**JESUS CAN SAVE THE WORST OF SINNERS**

**Acts 2:14-41**

**THE BIG IDEA: No matter our past Jesus died and resurrected to make it possible for us to be reconciled to God through Him.**

**JESUS MAKES SALVATION AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO CALL ON HIS NAME**

* *“Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”* (Acts 2:21)
* **While many will reject the truth of the Gospel of Jesus, everyone has access to the grace and mercy of God if they respond to His call.**
* *“‘Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.’ 37 When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’”* (Acts 2:36-37)
* *“So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them.”* (Acts 2:41)
* **Regardless of your past sins and failures, Jesus gives you new life in Him and washes your sinful past away!**
* *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!”* (2 Corinthians 5:17)

**JESUS DID INDEED RESURRECT FROM THE DEAD AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD**

* *“‘God has raised this Jesus; we are all witnesses of this. 33 Therefore, since he has been exalted to the right hand of God and has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit, he has poured out what you both see and hear.”* (Acts 2:32-33)
* **No powers of hell, Satan, or man, could keep Jesus dead and in the tomb.**
* *“Jesus answered, ‘Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days.’20 Therefore the Jews said, ‘This temple took forty-six years to build, and will you raise it up in three days?’ 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body.”* (John 2:19-21)
* **In fulfillment of prophecy Jesus got up from the dead and walked out of that tomb like a Boss!**
* *“’Why are you looking for the living among the dead?’ asked the men. 6 ‘He is not here, but he has risen!’”* (Luke 24:5b-6a)
* **We don’t serve a dead Savior who lacked the power to do what He said He would do; we serve a risen King who defeated Satan, death, and the grave once and for all!**

**REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM SHOULD ACCOMPANY A GENUINE CONVERSION EXPERIENCE**

* *“Peter replied, ‘Repent 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. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’ 40 With many other words he testified and strongly urged them, saying, ‘Be saved from this corrupt generation!’ 41 So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them.”* (Acts 2:38-41)
* **Salvation is received through faith alone in Jesus Christ, but the demonstration of a genuine conversion is repentance, baptism, and ultimately the fruit of righteousness.**
* *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!”* (2 Corinthians 5:17)
* *“In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit.”* (Matthew 7:17)
* **True Christians will desire and pursue a life that lives in obedience and honor to God’s Word (Bible).**
* *“…faith, if it does not have works, is dead by itself.”* (James 2:17)
* Jesus - *“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and don’t do the things I say?”* Luke 6:46)
* **Baptism is our outward expression of our inward faith!**

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**ICE-BREAKER:** Aside from the Gospel, what is something you wish you could share/communicate with as many people as possible?

**START THINKING:**

* What do we learn about God/Jesus in Acts 2:14-41?
* Why does Peter quote the Old Testament?
* What is different about Peter in Acts 2 versus Peter at the cross?

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

* What impact should the knowledge that you are given the Holy Spirit to empower you to share Jesus with others have?
* What impact does Peter’s sermon have on you?
* What are the ongoing effects of Pentecost in your life?
* Consider areas you need to be more obedient to Christ in. Discuss as a group and pray for one another.

**FOCUS**

* What is your big takeaway from this message?
* Who are you inviting to Church next Sunday?