

THE STORY Q's

THE YEAR OF BIBLICAL LITERACY



ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

RESURRECTION COMMUNITY



ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

Read through Acts 2 together. As you do, consider the idea that this chapter describes the beginning of “Heaven on Earth.” What do you observe about this brand-new way of living and participating in community?

Q1 A “Utopia” is an imagined community or society that possesses highly desirable or nearly perfect qualities for its citizens; a perfect “place” that has been designed so there are no problems; a slice of Heaven on Earth. Every time a person or group attempts to create a utopia, it’s based on some key ideal, something that is believed to be the answer to the human condition. And yet every time, something gets in the way...

A **Give a few examples of “utopias” you’ve encountered, whether fictional or historical.** In each of your examples, what went wrong? What was the missing piece or the factor that made achievement of a true “utopia” impossible?

B **Can you think of any attempts at “utopia” today?** If so, what ideal are they centered around? What do they say is the answer to suffering and dysfunction? Why don’t they work?

Q2 **A Gospel of Reconciliation:** One of the key ideals for Jesus’ Kingdom on earth is reconciliation for all people.

A **Where do you see evidence of this in Acts 2?**

B **Who is being included in Jesus’ Kingdom who may not typically have been included in that culture?**

Q3 **A Gospel of Repentance:** In verses 36–38, we see that repentance is a necessary component of Jesus’ Kingdom on earth.

Why? What are a few reasons why repentance is necessary for a utopia or “Heaven on Earth” to be successful?

Q4 **Creating a Community:** Read Acts 2:42-47 again, paying particular attention to all the characteristics of this new group of believers.

A **What do they do? How do they act?** To what extent do you think this passage serves as a model for a church in 2018? Why?

B **What aspects of this passage are prescriptive vs descriptive?** (Prescriptive: telling us how we should function. Descriptive: merely describing what happened, without necessarily instructing others to do the same.)

SO WHAT?

In Acts 2, we learn that Jesus' Kingdom is for all people.

Q5 **Who might we be marginalizing or excluding today, knowingly or unknowingly?**

Q6 **What happens when we attempt to create a "Heaven on Earth" community like the one at the end of Acts 2 without first repenting?** Have you ever seen this happen?

Q7 **What do you think is the number one difference between Jesus' Kingdom and other attempts at utopia?** (Everyone's answer might be different.)