



**SPIRIT,
LEAD ME**

**LIFE GROUP
MATERIAL**

Bracken Ridge
BAPTIST CHURCH

outpouring



UNLEASHED
WITH
HOLY
SPIRIT
POWER

What happens when the power of the One who created the universe gets placed inside a group of people? What transpires when the power of the One who raised the dead to life fills a church? How does the world react when the power of the King of kings and Lord of lords comes and rests upon common men and women? This is what we see in Acts, chapter 2. As you go through this 5-session group study, you will be transported to the first days of the Church of Jesus Christ and witness their ignition and unleashing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, who was promised by Jesus, is not only for those first believers, but is promised to all who would call on the name of Jesus for salvation.

Accessing The Material

On the following pages you will find all of the information needed to go through The Spirit Lead Me Life Group Material. There are corresponding videos that can be accessed through our "RightNow Media" account with the church. If you don't have an account, simply go to rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/BrackenRidgeBaptistChurch. After creating an account simply search "Outpouring" to access the 5 weeks.

rightnow MEDIA

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session 1

EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT (ACTS 2:1-4)



It is estimated that nearly 2.5 billion people on earth describe themselves as Christians. That's right, 2.5 billion people claim to follow Jesus. For this study, we will rewind to the start, where we observe a small group of believers in Jerusalem gathering together in prayer (Acts 1:12-15). Let me set the scene: after Jesus' resurrection and before He ascended to heaven, Jesus met with His disciples in an intimate gathering. He instructed them to wait and stay in Jerusalem until the coming of the Holy Spirit. So there they were, in Jerusalem, prayerfully expecting the Holy Spirit.

I remember being on a small boat off the coast of Cape Town, South Africa, within False Bay. Our guides were a fun loving, sun-kissed, husband and wife duo who loved being out on the ocean. So, in that moment when the captain looked directly at me with an intense stare, I knew something serious was about to happen. As his wife was attaching a black buoy to the back of the boat, he said, "Lock your eyes on that buoy and DO NOT take them off of it. If you look away, you will miss it." In response to the authority of his words, I stared at the buoy with intensity and as we began to tow it behind the boat. The water's surface was still; the only movement was the small white stream from the wake of our boat. When out of nowhere, the water exploded, and a monster from the depths emerged. Violently and powerfully, the buoy shot into the air. And there it was, having fully breached, a colossal great white shark was flying through the air 25 feet from our small boat, rows of razor-sharp teeth on display and whipping its impressive tail through the air. It was the most awesome thing I have ever seen.

Now, back to the small group of believers in Jerusalem. Before Jesus left, He looked at them and told them to prayerfully watch for the Holy Spirit. While Jesus' followers did not fully understand what this meant or what they should be looking for, they knew the power of their resurrected Savior, and they were expectant.

As we begin this study on Acts 2, we will see:

- How Jesus delivers on his promise
- How the Holy Spirit erupts on the scene, unleashing the believers with Holy Spirit power.
- How this power available to anyone who places their faith in Jesus.

Now Watch "Session 1: Empowered by the Spirit" found at crosslinechurch.com/outpouring

READ: Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

DISCUSS:

1. How do you feel when someone makes you a promise and keeps it?
2. Acts 2 describes God fulfilling His promise. Read the following Scriptures and discuss the big picture of God's promise fulfilled in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost.

Joel 2:28-29: *And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.*

Matthew 3:11: *I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the*

Holy Spirit and fire.

John 7:37-39: *On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

Acts 1:4-5, 8: *On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."... ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

3. After Jesus was resurrected and ascended to heaven, the disciples gathered together for prayer and waited to fulfill God's promise (Acts 1:8-14). On the day of Pentecost, a Jewish festival, God fulfilled His promise, and the disciples were all filled with the Holy Spirit. What do you think it means to be filled with the Spirit? (Use the following verses as a reference: Acts 4:31, Ephesians 5:18-21, Romans 8:5-16)

4. What do you think are the pre-conditions necessary for a person to be filled with the Spirit?

5. Jesus promised that if we were thirsty and came to Him to drink, then our lives would overflow with the living water of the Spirit. Jesus also promised that if we asked the Father for the Holy Spirit, the Father would give us His Spirit. How can you practically live out these promises in your daily life?

6. The following prayer represents a heart desire. What

do you think would happen if you regularly prayed this prayer in faith?

"Jesus, to the best of my knowledge, I surrender my life to You. Would You please fill me with Your Holy Spirit? Take control of my life and empower me to serve You. As I come to You and drink, I ask You to fulfill Your promise and fill me with Your Spirit. In Jesus' name, amen."

APPLY:

In response to what you saw, read and discussed today,

Write out some areas of your life in which you would like to experience more of the Holy Spirit's power and pray it back to Him.



session 2

ACTIVATED TO ACTION (ACTS 2:5-14)

“Is it plugged in and turned on?” There is a reason that technical support representatives ask that question first. The fact is, far more electronics are “fixed” by simply plugging them in and turning them on than we’d like to believe. How often the human race forgets the most foundational need for an electronic device to work properly: a power source.

It may be funny to think about, but hey Church, are we so much different?

We first meet Peter on the shores of the sea of Galilee and we have no context for who this man is—only that he is a fisherman and has a brother named Andrew. However, as the story unfolds, seen in each of the four Gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), we learn a lot more about Peter. We see that Peter is a simple and impulsive Jewish man. He is wildly curious and confident (at times over-confident). We observe some of his victories and some of his failures. Most importantly, we see that he was closely connected to Jesus. When we reach Acts 2, and the coming of the Holy Spirit, something remarkably significant happens. Peter, this humble fisherman, aware of his shortcomings, is filled with the Spirit and sets sail on a whole new chapter of his adventure with Jesus. In his service to Jesus, he experiences things he could never have dreamed. Yet, Jesus knew his story all the way back on the shores of the sea of Galilee.

God has a magnificent plan for you. When we are surrendered to the authority of Jesus and living under the influence of His Spirit, we can be assured that the things He has done in your life and the things He is doing right now are all contributing to a grand story that will bring Him glory. So, when you feel His nudging and prompting,

don't overthink it, but rather lean in and trust that He is activating you into another chapter of your magnificent God-story.

Now Watch "Session 2: Activated to Action" found at crosslinechurch.com/outpouring

READ: Acts 2:5-14

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." ¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

DISCUSS

1. If you were to hear a loud commotion and see a crowd quickly gathering, what would your response be?

2. On the day of Pentecost, Jesus kept His promise and filled the Apostles with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:1-11); having been filled with the Holy Spirit, what were the disciples enabled to do?

3. Read Acts 2:12-13. What was the response of the crowd who observed the Apostles' behavior and heard their message?

4. In Acts 2:1-13, the gift of tongues was the supernatural enablement to speak the gospel in a previously unlearned language. This phenomenon created a "divine appointment" with the gathered crowd. What was Peter's response? Why do you think Peter stepped into this situation with bold initiative?

5. Peter was filled with the Spirit. When we are filled with the Spirit, we are activated to step into divine appointments and opportunities to serve Christ and share His message. Read up the following verses and discuss how they explain the Spirit's role in activating believers for these types of divine opportunities:

Luke 12:11-12: *"When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, ¹² for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."*

Mark 13:11: *Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.*

6. Because of their devotion to prayer and the filling of the Spirit, the Apostles were activated. Take note of the sequence of events: Acts 1:8, Acts 1:12-14, Acts 2:4, Acts 2:12-14. What role do you think intentional and specific prayer plays in activating a believer to action?

7. Read Colossians 4:2-6; what does this passage say about being activated to action and seizing divine appointments?

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

8. Based on this study, what is your takeaway? How should you be devoted to prayer to be activated by the Spirit for divine appointments?

APPLY:

In response to what you saw, read and discussed today,

As a group, ask the Lord to miraculously orchestrate divine opportunities in your lives this week and pray for boldness from the Holy Spirit for when those moments come.

session 3

INFLUENCED TO RESPOND (ACTS 2:38-41)



Every one of us is different and we make decisions in different ways. That is the beauty of how God created us. We are not a bunch of clones. However, psychology defines three primary motivations that drive decision-making within people and each one of us gives varying levels of weight to those motivations. Although they can be defined using an assortment of terms, those three motivations are logic, feelings, and intuition. So, in deciding what to have for dinner tonight, a logical person will think through things like what they had earlier in the week and what activities they will be doing in the morning and the amount of time they will have to prepare it and make a decision. A feelings oriented person will think through who they are having dinner with, what they may enjoy, and the mood that can be set by particular types of food and make their decision based on the experience of dinner. An intuitive person will make a quick decision based on what intuitively sounds good to them, not overthinking it. How would you say you make decisions?

Transitioning to how this relates to the Holy Spirit, we can take a look at Acts 2 once again. Last week, we saw how Peter stood up amongst the crowds of people and was activated by the Holy Spirit to share the good news of Jesus. We also read verses in our group discussion that shared about how the Holy Spirit will speak for us in those divine appointment moments. It is important to recognize something amazing about the Holy Spirit's words through Peter in Acts 2:14-36. What we recognize is that in a matter of a short speech, the Holy Spirit speaks to all the people—the logical people, the feelings people and the intuitive people. He leaves people without excuse and what we will explore in today's session is the miraculous response to those words. We will talk about the work of the Holy Spirit in drawing people to Jesus. Whereas there are moments when we meet people and more specifically share the

good news through the lens of logic (Acts 8:26-35) or feelings (John 4:7-26) or intuition (Acts 10:24-46), the Lord had a bigger, more sweeping work to be done with these listeners in Jerusalem.

Now Watch "Session 3: Influenced to Respond" found at crosslinechurch.com/outpouring

READ: Acts 2:14-41

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

"In the last days, God says,

*I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.*

¹⁸ *Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.*

¹⁹ *I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.*

²⁰ *The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.*

²¹ *And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'*

²² *"Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders*

and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵ David said about him: "I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.

²⁶ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest in hope,

²⁷ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,

you will not let your holy one see decay.

²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.'

²⁹ "Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. ³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. ³⁴ For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

"The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand

³⁵ until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet."

³⁶ "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

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 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 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 baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

DISCUSS:

1. It has been said that "Information with no action is just information, but information plus action is transformation!" The previous statement is valid with the gospel of Jesus Christ. There is both information and action. In Acts 2, the Apostle Peter preaches the gospel in response to the phenomena of Pentecost. What are the responsive actions Peter is calling upon his audience to make?

2. In Peter's action-oriented appeal, he makes some promises to those who respond. According to Acts 2:38-41, what gospel promises do you observe? Why do you think it is essential to know what God promises to you if you obey the gospel?

3. Peter calls for an action response based upon the information he communicated in Acts 2:22-37. Discuss what information you think is critical to understand to respond to the gospel. What gospel facts does Peter highlight in this passage?

4. An often used informative-action presentation of the gospel is called "The Romans Road." Each of the Scriptures in this plan of salvation comes from the book of Romans. Based on the following verses, what information needs to be believed and what action needs to be taken?

Romans 3:23: *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

Romans 6:23: *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 4:24: But also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

Romans 10:9: *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

5. In Acts 2:22-37, Peter presents Jesus as the crucified Lord God raised from the dead. Jesus' death paid for our sins, and His resurrection vindicates His identity and authority as the Lord of life. Why do you think it is not enough to know these facts to have a saving relationship with God? Why must a person respond with an Acts 2:38-41 commitment?

6. If you have made an Acts 2:38-41 action response to Jesus, briefly share your story with the group.

7. If you have never acted upon the information of the gospel, then the following is a suggested heartfelt prayer of repentance and acceptance of Christ.

“Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God and resurrected Lord. I believe You died for my sins to forgive me and make me right with God. Lord, I repent and turn to You. Please forgive my sins, come into my heart and be the Lord of my life. Thank You for hearing my prayer and giving me the gift of salvation. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

APPLY:

In response to what you saw, read and discussed today,

Take time this week to personally write out the gospel of Jesus in a way that speaks to you and share it with someone close to you. Feel free to use the “Romans Road” explanation of the gospel in the back of this book to help you.

***If you sincerely prayed a prayer of repentance in this session and invited Jesus to be the Lord of your life, then Jesus has forgiven your sins and has come into your heart. We would love to be aware of that and support you in your journey! Please let your group host know! Your next step is to go public and be baptized as one of His followers.

session 4

UNITED TO WORSHIP (ACTS 2:42-46)



Somewhere in Colorado around the turn of the century, a group of people began a conversation about an outrageous idea: a non-stop 200 mile relay-run. That idea turned into an internationally known race series called the Ragnar Relay and it happens around the nation and around the world. One could argue that its success has to do with the concept of it, the locations or the even the clever marketing, but my confident belief is that it is due to the team nature of the event. It's an amazing experience to do with your friends. Long distances, no sleep, and smelly vans cannot overpower a unified purpose.

Groups of people will do tremendous things when they are dedicated to the same goal. After all the effort and exertion and perseverance, they cross the finish line together. The victory is a collective one. This is the desire of Jesus for His Church and His Holy Spirit will work to this end. In Acts 2:42-46, following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and thousands turning to Jesus for salvation, we can see the impact of the Holy Spirit on a community of people and it is nothing short of astonishing. It is made astonishing not because a bunch of people are trying to be unified, but rather it is astonishing because the Holy Spirit is unifying them. This love within a Spirit-filled community can be observed by the world and is a testimony to the Lordship of Christ. (John 13:35, 17:23).

We are unified in our worship of the Lord. Let's run the race and cross the finish line together.

Now Watch "Session 4: United to Worship" found at crosslinechurch.com/outpouring

READ: Acts 2:42-47a

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and

to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

DISCUSS:

1. In Acts 2:42-47, what are the experiences that the whole church shares together?
2. The first church consisted of the original apostles, the prayer group from Acts 1 and all the people who responded to Peter's gospel message on the day of Pentecost. Each person in the gathered community experienced the fulfillment of the promise in Acts 1:4-8 and responded with the response of Acts 2:38-41. What do you think is the relationship between transformed individuals and a transformed church?
3. The hallmark of the first church community was their unity in seeking the Lord. Read Jesus' prayer in John 17:20-26. In what specific ways was Jesus' prayer answered in the first church?

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we

are one—²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.²⁴ “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.²⁵ “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

4. Do you think local churches today should strive after the reality of the early church’s experience in Acts 2? How do you think a church should pursue being united in seeking the Lord in worship?

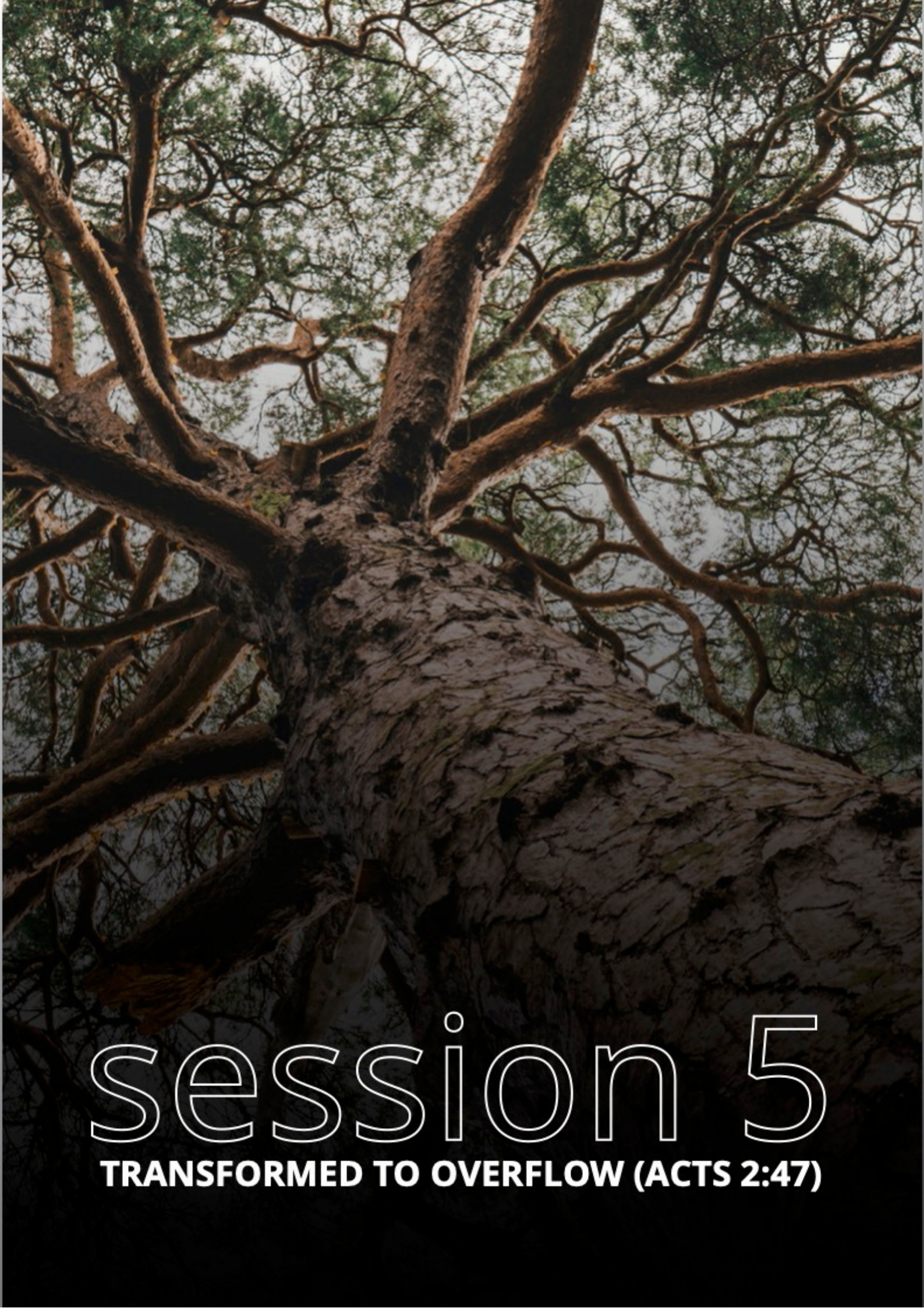
5. Remember, transformed people experience transformed community. What kind of spiritual transformation do you need to experience to contribute to a united and dynamic church?

6. The Holy Spirit changes our lives when we respond to the gospel (Acts 1:4-8, 2:38-41). What will you ask the Holy Spirit to do in your life to help bring about unity of worship in your church?

APPLY:

In response to what you saw, read and discussed today.

This week, find a need that one of your brothers or sisters in Christ has and be intentional to fulfill that need, in worship to Christ.



session 5

TRANSFORMED TO OVERFLOW (ACTS 2:47)

Not one of us reading this book right now has lived without modern media. Today, information can span the globe in a matter of minutes through the Internet. The information can be important world news or silly cat videos. The fact is that it doesn't really matter-- if it is put through the right channels, it will instantly travel far.

However, in the 1st century, news didn't spread like that. It was simply one person telling another and then that person telling another and so forth. Yet, for news to make it beyond the immediate vicinity, it had to be something truly compelling, of immense importance, or outlandish. It's within this context that we must understand the story of Acts 2. The Holy Spirit was intentionally and miraculously working things out for the message to spread wide. The coming of the Holy Spirit comes at a time when many Jews from throughout the world were gathered in Jerusalem for the festival of Pentecost. Furthermore, the miracle that happens involves the wonders of God being declared in many languages.

So, when the three thousand were added that day and Spirit-filled communities surged onto the scene, it was a recipe, concocted by the Spirit, for revival.

Now Watch "Session 5: Transformed to Overflow" found at crosslinechurch.com/outpouring

READ: Acts 2:47b

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

DISCUSS:

1. According to Acts 2:47, what was the result of believers gathering together?
2. An accepted truth is that healthy things grow. Healthy relationships, healthy organizations, and healthy churches all grow and overflow. Going back to Acts 2:42-47, discuss the signs of church health that lead to overflow.
3. Transformation is both God's part and our part. What role can you play to facilitate your church being a transformed community that overflows?
4. What does it mean to be contagious? In light of that, when you consider that God was adding people who were being saved to the new church, what can you infer about the relationships between believers and the new people being added?
5. God's part is to "add". Our part is to live a transformed life in a healthy church. How can you and your church be a witness for Christ in the world (Acts 1:8)? How can you "overflow" in your neighborhood, workplace, and community?
6. Take a moment before you wrap up discussion to dialogue about how you, as a group, want to be transformed to overflow. Talk about how you want to be a contagious community of believers. Then pray and invite the Holy Spirit to partner with you in seeing these desires fulfilled.

APPLY:

In response to what you saw, read and discussed today:

Who is one person with whom you want to be intentional about sharing what you have learned from this study? Write out there name here...

I want to share with: _____

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