

THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

The Power and the Plan

Date: September 22, 2024

Text: Acts 2:1-6; 12-13; 41-47

This week's weekly challenge is a culmination of everything we've been doing! We have been praying, recognizing people in our lives, practicing our own stories, and understanding the Gospel message. Now, we challenge you to invite one person from your FRAN Chart to a face-to-face interaction (if possible!). Grab coffee, lunch, or just go for a walk and pray for an opportunity to share your faith. You aren't doing this alone, we are a family!

BIG IDEA

With the outpouring of His Spirit, God gave us the ability to bring healing to a hurting world, sight to the blind, and hope to the lost. Apart from the Spirit, we can do nothing; yet, with the Holy Spirit, nothing is impossible for us. This indwelling of the Spirit within us should so radically impact the way that we live that an entire culture, community, and world might be touched by this amazing love, abundant generosity, and consistent worship. When we begin to live with the same hallmarks of the early disciples, we will

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begin to see the same fruit as the early church as “the Lord adds to our fellowship those who are being saved.”

As we conclude this series, we walk forward together into the next step of our plan. How are we going to reach our community with and for God this year?

Conversation Starter

- Brainstorm some ways your group can live on mission this week? Who's one person in your life that needs to hear about Jesus?
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COMMENTARY #1

(Acts 2:1-6) The day of Pentecost in the Old Testament was when the Israelites received the law; now, they would receive an outpouring of the Spirit. God did not move immediately, the people had to wait 10 days after Jesus ascended until, as they all gathered with the same heart and hunger for God, the Spirit came. We cannot be filled until we realize our emptiness; gathered together to pray and fast, the disciples realized just that— they could not do the work of Jesus without the power of Jesus. They were empty and needed His filling.

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Discussion Questions

1. The New Testament Pentecost gave the Spirit over the law; explain how the work of Jesus overcame the law to offer us so much more.
 2. What does it mean to “recognize our emptiness?”
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COMMENTARY #2

(Verses 12-13) The people were astonished at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. They watched in wonder as people began to speak different languages and were overcome by the Spirit. Some questioned what it all could mean; while others looked on and mocked.

Discussion Questions

1. God poured out His Spirit so that the Church could do the work it was called to—why is the Spirit necessary?
2. Have you ever experienced people mocking you for your faith or experience with Jesus? Share.

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3. The Spirit equipped them to do things they had never been able to do; have you ever experienced the supernatural provision of God? Explain.

COMMENTARY #3

(Verses 41-47) The closing verses of this chapter illustrate for us the transforming power of the Spirit and what a Spirit-filled church looks like. The people gathered regularly, devoted themselves to praying and reading Scriptures, and cared for one another selflessly. Because of their devotion to God and dedication to live for Him, God added to their number more and more lost souls.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you live life like the early disciples? Explain.
2. Why is it important that they met together? Why does community matter?
3. The early church was in pursuit of God and God then brought in lost souls; is this true of your church? Your group? Your family? Explain.

GOING DEEPER

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1. Consider the passion of the early church. In what ways have we lost that passion? In what ways have we maintained or grown that passion?
2. Does the Spirit still pour out over us? Explain.
3. What are the evidences of a Spirit-filled church according to Acts 2:40-49?

4. How can you extend your emptiness for God to fill? What does that mean?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Devotion - [Welcoming God's Mighty Power — In You!](https://www.proverbs31.org/)
([proverbs31.org](https://www.proverbs31.org/))

Sermon - [I Will Pour Out My Spirit | Desiring God](#), John Piper

GROUP ACTIVITY

Sharing our faith is scary; but throughout these last five week's you have been given every tool necessary to overcome that fear. More than that, you have the Holy Spirit leading and guiding every interaction *regardless* of the outcome.

So, as a group, we challenge you to pull out your phones and send an invitation to one person from your FRAN chart. It can be

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a quick coffee date, lunch meet up, or even just asking for a phone call to “catch up.”

After sending the messages, pray as a group that the Lord would fill you with courage and move in miraculous ways.

Prepare to share next week with the group and continue praying for the lost!

The Power and Plan

Date: September 22, 2024

Text: Ezekiel 37:1-14

BIG IDEA

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With the outpouring of His Spirit, God gave us the ability to bring healing to a hurting world, sight to the blind, and hope to the lost. Apart from the Spirit, we can do nothing; yet, with the Holy Spirit, nothing is impossible for us. This indwelling of the Spirit within us should so radically impact the way that we live that an entire culture, community, and world might be touched by this amazing love, abundant generosity, and consistent worship. When we begin to live with the same hallmarks of the early disciples, we will begin to see the same fruit as the early church as “the Lord adds to our fellowship those who are being saved.”

As we conclude this series, we walk forward together into the next step of our plan. How are we going to reach our community with and for God this year?

Conversation Starter

- Can the Holy Spirit be stagnant? Is it possible to have the Spirit and not be changed at all?

COMMENTARY #1

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(Verses 1-6) Ezekiel is facing the Valley of Dry Bones—“dry” tells us that life has long since left. As he looks into the valley full of what once had lived, what had held so much potential and power, God questions, “do you think these bones could live again?” Ezekiel doesn’t put his hope in the bones, nor does he assume what God would do; instead, he proclaims the truth that while he may not know “God, you know.” Because he placed his faith solely on God, God gave him responsibility—preach to the bones. This seemed foolish, preaching to what had long since died, and yet, Ezekiel obeyed and trusted the promise of God that life was coming.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think the world resembles the Valley of Dry Bones? Why or why not?
 2. Do you think the world could “live again?” Be completely overwhelmed with the Holy Spirit and transformed? Why or why not?
 3. Why did God wait until Ezekiel professed his faith before giving him a task?
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COMMENTARY #2

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(Verses 7-10) As Ezekiel is proclaiming God's Word over the bones, they begin to rattle... small movements foreshadowing what was to come. The revival of the bones happened in clear steps: stirring of the bones, assembly of the bones, sinews, and flesh upon the bones, skin upon the tissues covering the bones, awaiting the breath of God. But while the Word of God rebuilt the bones, they needed the Spirit of God to be brought to life. So God commanded Ezekiel to call for the Spirit and as soon as the Spirit came into these lifeless bodies, an army was ignited.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think it is important that we notice the "rattling" of the Spirit when we share our faith?
 2. What does it mean that the bodies were rebuilt but not yet revived? Have you ever experienced this?
 3. Ezekiel was commanded to preach to a "lost cause" in our eyes. Have you ever felt like there's "no point" in sharing your faith? Explain.
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COMMENTARY #3

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(Verses 11-14) God finally reveals that these bones represent the house of Israel—God’s children. Israel was once alive but had long since died due to their disobedience; but God in His mercy would revive them through His Spirit. This passage is a promise that when it seems hopeless or dead, God can pour out His Spirit and spark revival in a moment. But that revival requires our faith, our obedience, and our voice.

Discussion Questions

1. How does it make you feel that it was God’s own people, not the lost, that represented the dry bones?
 2. In what ways have you been “dry and dead” in your faith? In what ways have you been revived?
 3. How can you follow Ezekiel’s example and “prophecy” in places that seem dead, hopeless, or dried up?
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GOING DEEPER

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2. Does the Spirit still pour out over us? Explain.
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