

w/b 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**THEME: TELLING IT HOW IT IS – THE SERMON THAT LAUNCHED THE EARLY CHURCH  
- LIFE APPLICATION**

ACTS 2:14-41

**LAUNCH**

Can you remember the last time you were rescued? It might have been by the AA when you broke down or it might have been more serious. How did you feel before you were rescued and how did you feel afterwards?

Did you feel the same way when you became a Christian and what were you rescued the most from?

**DISCOVERY**

Peter begins his sermon by explaining the activity of the Holy Spirit that morning. What do we learn about the Holy Spirit from the Joel scripture that he uses? (17 – 21)

The second half of the Joel scripture (19 – 21) is a lot darker in content than the first half. Why does Peter include it as part of his sermon?

Have you had a dream, vision or prophecy that has changed the way you lived your life recently? Share it with the group and the way it changed what you were doing or the direction in which you were heading

What are some of the ways in which prophecy, dreams or visions can be misused within a church. What checks or balances need to be introduced to make sure this doesn't happen?

Following his explanation of the work of the Holy Spirit, Peter introduces Jesus. (v 22 onwards) What key truths about Christ does he need to tell his audience? (*ans: life, death, resurrection and ascension*). Why are these vital details about Christ essential to the salvation picture that Peter is painting?

In preaching the gospel message, Peter uses a combination of his story, his audience's story, shared history (King David) and scripture to get the message of Christ across. In what way are these 4 aspects of gospel telling important?

Did Peter really need to be so blunt in telling his congregation that they had crucified Christ? What key aspect of the gospel message did this fulfil?

When you first became a Christian, in what way(s) were you convicted of sin?

Why is talk of sin and the need for salvation so unfashionable in today's world? What influences or arguments seek to undermine the message of the gospel nowadays? The bible suggests these 'pretensions' can be directly attributed to Satan. Do you agree and if so how would you argue or explain this?

Having said this, some Christians seem to be particularly crass or rude in the way they share their faith. In what ways do we need to be humble and non judgemental in our witness?

How is the illustration of the cliff and the parachute used in the sermon helpful? Are there any ways in which it is unhelpful?

### **APPLICATION**

Pray for more prophecy, dreams and visions in the life of the church so God can lead us more clearly

Pray for opportunities to share your faith with others in the days and weeks ahead.