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Bold Allegiance

Acts 2:22-36

My parents met and married in San Diego in 1969, the year the Padres were founded as a Major League Baseball team. They caught the spirit of the team from the beginning and haven't looked back. Their loyalty keeps them attending games now well into their retirement—still decked out in their Padres shirts, boldly letting the world know whose side they're on no matter the odds against them. In this study we will reflect on the beginning of something much greater. We'll be invited to radical devotion and bold allegiance to One who is supremely worthy. And unlike our favorite sports teams, this One will never disappoint us.

Group Discussion. How do you publically demonstrate your association with a favorite team or organization?

personal reflection. What are you most deeply devoted to? How do you act on this devotion?

On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came with great power on the disciples of the risen and ascended Jesus. In response to the confusion and outright mockery of those who observed, Peter boldly testified that the promises of God had been fulfilled. *Read Acts 2:22-36.*

1. If you had been in the crowd of Israelites that day, what overall effect do you think Peter's speech would have had on you?

2. What serious accusation does Peter bring against the gathered Israelites (vv. 22-23)?

3. Why was it "impossible" for Jesus to be held in the power of death (vv. 24-28)?

4. What Scriptures does Peter base his message on (vv. 25-28, 34-35)?

5. What central point does Peter make by quoting these particular Scriptures (vv. 29-31, 34-36)?

6. In verse 32 Peter describes himself and the other apostles as "witnesses" of the risen Jesus. What does it mean to be a witness?

7. How are you also a witness to the risen Lord?

8. After he was raised, Jesus was exalted to the right hand of the Father. What gift did he receive from the Father that he graciously passed along to his people (v. 33)?

9. How has this gift helped you as a follower of Jesus?

10. Why does Peter insist that Jesus is “both Lord and Messiah” (v. 36)?

11. What difference does Jesus’ exaltation as the true Lord of all make in your own life?

12. How does your allegiance to Jesus as King, like Peter, give you confidence to bear witness to him?

Give thanks to God for forming a community of faithful witnesses who declare their allegiance to the true Lord and King of all. Ask God to strengthen you to be part of that faithful community so that you may boldly testify to the risen Christ everywhere you go.

Now or Later

Reflect prayerfully on Psalm 16 and Psalm 110. What does each of them teach about the faithful rule of God? How do they help you understand what it means to live as a subject of God’ s kingdom in Christ?