

Big Message

Acts 2:37-40

"Repent," Peter said to them, and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." - Acts 2:38

Main Point: The Church has a **BIG, life changing message to share with the world**

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

When have you been the messenger of some exciting news? What was it, and how did you reveal it?

Have you ever received a message that changed your life or the course of it? Share with the group.

When Jesus entrusted the message of the gospel to the disciples He charged them with sharing it around the world. Now, through the power of the Holy Spirit in them, they start making a big impact with Jesus' message, turning hearts of those who once opposed Him. We see from Peter's sermon the affect of this message, and it still rings true today. So why are we so hesitant to share it ourselves? Today we'll look at the strength of God's word in the lives of those who hear it and how we can be a part of sharing the BIG message of God's Good News!

There are at least three things that can happen with the message of Jesus is shared:

1) **CONVICTION.** Have a volunteer read **Acts 2:36-37.**

What did the people of Israel become convicted of? Why was Peter's message at Pentecost such a game changer for them? Read **Hebrews 4:12** and discuss it's implication in our text.

Was there ever a time in your life, maybe when you surrendered your life to Christ, that you felt that kind of deep conviction? What was your response?

How have you settled in sharing the word of God with others, only to become a "Hillbilly Speed Bump?" What can you do personally, and as a VGroup, to be more effective in sharing God's truth with others?

2) **REPENTANCE.** Read **Acts 2:37-38.**

How did the people respond when they realized who they were and where they stood in God's Kingdom? Why would being baptized be such a huge step for them?

What does the word “repent” mean to you? Read **2 Corinthians 7:10**. How does repentance play a part in our conviction and salvation?

Pastor Erik said “Regret without repentance is being sorry for the consequences of your actions, but not being sorry for the actions.” I.e. - I hate I got caught. How do Christians today display regret, but not repentance? What do you believe this shows about our faith?

3) **SALVATION**. Read **Acts 2:39-40**.

Peter references a prophecy from **Joel 2:28-32** prior to today’s passage. This is the promise he refers to in v.39. What promises from Joel become reality through Jesus and his disciples?

Read **Acts 2:21**. To whom is the message of salvation available? How did this seem to contradict what the Jewish people believed about their Messiah?

Read **Matthew 13:49-50 and 25:41 & 46**. What is the worst part about eternal death and hell? Are you of the opinion that people need to know there is a way out?

The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost to the followers of Christ, but what role does the Holy Spirit play in our salvation today? Read **John 16:8-11 & 13-14** and discuss.

Apply It:

The message of Salvation is for all people regardless of age, race, nationality and even religion. But people must hear the message, repent and believe in Jesus before they will be saved. How can you make sharing the truth with others a priority this week? How can you support the ministries of the church to spread the good news and love of Jesus Christ?

Pray:

Father thank you for sending your Spirit to us. We are grateful you have chosen us to be your image bearers to this world. We pray you will use us to further your Kingdom and share the good news. May those who enter our church doors on Sunday be “pricked in the heart” by the truth of your words as your Spirit guides them to repent and be saved. We pray this in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

April 22nd - BIG Tent Worship Service

May 13th - Mother’s Day: Baby Dedication, VillageKids Choir singing