

## A TRANSFORMED FAMILY

### CONNECTING & REFLECTING

- (i) What is one thing you can thank God for in the last week?
- (ii) Who have you shared with about what you learned in our last study?
- (iii) Which three people are you praying for to come to Christ?

God has created us to be in community and in particular, a family. God has designed that we are raised by our father and mother who have committed themselves through marriage to each other for life. As the promised Holy Spirit is being poured out on the Day of Pentecost and thousands of individual lives were transformed from that day till this, we also see that God's intention was to transform families as well.

1. How does Acts 2:17 reveal that God's intention for the Holy Spirit's outpouring involved transforming families not just individuals?

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2. Note Peter's statement in Acts 2:38-39 about the transforming work of the Holy Spirit. Some people argue that the Baptism with the Holy Spirit was only a once-off event. But how does this verse refute that and also how does it reveal God's intention for the Holy Spirit to transform families?

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3. Since the transforming work of the Holy Spirit is intended to transform parents as well as their children, what responsibility do believing parents have toward their children?

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God wants every child to come to know Him. Some Christian parents *hope* that this will happen without any effort to improve the chances of it happening. God expects parents to teach and train their children about God and His ways - but above all, to model what knowing and loving God looks like. This parental responsibility can not be delegated to a school, Children's ministry, Youth Group, or a church.

4. In what ways does Acts 2:42 suggest that parents were to shape the home-life of their children?

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5. According Acts 2:46, the early church met in two fashions. What were these different ways the church met together? What might the effect of this been upon children?
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Even if you're *not* a parent, when you attend church or a Home Group of the church, often there are children observing you. The way you worship, participate, listen, pray, and fellowship tells children a lot about God! When a child not only observes their parents, but other adults, minimising their distractions (turning phones off or not bringing them into church) enthusiastically worshipping God, participating in the church's rituals, praying passionately, listening attentively and responsively, and fellowshiping in a caring and sensitive way, they form a positive view about the relevance of God. This opens up a child's heart to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

6. What do we observe about the early church's position on the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of new converts based on Acts 8:14-18?
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Philip, whose evangelistic efforts led to the revival in Samaria, was originally chosen as a deacon to help care for widows who didn't have families to care for them (Acts 6:1-5; also note 1Tim. 5:3-16). He would later marry, settle down, and have a family of four daughters.

7. What do we know of Philip's four daughters and what does this suggest to us of their home-life? (Acts 21:8-9)
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The early church initially met in family homes. The leaders of these house churches were required to be men who led their families spiritually with well behaved children (1Tim. 3:4, see also Roman 16:5-15).

8. How do the following Acts references show that God intends to transforms entire families? (Acts 11:14; 16:15, 31; 18:8)
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Parents should teach their children about God and His Word. But they should also pray for their children's transformation by the Holy Spirit and foster in them a desire to be filled with, led by , empowered from, and baptised in the Holy Spirit. Our children and our families should be communities of Christ-honouring support.

*Amen.*