

Discipleship – Summer 2012 – Week beginning 3rd June

Home group / study notes: Pentecost people

Feel free to use as much or as little as you wish. Don't rush the discussions in order to 'finish' the study, and make sure you allow time for the prayer.

How do you find doing mission in your workplace or among family, friends or neighbours? Why are our churches not multiplying in numbers?

Read Ezek 37:1-3 Well, can they? How do you feel about the Lord's answer in verse 4?

Prophecy: telling God's messages to those to whom he sends us; giving words from God (not necessarily verbal – could be images or analogies or actions)

In what ways should we be prophesying to the dry bones around us? (In **Ezek 37:5-6** what kind of message is given in prophecy?) See the start of verse 7... do we?

How can we share our faith as *Good News*?

Read verses 7-11. [πνευμα (pneuma) in Greek, רִּיחַ (ruach) in Hebrew: spirit, breath or wind – in both OT and NT the translation could be any or all of these]

'All around the world the body waits expectantly' – from a song – 'the promise of the Father is now ready to fall'. How can we call on the 'breath' as part of God's mission? 'Prophecy to the wind/spirit/breath'. Are we content with lining up the ready but still lifeless bodies?

Some people find it easier to do the pre-evangelism. Are you more of a sower than a reaper? But can you share ways in which we sometimes make this an excuse, and what we might challenge each other to do?

For us: claim God's promise for ourselves, our family, friends and neighbours – **Read** Acts 2:38-39. What do you think are the best things we can do to influence their spiritual lives?

In **Acts 2:40-41**, notice the verbs Peter used. How do you think we should be 'saving ourselves from this corrupt generation'?

Here's a slide from Tim's sermon on Pentecost Sunday, based on Acts 2 and what Peter said and the first church did.

Pray over the implications of this for us individually and as a church.

*Further study: Read Acts 4:32-37
What kinds of community living might God be calling us to? How could he use today's circumstances to get us to think outside our boxes?*

Pentecost unity? How does it work?

- Prepared to explain – Peter spoke
- Spelling out the truth, urging 'repentance'
- 'Save yourselves'! It's good news.
- Many accepted the message
- The church
 - teaching, fellowship, 'breaking of bread'
 - prayer, demonstrating signs and wonders
 - Generous sharing and giving – new community living?
 - Frequent meeting together, praise
 - Growing numbers daily