



## Beacon Church Connect Groups Application: week commencing 6 May 2018

### This is That!!

On Sunday we considered the start of Peter's first sermon following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts chapter 2, 14-21. Peter addressed a crowd of over 3,000. He sought to explain to them what was happening and made reference to Joel's prophecy in the Old Testament (Joel 2, 28-32) to explain what was happening. The main difference between the 2 passages is that Joel refers to an event in the future, whereas Peter, along with the other New testament writers, says that the signs of the age of God's rule (the Messianic Age of peace and redemption) are evidence that that time has come. It is the time between Jesus' first and second appearance; i.e. it is the time we are in now so we are part of it. This age is characterised as a time of abundance. As John Stott says: *The whole Messianic era which stretches between the two comings of Christ, is the age of the spirit in which his ministry is one of abundance.*"

### Now as then!

The Spirit has been poured out like a tropical rain storm; no need to wait for more; We have an abundant God who has shown:

- Generosity of the gift of Spirit – A downpour!
- Its final – not gathered back in or withdrawn
- Its universal: It is poured out over all people male and female, young and old, servants and masters. But don't put the umbrella up!

We might not all be prophets but we should all be prophetic and listen to what Jesus says out of love for us.

Phil Wilthew in his book "Developing Prophetic Culture", lists 3 categories of prophecy that are available to us:

- ① Seeing: pictures, dreams, visions, trances, objects
- ② Feeling: Impressions, burdens, intuition, perception, bodily reactions, bible verses, prayer
- ③ Hearing: Actual words – audible and internal, Angels, Preaching/teaching

### **The Challenge**

Young people: See visions!

Older people: Dream dreams!

**Suggested questions – None!** But practice activating the prophetic among you by listening to Holy Spirit and Jesus. Share what you receive with others in the group in a way that will encourage and bless. It can be for individuals or situations. Use the categories above to guide you.

A few tips: You could start in pairs rather than whole group and gain inspiration from articles or pictures in the room or on people, use songs or music, prayer, bible verses, draw pictures, visualize something in someone's house, and generally be creative about how you see, feel and hear what Jesus is doing through you for each other.

Have a great evening.

Keith