




Pentecost in every city

CALVARY *to* **PENTECOST**

On the journey
with Jesus to
see **Pentecost**
in **every city.**




ACTS 1: 1-11

In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 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. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 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." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."



'During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.' Acts 1:3

We've just celebrated Easter ... the most significant event in our Christian calendar. It's the critical element that sets Jesus and our faith in him apart from all other religions. Jesus is alive and invites us to take part in seeing God's vision fulfilled: **'the earth being filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, just as the waters cover the sea.'** (Habakkuk 2:14)

It was early Sunday morning when Jesus rose from the dead. Just 3 days before hand the disciples had watched him die a brutal death as he hung from a cross. Jesus was dead,

Joseph and Nicodemus, both prestigious men, perhaps even secret believers, secured the release of his body from the authorities and made sure that he was respectfully and appropriately buried. For the eleven disciples and the community around them Sunday started out as a dark and hopeless day as they mourned the loss of their beloved Rabi. But that same morning some of the women went to Jesus' tomb to care for the body. They were totally astounded to meet Jesus, now risen from the dead. The first bearers of good news, they ran to tell the other disciples what they had seen. Jesus

had risen, everything was turned upside down. This was the game changer, it is the very core of our faith. Amazingly, Jesus didn't head off to present himself to the authorities or the crowds who had yelled "crucify him!" a few days earlier. Instead, his priority was to reveal himself to his disciples, explain to them the scriptures and talk with them about the Kingdom of God. Encounters and conversations between the now resurrected Jesus and the disciples continued for 40 days. He walked with them, ate food with them, helped them catch fish, looked at scripture with them, re-instated them after

their personal failure and recharged their spirits with his vision and mandate to... **'Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'** (Matt 28:19- 20)

For 6 weeks Jesus had been pouring into his disciples. Then he ascended to be seated at the right hand of the Father. The disciples at first were left staring up at the sky, trying to get

their heads around what just happened. But they had encountered Jesus in his risen form and been commissioned by him. Now they were to wait for the promised Holy Spirit, it was time for the church to be birthed. The day of Pentecost came and Jesus' disciple-making movement burst into action.

Over the 50 days between Resurrection Sunday and Pentecost, like the first disciples we too want to take a walk through scripture, looking at the Kingdom of God and allowing God to speak. As we do this we'll be relying simply on the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to bring revelation and fresh vision.

We are excited, and expecting God to do significant things, as we set aside this seven weeks to delve into God's word. Just as Jesus spent time with his first disciples explaining the scriptures and speaking about the kingdom of God before the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost, we too need to be prepared by the Word of God and the Spirit of God to see the Holy Spirit explode onto the scene both in our discipling communities, and the harvest we are wanting to reach.

This book is a guide for you to use as a team while focused on 'Praying for 8'. We encourage you to focus on and pray for the 8 capital cities of our nation. We have prepared a very simple and flexible guided process for you.

You could either do this individually or with a team to engage in prayer and scripture over the 7 weeks between Resurrection Sunday and Pentecost. With a few scriptures to look at each week and some discovery questions, give space for God to speak to you and challenge you.

Our prayer is that God will speak, prepare our hearts, lead by his Spirit, and empower us as we look at how we can reach our cities, to make disciples who multiply, throughout the cities, regions and into all the earth.

Let's go ...

THE VISION for 2024

A Focus on Cities

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THE CHALLENGE

Around 80% of the Australian population live in cities, so reaching these cities is vital if we are to see a saturation vision. That's over 17 million people in our

8 Australian capital cities, and that's why our focus for this season from Calvary to Pentecost (31st March till the 19th May) is to 'pray for 8'

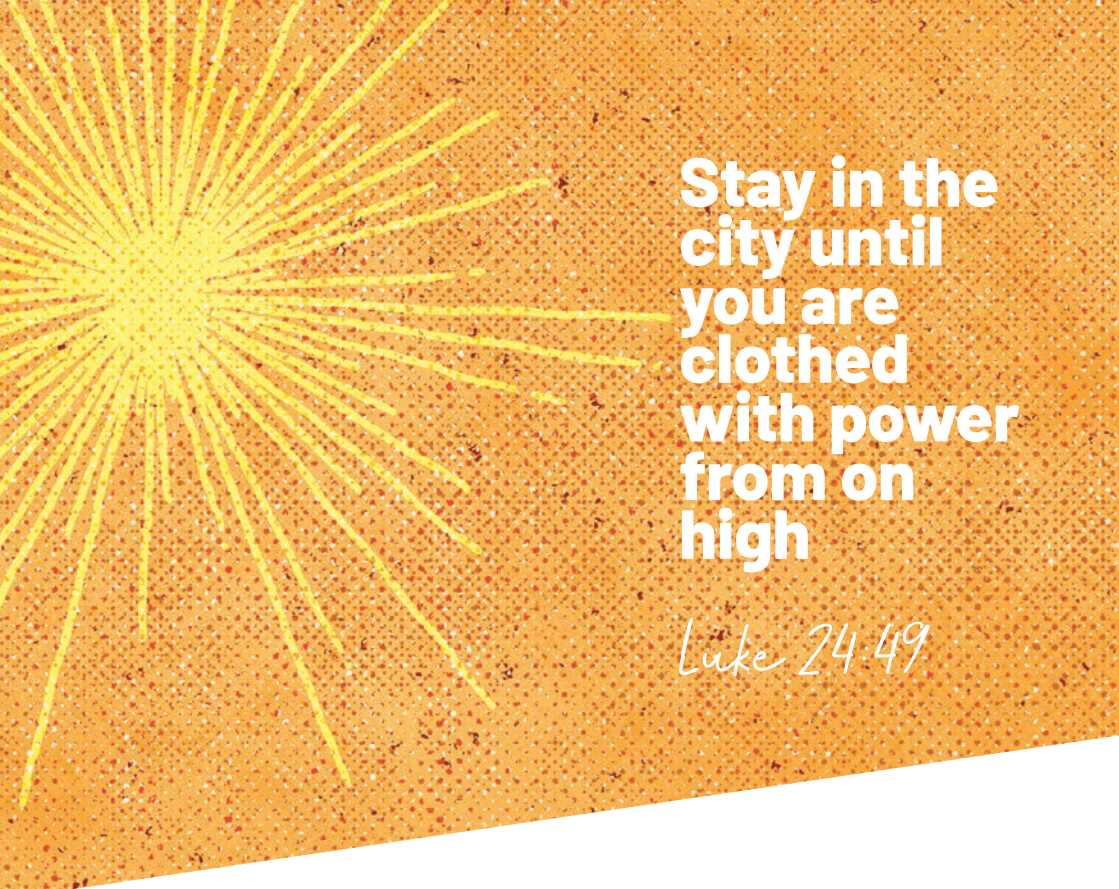


Encouraged by Acts 1:1-11 we have a vision to see Jesus pour out His Spirit in the cities of our nation in a fresh way.

Inspired by Jesus' words to his disciples, "wait in Jerusalem for the gift my

Father has promised you" we will have a team in every city on Pentecost Weekend. As a catalytic event, we will be gathering to **pray, train and reach out in every capital city**, finding people of peace and believing for **multiplying hubs.**

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**Stay in the
city until
you are
clothed
with power
from on
high**

Luke 24:49

**Pentecost Sunday 2024 is
the 19th May.**

Our plan is to have a weekend of catalytic focus (17th - 20th May) in each capital city of Australia. Both building on and joining in the kingdom networks in each location. This will be a key time, gathering with others in the city to:

PRAY

crying out for the visitation of the Holy Spirit in each city

TRAIN

calling others and empowering them

OUTREACH

finding people of peace

How to Prepare for **PENTECOST WEEKEND**

STEP 1

Start to pray. Ask God which city he wants you to pray for. Let us know so that we can connect you with others who are focussing on the same city as you.

STEP 2

Gather others around the vision for the same city and start praying with them.

STEP 3

Network! God is already working. Connect with people who have a heart for their city. Who are focussed on discipleship and multiplication. Invite those you know. Share the vision and join with them.

STEP 4

Start planning a prayer/harvest engagement/training event for that weekend. Be creative! Chat to others on the team for that city and share ideas together. Keep it harvest-focussed. Include times of prayer. How could you train others to make disciples?

STEP 5

Make your travel plans to get to that city so that you are there for Friday 17th May-Monday 20th May. You might even want to go visit it in the lead up to meet with some of the locals.

Reaching CITIES



The grand picture of God began in a garden, and finishes in the city of heavenly Jerusalem. Cities have always been part of God's plan. From stories of Elijah seeing the forces of heaven protect a city (2 King 6:8-23) to judgment on the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorah.

Jesus' strategy was to go **'throughout all the cities and villages...'** (Matt 9:35). The Apostle Paul's central strategy was to establish multiplying hubs in significant cities going west from Jerusalem. Saturation happened through establishing multiplying hubs in the city that spread to whole regions and rural areas. Paul was to make the audacious statement from Jerusalem to Illyricum

that **'there is no more place for me to work in these regions ...'** (Rom 15:23)

How could he make such a statement? The disciples of Jesus were still such a small minority throughout the Greco Roman world! He was confident because from Jerusalem to Antioch; the Galation churches of Psidian Antioch, Lystre and Derbe. The Macedonian and Greek cities of Phillipi, Thessaloniki, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, and finally Rome, each became a multiplying hub... The highlight was in Ephesus. By training for up to 3 years in the rented Hall Of Tyranus he was able to saturate a whole region through multiplication. We can safely assume the seven Churches of Revelation were birthed out of this multiplying hub.

Not only are we to fill the city with his teaching as the apostles did in Jerusalem (Acts 5:28) we are to multiply from the cities to saturate entire regions for the gospel as Paul did in Ephesus. This continued so that **'all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks'**. (Acts 19:10)

Cities are complex and multi-layered! Traditionally missions have focussed on reaching a single people group in a geographic area. Yet cities have many layers of communities. These communities are found where people have connection. We used to say in the slums of Mumbai the 'gospel will spread as far as people are able to eat together'. So, in cities we

see many people groups from many nations. Ray Bakke said, **"Yesterday the cities were in the nations. Today the nations are in the cities."** We also see people connecting around a myriad of causes and interests. Schools and sports. There are involuntary communities (think of prisons, special needs groups, addiction counselling). Each one of these communities are opportunities for disciple-making groups to be planted and multiply.

Dwight Moody once said, **"If we reach the cities we will reach the nation. If we fail in the cities they will become cesspools that infect the entire nation."**



WEEK 1
April 1-7

40 days with Jesus

WEEK 2
April 8-14

He is Risen

Acts 1:1-11 DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Luke 24:45-49** As you read the various scriptures on the great commission what are the key points God is highlighting to you?
- Matt 28:16-20**
- Mark 16:9-20** How do these key points guide you as you think about praying in one of the cities on Pentecost weekend?
- Luke 24:50-53**
- John 20:21-23** Who else can you invite to join you to reach the city that God is leading you too?

Matt 27:62-66 DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Matt 28:1-10** Reflect on the resurrection.... what does it tell you about God/Jesus?
- Mark 16:1-8**
- Luke 24:1-12** Looking at how different people responded, what does it tell you about people?
- John 20:1-10** What happened in the hearts of people when they encountered the resurrected Jesus?

What does it mean to me?

How should I respond and change?



WEEK 3
April 15-21

Convincing Proof

WEEK 4
April 22-28

The Kingdom of God

Luke 24:1-35 DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Luke 24:36-49 What stands out most to you from these scriptures?

John 20:19-29 What does this tell you about Jesus?

John 21:1-14 How did people respond after seeing Jesus alive?

John 21:15-25 What action will you take as a result of these encounters?

Matt 28:11-15

Luke 24: 50-53

1 Cor 15:1-11

Mark 1:14- 20 DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Mark 4: 26-34 What do these passages teach us about the kingdom of God?

Matt 13: 44-52 How does the kingdom of God come to earth?

Matt 25:1-13 How does the kingdom of God spread?

Mark 4:1-20

Matt 25: 31-46 What are we to do in response to the kingdom of God?

Luke 14:15-24 (What are my obedience steps?)

Matt 6:7-13

WEEK 5
April 29-
May 5

Holy Spirit

WEEK 6
May 6-12

Reaching Cities

John 14: 15-31 DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

John 15:26-16:15 What new thing have you learnt about the Holy Spirit and his work in and around you?

Acts 2:1-13

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in reaching the harvest?

Acts 4: 23-31

Acts 13:1-5 How will you respond to this new thing you have learnt?

Acts 19:1-6

How should we pray?

Romans 8:14-16

Eph 1:3-14

2 Kings 6:8-23 DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Luke 9:1-6, 10:1-20 How did God/Jesus work in these cities?

Mark 5:1-20, 7:31-8:10 What were the roles people played when engaging cities?

Acts 16:6-40

How could this apply in our context?

Acts 18:1-17

Acts 19

Any ideas you might feel the Holy Spirit is birthing as we look at the upcoming Pentecost weekend?

Revelation 21

WEEK 7
May 13-19

Pentecost

The Time for Harvest

Acts 1:1-11 DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Acts 2:1-13 What insights do you have from reading through Acts 1 and 2?

Acts 2:14-41

Acts 2: 42-47 How can you put these into action this coming weekend?

Ephesians 1:3 -14 Who else can I invite to read these scriptures with me?

Pentecost Sunday

May 19th


Discovery Process

The discovery process is a powerful tool to use helping us to slow down and understand God's word as the Holy Spirit reveals his truth.

You may like to use the regular discovery questions as you look at scripture

What does this show you about God ?
What does this show you about man ?
How should I obey?
Who should I tell?

Or you may prefer to use the guided questions we have prepared for each week.

More information on doing a discover Bible study can be found here 



Stepping out what God has said to me

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