

FAITH 5 with Flat Jesus!

The week of Sunday, July 16, 2017

SHARE – Share at least One High and One Low from the day or the week.

READ – Acts 2: 36-47

³⁶ Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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TALK – How does this story relate to your highs and lows, and your own walk of faith?

A little background info: After the Holy Spirit fills the believers and they begin speaking in the languages of the Greco-Roman world, Peter, the humble, uneducated fisherman from Galilee preaches to the crowd about the Good News of Jesus Christ for all whom God calls (including Gentiles)!

Being/becoming a Christian (loving God) is a matter of the heart, mind, body, and soul (Luke 10: 27).

- v. 37 – “they were cut to the heart”
- v. 38 – “repent (*metanoia* = change your *minds*/change your *thinking*)”
- v. 38 – “be Baptized” = body washed in water
- v. 38 – “receive the Holy Spirit”

Baptism is not just a one-time event, but a daily way of life, growing in faith through a community of faith.



Some questions to consider as appropriate (some basic, some complex):

What did the newly Baptized do to continue to grow in their faith in Jesus Christ?

Where did they practice and learn these new faith habits?

How were their practices similar, or different than your own?

What faith practices did the people in the early church do, that you'd like to start doing?

As you think about your own faith, what do you think you need to start doing to help you grow deeper in faith?

- Learn more about the Bible and the beliefs and practices of the Church
- Get connected with other Christians for fellowship and building friendships with others at church
- Go to worship more often, with a worshipful attitude
- Learn how to go deeper in my prayer life; learn new ways to pray
- Become a glad and generous giver at church and in the community
- Be more intentional of practicing the faith at home with my family
- Share what I have and serve others
- Other? _____

What do you think it means to live your Baptism in your daily life?

PRAY – You can hold hands or fold your hands when you pray together...

Thank God for the Highs you shared with each other.

Ask God for whatever kind of help and support you need for the Lows you shared with each other.

If you want, you can pray the Lord's Prayer together.

BLESS – Mark each other with the sign of the Cross on the forehead and say this, or some other blessing you may think of:

“God cares about you and is always there to listen and help.”