

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 4, 2007

Passage: Acts 2:14-40

Memory Passage: Romans 10:13

**TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 2:14-16.** Who does Peter *primarily* address (verse 14)? What is surprising about *who* he addressed (Acts 2:5, 9-11)?
- (b) Why did he direct his message to those living in and around Jerusalem (Acts 2:22)? What does this tell us again about the importance of eyewitness testimony (Acts 1:3; Acts 1:21-22; Acts 2:32; Acts 26:26; Hebrews 2:3; 2 Peter 1:16)?
- (c) What did some of these men think was the explanation for the speaking of the disciples (Acts 2:13)? Has a person under the power of the Holy Spirit ever been accused of this before (1 Samuel 1:10-15)?
- (d) Where does Peter direct them with their question (Acts 2:16)? What did he not do in his response (2 Timothy 2:23-26)? Why is this important to remember in witnessing?
- (e) Why is his response always the best approach (Hebrews 4:16; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 2:14-16 and 2 Timothy 2:23-26. Talk about the way opportunities to witness often begin. How should we respond when someone makes a “*spiritual*” comment or a comment about spiritual things? How did Peter follow-up on the mocking comment? What can we learn about evangelism from his response? Pray for someone that makes fun of Christians.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 2:16-21.** This prophecy is from Joel 2:28-32. Read Joel 1. What is the context of the prophecy in chapter 2? What does Joel 3 refer to? How does Peter apply chapter 2 to the day of Pentecost?
- (b) What does he call the “last days” (Acts 2:17)? When are the “last days” (Hebrews 1:3; 2 Peter 3:3)? Are we living in those days (1 John 2:18)? How should we live then (Romans 13:11-14; 1 Peter 4:7-9; Hebrews 10:24-25)?
- (c) In Acts 2:17-18, how would you summarize one of the marks of this “age” (Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11; 1 Corinthians 12:13)?
- (d) What time period does Acts 2:19-20 belong to (Zephaniah 1:14-18; Matthew 24:29-31; Luke 21:25-28)? What does this tell you about the nature of biblical prophecy?
- (e) What will be the chief characteristic of these “last days” – the days between Acts 2:17-18 and Acts 2:19-20 (Romans 10:13; Acts 1:8)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 2:16-20 and Romans 13:11-14. Discuss the “last days.” What do most people think this refers to? What are they according to the Bible? Are we living in the last days? What is the one great responsibility that we have during these days? Pray that you will be sensitive to the need that others have to know the Lord.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 2:22-24.** How does Peter begin to refer to Jesus? Why is this an important beginning (1 Timothy 2:5-6)? What would be the problem if he was not a man?
- (b) What part of verse 22 refers to his deity? Consider these passages: Matthew 8:9; John 3:2; John 6:14; John 7:31; John 11:47-48; John 14:10-11; John 15:24; Hebrews 2:4). What do each of them tell you about how he was approved (attested) by God?
- (c) According to Acts 2:23, who was responsible for the death of Jesus (1 Peter 1:20; Ephesians 1:4)? Does this relieve men of their responsibility for their own sins (Acts 2:23; 3:13-14; 4:10; 5:30)?
- (d) Who is primarily responsible for the death of Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:21; Isaiah 53:5-6; 1 Corinthians 15:3; Romans 4:25)?
- (e) What additional and indisputable proof did God provide about Jesus according to Acts 2:24 (Romans 1:4 also)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 2:22-24 and Isaiah 53:5-6. What are the essential facts that we need to know about who Jesus was and what he did? How did God verify who he was? Was the death of Jesus an accident or a planned event? Who is responsible for the death of Jesus? Spend some time thanking God for sending His son to die for us.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 2:24-36.** What *biblical proof* does Peter offer about the resurrection in these verses? Why would that also be important? Why is personal testimony alone (or apart from Scripture) insufficient?
- (b) How does Peter combine his own eyewitness experience with the truth of scripture (Acts 2:32-33)?
- (c) What additional evidence did Peter offer about who Jesus is (and where he is now)? How could David not be the one he was speaking about (Acts 2:34-35; Matthew 22:42-45)?
- (d) What event is referred to in Acts 2:35 (1 Corinthians 15:23-25)? What conclusion did Peter reach in Acts 2:36?
- (e) *Family:* Read Acts 2:24-36 and Matthew 22:42-45. Talk about the importance of pointing people to the Word of God when we share the gospel. Why is this essential? How did Peter do it? Pray that your heart (and words) might be saturated with His Word.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 2:37-40.** What was the response of some of the listeners? Why did this happen to them (Hebrews 4:12-13; John 16:8-11)?
- (b) What question did they ask? What is our response to such a question (also Acts 16:29-31)? What is the connection between repentance and faith (Acts 20:21; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)? Can a person have one without the other?
- (c) What does Peter tell them to do as an outward evidence of their repentance and changed hearts? Is this important? Why or why not?
- (d) What two promises (in Acts 2:38) are for everyone who repents and trusts Jesus? In John 5:24, Jesus explains three things that happen whenever a person hears and believes. What are these three promises?
- (e) Who is this promise for, just the early believers or all people of all time? When a person comes to faith, is it merely because they believe or has something else happened first (Acts 2:39-40; Romans 8:30; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; Acts 13:48)? What do each of these verses say about both divine sovereignty and human responsibility?
- (f) *Family*: Read Acts 2:37-40 and Acts 16:29-31. Discuss the way people respond to the message of salvation. How can we know that those we share with have responded in faith? What should we tell them to do? Pray for some who have trusted Christ that they might be a testimony of His grace and mercy.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Acts 2:14-40. What is the message of the church? How are our testimony (our experience) and the truth of God's Word connected in evangelism? What is the importance of using the Word of God in evangelism? Why do we believe what we do about Jesus? What proof is there? How can we use this in sharing the gospel? Pray for the church, that the message of the gospel might be proclaimed by its people.

**DATE:** February 4, 2007

**PASSAGE:** Acts 2:14-40

***The Message of the Church***

*“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!”*