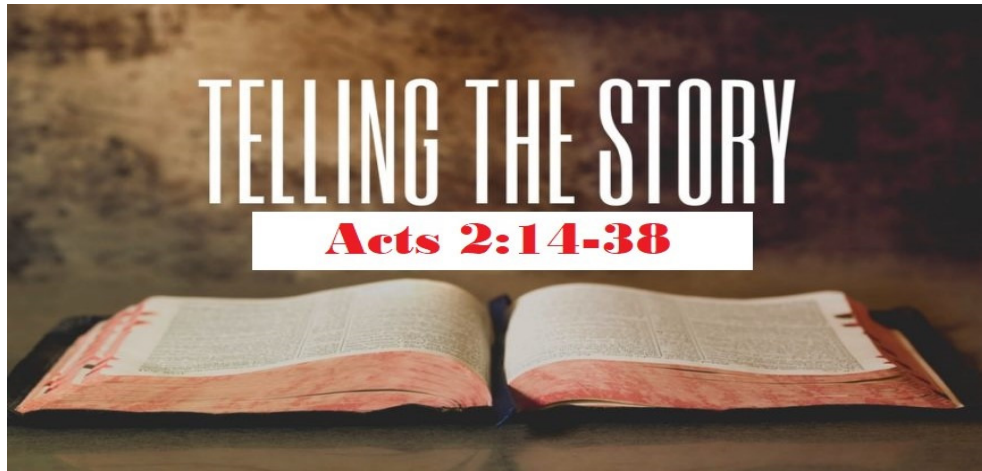




Week 1

These weekly studies are loosely based on the previous Sunday's sermon. If you missed it, you will find a recording on our website (www.knaphillbaptist.org.uk). They are designed for both Home Group discussion and/or personal reflection. Don't necessarily try to cover all the questions and discussion topics in your group at one sitting. You may like to think about them later in your own time.



This is the first in a series of studies in the early chapters of *The Acts of the Apostles*, tracing the ongoing story of the embryonic New Testament Church following on from the Day of Pentecost when they were all empowered with the Holy Spirit so that they could be effective witnesses taking the good news of the Gospel out from Jerusalem to the rest of the world (Acts 1:8). The Christian Life is an ongoing journey – both individually and corporately – involving growing in our discipleship, worship and witness. Here (Acts 2:14-38) we learn from the Apostle Peter about the how to make best use of the Bible in *Telling the Story* – the 'old, old story of Jesus and his love'.

Questions and Pointers for Discussion/Reflection

1. Preaching has been defined as: 'The proclamation of the Living Word, from the Written Word, through the Spoken Word!' What do you make of this? Does 'preaching' still have a place today? Why?
2. Look again at Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost. Note how he uses Scripture to support the various points he is trying to make. How exactly does he use Scripture? What can we learn from this?
3. 'The Bible is a book of stories, not a book of rules and regulations!' Do you agree with this statement? Why do you agree/disagree?
4. In what sense is the Bible 'a book of stories'? How do the various stories we find in the Bible fit into God's 'big story'? How do our own 'little stories' fit into God's 'big story'?
5. How does Peter begin his sermon (vs.14-16)? What can we learn from this about buying up the opportunities that come our way? Why is it better to respond to people's questions that force the issue when it comes to sharing the Gospel?
6. Why does Peter begin his exposition of the Gospel with reference to Joel 2:28-32? Is there a deeper meaning than just the obvious? If it is true that 'the holy Spirit makes *real* in our experience all that Jesus made *possible* for us' what can we do (if anything) to ensure people really do encounter God in personal experience?
7. Some Christians make a lot about the fact that (in their opinion) we are currently living in the Last Days. What can we learn from Peter here about the 'last days' (v.17)? When did the Last Days begin?
8. How do you interpret the meaning behind Peter's words in vs.17-21? Have all the signs signifying the time of the Lord's Return been fulfilled ... or are there others we still need to see?
9. At the heart of Peter's sermon is the story of Jesus. What does Peter have to say here about Jesus? Who he is? What he has done? Why does Jesus (not moralising) have to be at the heart of our message? See Acts 4:12; John 14:6; etc.
10. Peter quotes extensively from the Psalms (Psalm 16 and Psalm 110) in this sermon (vs.25-28, 34,35). What do we learn about Jesus from these Psalms Peter quotes? Why do people still find the Psalms so helpful today?

What was the response to Peter's sermon (vs.37,38)? What is the link between being 'cut to the heart', 'doing' something, 'repenting and being baptised' and 'receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit'?