

Cell group Study - Week of 25th Sept 2017

Acts - praying in the upper room

Discovery

Has anyone ever been to an all day prayer event? What sort of things go on in a day like that? What do you think of the idea of spending a whole day praying for something? Do you think anything is worth praying a whole day about? Why does God need us to pray about things if he wants them to work out in a certain way anyway?

Read the story of the relationship between the prophet Elijah and the evil King Ahab of Israel in 1 Kings - read: 1 Kings 16:29-33; 17:1-9 and all of chapter 18.

Chat about the miraculous and weird bits in all of this. (we'll focus a on the kneeling bit in Ch 8:42-44 later).

Read Acts 1:1-14. Discuss it generally. Explain that the time between Jesus death (the Passover) and the Holy Spirit's coming (Pentecost) was 50 days according to Leviticus in the OT, and that as Jesus had come back to life and then spent 40 days with his followers, before he ascended, there were 10 days between that and the coming of the Spirit. 10 days of praying!

Discussion

What was Elijah doing with his head between his knees in 1 Kings 18:42-44? Some people say it was vehement prayer, the sort that gives birth to something, and takes time and effort. At Westpoint 2017, Terry Virgo said that 'prayer is sometimes like pulling what God has said into being'. Was this like that? Why would God do that - want something, decide to do it, but then require us to pray until it happens, or even pray it into being - like giving birth to it? Have you ever been to a prayer meeting where people were wailing or groaning like they were giving birth?

What sort of praying do you think was going on in the upper room in the lead up to Pentecost? Discuss. (a mixture of praise, declaring the word of God and the sort of prayer that pulled Pentecost into being, or even 'gave birth' to the coming of the Spirit?)

Application

What is there in your life that you feel God has said will come to pass, that you might need to spend more time praying into being?

What is your prayer life like? Do you have a special place and a regular time for prayer? Ask anyone who is willing, to tell you about their special place and time, and what it's like. On Sunday after Mike had spoken, Dave said he felt like God was showing each person there a polaroid photo of the place he has for them to spend time regularly in prayer. Challenge people to take up the practice of regular prayer. Get people to pray for each other now, and see if the Spirit is showing people the place he has for them.

God bless you all as you meet.