

Sermon Study Guide (January 15, 2023)

This Week: Expanding the Kingdom

Series: Vibrant

Passage: Acts 2:1-41

BIG IDEA: A vibrant faith expands the gospel more than it consumes it.

LOOK BACK:

Take some time asking how the week was in the lives of people in your life group.

Group Discussion: How did God speak to you this week? Did you experience any “God moments” or “Encounters”? Was there anything that frustrated or discouraged you in your faith? How did your “Living Forward” commitments from last week go (spending time seeking God). Take a moment to open in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to prepare our heart’s for the study tonight.



APPETIZER: LEARN TOGETHER

1. The vision of Emmanuel Church is to “demonstrate a VIBRANT faith that brings LIFE to the world.” Vibrant is a word associated with “vibrating”, which gives the sense of a string vibrating to make a sound, like a symphony does. Vibrating also produces power. Although we typically hear sound, it’s also produces a

wave that actually moves things. Sound is movement. And movement is power. **READ Acts 2:1-41 together.** **What do you notice or find interesting about the passage? What key actions or words stand out to you and why?**

2. Acts 2 demonstrates the compelling personality of Peter. Filled of the Spirit, Peter has the ears of the people of God, gathered from all the four corners of the Roman Empire. He had a choice to rally the troops and gain power and influence to attempt to overthrow the government. However he used his new found power to proclaim the life that the resurrection of Jesus brings. Group discussion: The Holy Spirit brings power. Our world displays power in many different ways. **Question: What is the main difference between the world’s power and the power of the Holy Spirit?**
3. **Discussion:** In the sermon from Sunday, Jeff talked about how fusion power, created by a nuclear reaction, produces more energy than it uses up. In contrast, he suggested that the power of this world tends to burn itself out (both literally and figuratively). **Does this ring true to you? How is the power of the Holy Spirit more like fusion power?**
4. **Imagine two things.** Imagine if, first of all, the disciples stayed in the upper room when the Spirit baptized them. What does it mean for Christians today to remain in the “upper room”? **Do churches lack the**

bold engagement with the world around us?

Secondly, what if the disciples used their Holy Spirit moment to rally the troops for an insurgency: using all that spiritual enthusiasm to overthrow the government. **How would this have affected the expansion of the gospel?**



DESSERT: LIVE FORWARD

From the text, we see what an expanding gospel looks like in at least 3 ways:

1. An expanding gospel empowers us to become better versions of ourselves. (Just see the difference in Peter!)
2. An expanding gospel presents a different way of viewing the world. (Just see the disciples and their bold statements of faith!)
3. An expanding gospel goes beyond the upper room. (Just see where the Holy Spirit sent the disciples next!)

This week, in what ways can the gospel empower you to become a better version of yourself? What would that look like? What ways will you allow the Holy Spirit to help you view the world differently in light of the gospel? And what areas of your life will you bring the power of the Gospel into this week?