

Warm Up

What would you consider to be humanity's greatest accomplishments over the last 2000 years?
Is there anything that connects them together?

Background and context

Historian Tom Holland suggests that Christianity has caused the greatest revolution in world history. Would you agree? Many of the things in western culture that we take for granted have come out of the Church. The abolition of slavery, education, hospitals, hospices, justice systems, equality of humanity, human rights. What we deem to be normal human behaviours such as compassion, honesty, care for the vulnerable, charity are born out of Christian values. It begs the question, if the church never existed, would the things listed above have ever developed? It is hard to imagine Christian values existing without Christian belief.



Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ Acts 2:22-47. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. v22-28, How does Peter indicate that Jesus is more than a good teacher? What does he clearly indicate about Him and people's role in His death?
2. v29-31. How does Peter identify Jesus as being different from other kings and prophets?
3. v32-36. What has happened to Christ and what has He done (on that day) that has changed everything?
4. v38. What was unique about Peter's 'altar call'
5. v41. What evidence is there that a new power (the Holy Spirit) was at work in the world?
6. v42-47. What evidence is there that the Holy Spirit was active in the new way in which the church lived? Why was this new way radical?
7. What would you say are the four 'pillars' of the early church? Where do you see these replicated at Victoria? What other similarities do you see with the early church?
8. How is Jesus using His power at Victoria Baptist Church to transform the community of Eastbourne?



Discipleship and Application

9. How is Jesus building His church through your life?
10. The word "together" appears three times in v44-46. How might this help you in deepening your understanding of how to live as part of the Church.



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.