



*Just Getting Started* | Chad Bruegman | 4.8.18

LG Weekly

## START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

**If you could go on a road trip with any person (dead or alive), who would you choose and where would you go?**

## SHARE

Welcome to our teaching series, Just Getting Started.

On the cross Jesus boldly proclaimed, "It is finished." As followers of Jesus, the work of the cross is complete, our sins forgiven and we have become new creations. As a result of the perfect work of Jesus, now we can boldly believe what the apostle Paul says when he writes, "the old is gone, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The work on the cross is finished but God is just getting started with us.

Hebrews 10:14 tells us, "For by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."

Even though we have been made perfect, day by day the gospel continues to make us more holy. God is working in and through us, by the work of the Holy Spirit. Theologically this is called progressive sanctification, where we are becoming more like Jesus throughout our lives as disciples of Christ. So don't be discouraged with the ups and downs of life--God is not giving up on us. He is a faithful Father who promises that He will finish what He has started (Philippians 1:6).

God develops our faith, purifies our motives and shapes our gifts for His glory. He is just getting started with that anger issue, addiction problem, impatience, envy, pride, or lust. You can name a struggle but God has given you a different name...son and daughter. The story is far from over and God desires more than anything for you to experience freedom in the finished work of the cross. He is just getting started.

"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk, but of power." 1 Corinthians 4:20

### **Read Acts 2:1-21**

Fortunately for us, we have the luxury of reading this story 2,000 years later. From our perspective, it seems obvious that this movement was just getting started. But put yourself in the disciple's shoes (or sandals) for a second. They just watched Jesus go to the cross, come back to life, and then leave them again forty days later, ascending into heaven and instructing them to wait (Acts 1:4).

So as they sat, waiting in a room together, they were undoubtedly experiencing a wide range of emotions. They were probably nervous, confused, and ready to walk away from it all because they had no idea how much God had in store for them.

According to the Mosaic Law, all Jewish men were required to make a pilgrimage from their village to Jerusalem during Pentecost to celebrate the harvest. As you can imagine, a very diverse group of people packed the streets of Jerusalem, all speaking different languages. God chooses this moment, to begin his movement! The Holy Spirit comes like a mighty rushing wind and empowers them to start talking in different tongues (Acts 2:2-4). So everyone who is in town for Pentecost begins hearing these disciples speaking about God in the language they can understand. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the disciples begin to carry

out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20), and 3,000 people get saved and baptized in a single day!

The death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus was only the beginning. God was just getting started! The Holy Spirit moved in a mighty way, the movement of the church began, and today we are still meeting on the other side of the world to worship God and celebrate what Jesus has done for us!

God is just getting started!

**What sort of emotions does the story of Pentecost elicit? Excitement? Confusion? Fear? And what does the story of Pentecost mean for us today? Why is it so important that we study and learn from this story?**

**There are a lot of opinions about the work of the Holy Spirit today. In your opinion, what role should the Holy Spirit play in the church and why do you think there have been so many disagreements over the topic of the Holy Spirit?**

GROW

**Read Ephesians 5:18-20**

When the Holy Spirit begins to work and move in your life, you'll no longer look like the person you once were. Neither will you resemble anything in this world. So much so that people may take notice and question what is different about you.

In Acts 2, people wondered if those who were filled with the Spirit were actually drunk because they were acting different than what they knew to be "normal." Surely there had to be a worldly explanation. Well, they were filled with something but it sure wasn't from anything of this world!

When you are filled with the Holy Spirit and operating from His power, anything is possible! Look at the disciples before and after the indwelling of the Holy Spirit--completely different people. The power source they now had within them enabled them to do incredible works in the name of Jesus. Again, people took notice.

The Holy Spirit wants to cleanse you, empower you, and use you for the glory of God in ways you can't imagine. And when you operate from this place, people will take notice!

**How is your life different now than before Christ? Have you been delivered from anger or judgement? Perhaps you no longer struggle with gossip or hopelessness. This is an opportunity to declare how the Holy Spirit has transformed your life while connecting with those in your life group.**

**Does it make you nervous to look "different" in this world? Perhaps you've been hesitant to share your faith at work or talk about God with your family. If you've been reluctant to go public with what God is doing through your life, how might you be more open with your faith?**

M O V E

**Read Luke 11:9-13**

You don't have to earn anything. Not salvation, good gifts, grace, or the power of the Holy Spirit operating within you. Your part is to ask and then God, the good Father who longs to give good gifts to His children, pours out blessings into your life.

Are you tired? Ask Him for a renewal of strength. Are you discouraged? Ask Him to give you hope in the unseen. Are you struggling to throw off bondage? Ask Him deliver you from evil and empower you to stand against temptation. Do you desire a filling of the Spirit? Ask!

Believe and ask with anticipation. Have eager expectation for how God wants to move in and through your life! The Holy Spirit is the Helper, there to empower you to do the will of God

and be like Jesus. You're not alone but have a powerful Advocate working on your behalf. Believe He wants to work in your life and from a place of humility, ask Him to help you live victoriously for the cause of Christ.

Do this daily and you will see God empower you in ways you've never experienced before. Invite Him in on a regular basis and life will never be the same!

**What are you wanting to ask God for, today? Strength, hope, freedom, or a renewal in the power of the Holy Spirit, just to name a few examples. Share what you're wanting to overcome by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

#### PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying with and for each other. Ask God for freedom and faith to have courage to run through whatever storm may be ahead! If you are in a coed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to share more freely.

#### TO GO

"The Holy Spirit illuminates the minds of people, makes us yearn for God, and takes spiritual truth and makes it understandable to us." – Billy Graham