of the adventure the Holy Spirit is going to take these disciples on, but right from the start it gets people's attention, it displays God's inclusivity, and starts people thinking about what God is up to. Something new is starting, something that it's important for us to learn about because God is still up to something new in our own day.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. These can help your group understand and apply the teaching more profitably

LEAN IN

These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What is one thing that you appreciate and your mom (or moms in general)?
If you're a mom, what's your favorite part about being a mom?
2. Have you ever been promised something that you had to wait on for a bit?
What did it feel like when that promise was fulfilled?
3. Has anyone ever dismissed you unfairly? What happened?
4. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon?
Why was it significant to you?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. How did the coming of the Holy Spirit manifest itself in the room where the disciples were?
2. What effect did the filling of the Holy Spirit have on the individual disciples?
What did they do?

cont.

CONTINUED:

3. What things do you learn about the makeup of the crowd in Jerusalem from verses 5-11?
4. How did the crowd respond to the disciples? What question does the text say they asked?
5. How did people dismiss what was happening? What did they accuse the disciples of?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. When the Holy Spirit came in Acts 2, there was physical evidence of his presence in the room. Does the Holy Spirit still demonstrate his presence through physical signs? Why or why not?
2. How have you seen the Holy Spirit manifest himself in believers today? Is it similar or different from what is described in Acts 2? How?
3. How was the crowd in Jerusalem similar to the crowds in our community? How was it different?
4. How have you seen the Holy Spirit at work using people or circumstances to attract the attention of those outside the church? How have you seen people react to this?
5. How do people (both outside and inside of the church) dismiss the work of the Holy Spirit today? How are their accusations similar or different from those the Jerusalem crowds made?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's presence in a particular place? Where were you and how could you tell the Spirit was there?
2. How has the Holy Spirit manifested his presence in your own life? How do you feel when the Holy Spirit speaks to you?
3. The crowd and Jerusalem were made up of people from all kinds of different places, just like our own communities are. What factors make relating to people in your community who are different from you difficult or intimidating?
4. How has the Holy Spirit used you to draw attention to God and what he is

cont.

CONTINUED:

doing in the world? How have people reacted to you?

5. Has anyone ever dismissed the work of the Spirit in your life? What happened? How has that affected you?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. How can your group pray for or encourage you as you ask the Holy Spirit to work in your life, even in the midst of sheltering in place?
2. What's one way that you can start to create relationships with people who are different from you this week, even while you're quarantined? Examples might be talking to a neighbor about one thing you have in common, listening to a podcast, or reading a book that helps you understand another point of view better, reading through a social media post you disagree with, and trying to understand where they're coming from.
3. How might the Holy Spirit be using your life right now to draw attention to God's work in the world? how can you partner with him in that work this week?

Thanks to Ashleigh Rich and the ADT team this week for notes and questions, as well as Charissa Burns (@charissaburnsstudio on Instagram) for her illustrated notes, which normally appear on the following page.