

Acts 2:37-42 – Called to be a Leader

Sunday, 17th May 2026

1. Who would be the best leader that you've experienced (it could be a teacher, a politician, someone you work(ed) with, someone in the church)?
 - What qualities did they have that made them a good leader?
 - Did they make mistakes?
 - What did you learn from them?

Read Acts 2:37-42

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'

³⁸ Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised, every one 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 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.'

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

The fellowship of the believers

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

2. Filled and enabled by the Holy Spirit, Peter and the Eleven began speaking to the crowd in Jerusalem:

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them – vs 4

Initially some thought they were drunk (vs 13), but in verse Acts 2:14:

Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd.

Our reading comes at the conclusion of Peter's address, when we read that the people were 'cut to the heart' vs 37.

- a. **What was the content of Peter's address – read Acts 2: 14-26.**
 - b. **What was the influencing factor in Peter's address?**
 - c. **Was this just a 'Pentecost' event or is the Holy Spirit a power source that will drive our mission today?**
 - d. **If the Holy Spirit is available, what is stopping us/you being filled or is it an unwanted 'gift' (vs 28) in our lives?**
- 3. In vs 37 the people 'said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'' Whilst Peter is the main character/spokesperson in our reading, the other disciples are fully engaged and a part of this outreach event.**
- a. **Peter, the spokesperson, is surrounded by the disciples. How do you support the outreach events in our church?**
 - b. **What activities and events are outreach events within our church programme – make a list?**
 - c. **Sunday, 31st May 2026 @ 3pm is our first Page Park Praise for this year. How can you support this event?**
 - d. **As well as 'corporate' outreach we are all involved in reaching out to, talking to, coming alongside people on our frontlines. Spend some moments sharing your 'frontline' experiences.**
- 4. Is there a Bible verse or passage which 'cuts you to the heart' (vs 37)?**
- 5. Vs 38 - ³⁸ Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Repent means to change direction / turn away from a sinful and godless way of life.**
- a. **How did your conversion change the direction of your life?**
 - b. **What activities/behaviour did you turn away from?**
 - c. **What did your 'new life' look like?**
 - d. **What does it look like now or have you turned back to your old ways?**

6. **At our point of conversion we are given ‘the gift of the Holy Spirit.’ - referring back to Q2c. What are some of the characteristics of the Holy Spirit? To help read the following verses:**

John 14:26 - *‘But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.’*

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 - *⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*

Galatians 5:22-25 - *²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

7. **Vs 39 – ‘the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off’. Whilst we are local, lively and loving, is there a place for a ministry to those ‘who are far off’? - we currently have nearly 6,000 followers on Facebook and on average about 750 people watch our worship on-line. Is this a worthwhile ministry? If so, how can we better support it?**
8. **For those of you with children how easy is it for you to hold on to the fact that ‘the promise is for you and your children.’? Do these verses from Philippians 1:6-7 offer some encouragement:** *⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.*
Spend some moments now or at the end of the group praying for family members.

9. **Vs 40** – ‘save yourselves from this corrupt generation’.
- Two thousand years ago the generation was corrupt. Is today’s generation corrupt?**
 - If so, in what ways?**
 - How can we protect each other from the corrupt generation in which we are living?**
10. **Vs 41** – ‘*about three thousand were added to their number that day*’. Many of those saved were visiting Jerusalem for the Passover Festival, and having been ‘saved’ returned home to the ‘diaspora’ – the scattered Israelites living away from Jerusalem.
- As mentioned we commence our 2026 Outreach events in Page Park in the next couple of weeks. Do you think that we could ‘save’ three thousand people?**
 - My guess is no, but why not? In Matthew 19:26 Jesus says, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’ In Matthew 17:20 Jesus says, ‘Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, “Move from here to there,” and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.’ What do you think now – could we ‘save three thousand people’ in Page Park?**
 - What would we need to do?**
11. **The last verse of our reading (vs 42) identifies four characteristics of the early church, which are:**
- Teaching**
 - Fellowship**
 - The sharing of food**
 - Prayer**

Spend some time thinking and talking about each characteristic and how we engage with these characteristics in our church. What can we do better / what can you do better?

12. **The Early Church left its comfort zone and went outside to announce the gospel of Jesus. How easy do we find it to leave our comfort zone for Jesus? Paul writes in Philipians 4:13, ‘I can do all things through him who strengthens me.’ Let us all take hold of this promise today!**