



# Once Upon a Time

*The Story God is Telling and How You Fit*

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Week 9- November 12, 2017

## The People of the “In-Between”

Introduction: A stunning delay between the Cross and the Kingdom.

What are the “People of the In-Between” supposed to DO?

- Bear Witness (Acts 1:8b). But to what?
  - The Past: Jesus’s victory at the Cross (Acts 3:11-21).
  - The Future: The Kingdom to Come (Acts 3:21, 8:4-12, 19:8-10).
  - Sometimes BOTH (Acts 28:30-31).

How are the “People of the In-Between” supposed to pull THAT off?

- Power from the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8a). But to do what?
  - Share God’s story with the whole world (Acts 2:1-11).
  - Speak with boldness (Acts 4:1-13).
  - Refuse to be intimidated by opposition (Acts 4:29-31).
  - Multiply throughout the world (Acts 9:31).

Conclusion:

We live in the time between the Cross and the coming Kingdom. We have been given a mission and all the power we will need to accomplish it. What’s holding you back from being a part of it?

**Icebreakers:**

1. What is something you had to wait for that was worth the wait?
2. What is the most shocking news you've ever received and how did you react when you heard it?

**Sermon Summary:** Jesus' followers realized soon after His resurrection that it wasn't yet time for God's kingdom to come to earth. Instead, Jesus intended for them to bear witness to the whole world of His victory over sin and death at the Cross and to the Kingdom still to come. The Holy Spirit came to empower them to accomplish this impossible mission and has stayed with those of us who follow Jesus ever since.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Were the disciples wrong to want Jesus to restore the kingdom of Israel in Acts 1:6? Why or why not?
  2. What are you impatient to experience in the coming Kingdom?
- \* *What are the "People of the In-Between" supposed to DO?*** (Read Acts 1:8, 3:11-21.)
3. How can we be witnesses today if we haven't personally experienced either the Cross or the Kingdom? What are WE supposed to bear witness to?
  4. Why should we bear witness to the coming Kingdom? Isn't it enough to talk about what Jesus already did at the Cross?
  5. How can we work the coming Kingdom more into our conversations with people far from God (our kids, our friends, our neighbors)?
- \* *How are the "People of the In-Between" going to pull it off?*** (Read Acts 2:1-11, 4:1-13.)
6. In light of the story we've seen so far, why was it important for the Spirit to empower the disciples to speak in other tongues?
  7. How do we tend to respond to the threat of persecution (or losing our religious freedoms) differently than the first Christians did? What guidance does Acts 4:1-13 give us as we deal with it today?