



Growth Group Questions

June 15, 2025

“Let Me Explain”

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:14-28

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. 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:

¹⁷ “‘In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your 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.’

Joel 2:32

³² And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

Numbers 11:29

²⁹ But Moses replied, “Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the LORD’s people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!”

Joel 2:28-29

²⁸ “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.

Psalms 16:11

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Walter Brueggemann, *Reality, Grief, Hope: Three Urgent Prophetic Tasks*

“The prophetic tasks of the church are to tell the truth in a society that lives in illusion, grieve in a society that practices denial, and express hope in a society that lives in despair.”

QUESTIONS:

1. Pastor Paul began his sermon by talking about Simon Sinek’s book *Start with Why* which has as its basic tenet that it’s not about “what” you do that is important, it’s about “why” you do it. How do you think this philosophy might translate into your daily life as a Christian?
2. What was the overall message of Peter’s sermon in Acts 2:14-18?

3. What is the significance of Peter using Old Testament scripture in his sermon?
4. How did Peter apply the prophesy in Joel 2:28-32 to the events of Pentecost?
5. Peter was speaking to an audience of Jewish people many of whom might have interacted personally with Jesus, but many might only have heard about Him. What do you think the reaction of the crowd to Peter's sermon might have been?
6. Carefully read through Psalm 16:11. Restate this scripture passage in your own words. How does this passage help you to better understand the "why" of your faith in Jesus?

PASTOR PAUL'S SERMON QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe or articulate the "why" of why you follow Jesus?
2. Which of these three do you need to focus on this week? Telling the truth in a society that lives in illusion, grieving in a society that practices denial, or expressing hope in a society that lives in despair?