

Studies in Acts

Study three

Key verse: Acts 2:46b-47a.

They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people.



Big Idea: Genuine Christian community happens as convicted and converted people live for Jesus and not for themselves.

Kick Off

What's the attraction of reality TV shows?

If you could choose the ideal location on the planet to live out your days where would it be and why?

Was the family you grew up in a blessing or an embarrassment?

STUDY

Read Acts 2:14-47.

This part of scripture has been used and abused so badly in many Christian circles. The prophecy of Joel has led people off looking for signs and wonders and visions and dreams... but such misinterpretations are a far cry from what the passage teaches. And the problem is not recognising or understanding an oracle prophetic promise and then misapplying it literally. A similar mistake would be to read fanciful poetry as a biography. We'll try not to make that mistake in this study.

1. How does Peter dismiss the mockers who see the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as men who are drunk, and what does he claim instead?

2. What things are going to happen in the last days according to the Joel prophecy vv17-21?

3. How does Peter show that Jesus is the fulfilment of Joel v22-24?

Look up these verses to help us with a proper understanding of this passage.

Luke 24: 27, 44

Hebrews 1:1-2

Matthew 27: 45, 51-54

4. How does Peter reason that the glorious Day of the Lord has begun vv25-33?

5. What is the visible confirmation on earth of Jesus' reigning in heaven v33? What are they seeing and hearing that is the fulfilment of v18?

6. Verse 36 is the crux of Peter's message... why would this have so cut the listeners to the heart?

7. In the light of vv34,35 what is so amazing about Peter's reply vv38-9 to their question, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

8. Conviction leads to conversion which results in transformed living. Why are these believers so full of joy and into praising God v46,7?

9. Work through vv42-47 make a list of all the things these believers do. How would you describe this community... its size... its constitution... its core values... its focus?

THINK AND APPLY

How hard is it for you to share your stuff with other people?

Is there more to being a Christian than saying you're a Christian? cf Matt 24:44-46 and James 2:14-16

What do we need to keep reminding ourselves of in order to be more generous?

PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



**For next week
Read
Acts 3:1-26**