Pastor Jake Magee
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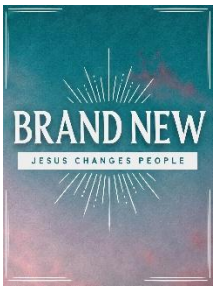

Brand New
Acts 2:14-47

New Life
Christ Brings Us Out of the Grave

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who
dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you…**36** Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that
God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” **37** Now when they heard this
they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”
38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized 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** For the promise is for you and
for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” **40** And with
many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this
crooked generation.” **41** So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day
about three thousand souls.

New Family
Christ Brings Us into His Family

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and
the prayers. **43** And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through
the apostles. **44** And all who believed were together and had all things in common. **45** And they were selling
their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. **46** And day by
day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad
and generous hearts, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their
number day by day those who were being saved.

Reach • Connect • Grow • Send

Small Group Study Guide | Acts 2:36–47

Getting Started – What is something you've joined or become a member of that turned out to involve much more than you originally expected?

The Big Idea – Through Jesus Christ, God gives us new life and brings us into a new family. Baptism celebrates the transforming work of Christ in rescuing us from sin and death, while membership in his church expresses our commitment to a community of believers who worship, grow, serve, and care for one another.

Part 1: New Life | Acts 2:36–41

Read Acts 2:36–41

1. Peter's listeners were "cut to the heart" when they heard they had crucified the Messiah (vv. 36–37). Discuss why they were “cut to the heart.” What were some of the characteristics of their conviction for sin that is instructive for us?

2. Peter's first command was to "repent" (v. 38). Biblical repentance is more than simply changing behavior or trying to become a better person. Where is the command to change really focused, and why is this more threatening than being told to change our behavior?

3. Baptism pictures both death and resurrection (see Romans 6:3–4). What does this picture communicate about the seriousness of our sin and our inability to change/save ourselves? What does it reveal about what Jesus has accomplished for us?

4. According to verses 38–41, what is the relationship between repentance, faith in Christ, and baptism? Why is baptism such a fitting public declaration of what Christ has done in a believer's life?

Part 2: New Family | Acts 2:42–47

Read Acts 2:42–47

5. Verse 41 tells us that about 3,000 people were "added" to the church. What does this suggest about the relationship between becoming a Christian and belonging to a local church? Why might someone desire a relationship with Jesus but resist a meaningful commitment to his church?

6. Verse 42 describes four things to which the early believers devoted themselves. What are they? What is the difference between occasionally participating in these activities and being *devoted* to them? Which of these commitments is most easily neglected in our lives today?

7. Verses 44–45 describe believers sharing their possessions and caring for one another's needs. What does this reveal about how they understood their responsibility to one another? How should belonging to a church change the way we think about our time, money, possessions, and personal priorities?

8. The early Christians shared life together both in the temple and in their homes (v. 46). What kinds of relationships and spiritual growth become possible when Christians share ordinary life together rather than simply attend the same worship service? What might prevent us from developing those relationships?

9. Verse 47 describes a church characterized by joy, generosity, worship, and favor with others. How might the quality of our relationships within the church affect our witness to those outside it? What would someone observing our church conclude about Jesus from the way we treat one another?

Making It Real – Baptism declares that we belong to Christ, and church membership expresses our commitment to his people. What is one practical step you could take to deepen your commitment to Christ and your connection with his church? Consider someone you could encourage, serve, invite into your home, or get to know more personally.