

This week we launch the 2030 Vision Series by looking back to see the faithful hand of God through the history of Calvary. In this passage, Apostle Peter references the prophet Joel, King David, and Psalm 110; all Old Testament references pointing to Jesus. Because God has been faithful in the past, we can trust His faithfulness in the present and anticipate his faithfulness in the future.

SESSION 1

Looking Back

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the
poor.

He has sent me to proclaim
freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for
the blind,

to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the
Lord’s favor.” . . .

He began by saying to them,
“Today this scripture is fulfilled
in your hearing.”

—LUKE 4:18-21

ACTS 2:14-41

Read Aloud in Your Group

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens
above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and
glorious day of the Lord.

²¹ And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

²² “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵ David said about him:

“I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.

²⁶ Therefore my heart is glad and my
tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest in hope,

²⁷ because you will not abandon me to
the realm of the dead,
you will not let your holy one see
decay.

²⁸ You have made known to me the paths
of life;
you will fill me with joy in your
presence.’

²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you
confidently that the patriarch David
died and was buried, and his tomb is
here to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet
and knew that God had promised him
on oath that he would place one of his
descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing
what was to come, he spoke of the
resurrection of the Messiah, that he
was not abandoned to the realm of the
dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God
has raised this Jesus to life, and we are
all witnesses of it. ³³ Exalted to the right
hand of God, he has received from the
Father the promised Holy Spirit and has
poured out what you now see and hear. ³⁴

For David did not ascend to heaven, and
yet he said,

“The Lord said to my Lord:
“Sit at my right hand
³⁵ until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.”

³⁶ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of
this: God has made this Jesus, whom you
crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were
cut to the heart and said to Peter and
the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall
we do?”

³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized,
every one of you, in the name of Jesus
Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.
And you will receive the gift of the Holy
Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your
children and for all who are far off—for
all whom the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned
them; and he pleaded with them, “Save
yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were
baptized, and about three thousand were
added to their number that day.



FOR DISCUSSION

INTRODUCTORY QUESTION: What brought you to Calvary?

1. As we examine this passage which contains Peter's sermon, what are the main themes he is communicating? Why might these themes be especially critical to early followers of Jesus?
2. In this passage, Peter references the prophet Joel (v. 16–21), King David (v. 25–28) and Psalm 110 (v.34–35). What is the common thread between these three stories?
3. We see how Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises to King David and the prophet Joel along with others. Is there a promise God made to you in the past that has come to fruition in your life? Share with one another.
4. Luke introduces the theme of salvation in this section, especially in Acts 2:21, by quoting Joel 2:32 "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How would you describe to a friend what it means to be "saved?"

Theologian NT Wright explains, "'being saved' doesn't just mean, as it does for many today, 'going to heaven when they die.' It means 'knowing God's rescuing power, the power revealed in Jesus, which anticipates, in the present, God's final great act of deliverance.' Peter will now go on to encourage his hearers to 'call on the Lord's name' and so to know that 'salvation, that rescue, as a present reality as well as a future hope.'"¹

Share a story of how you have experienced Jesus "saving" you in the present.

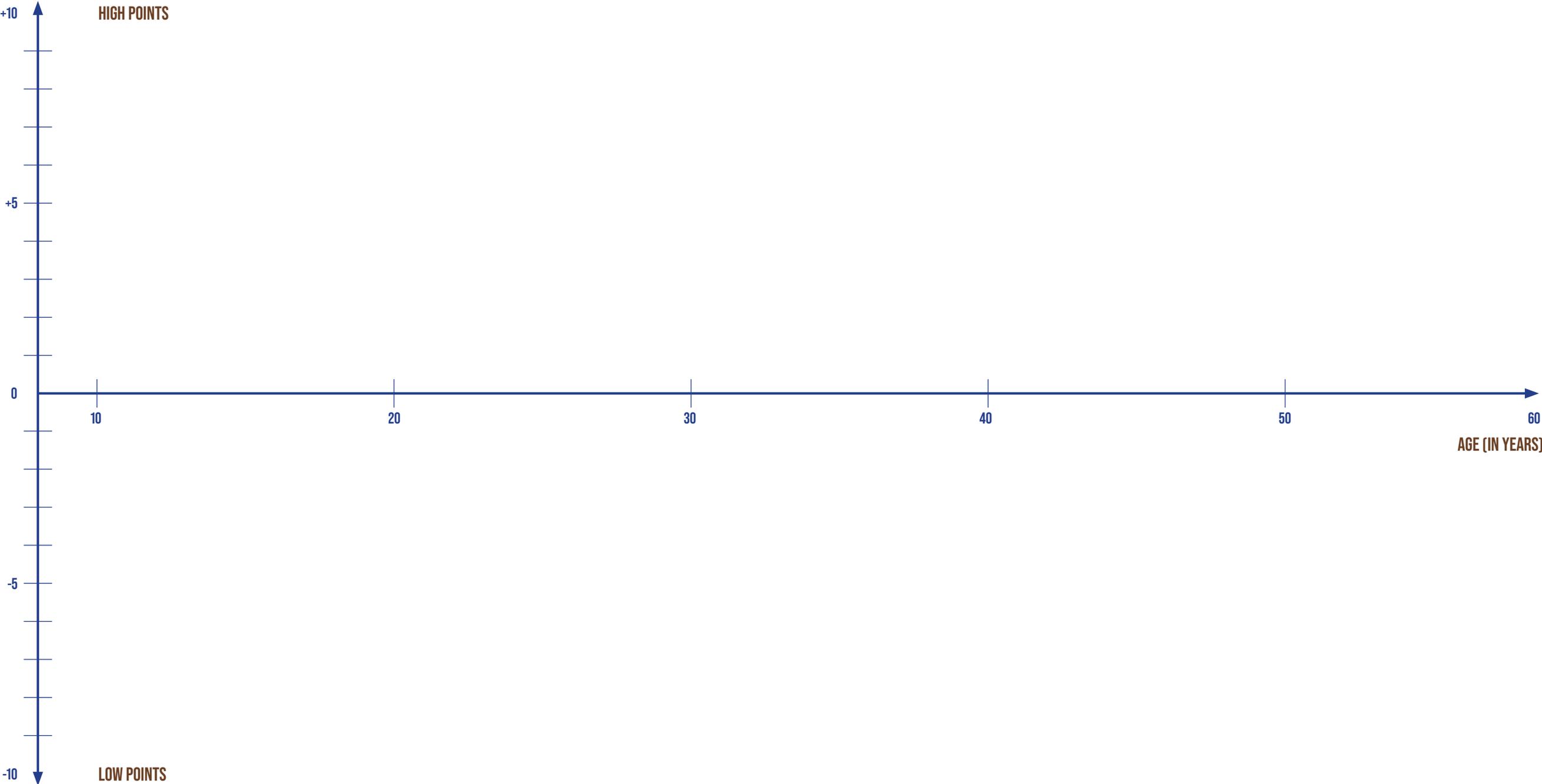
5. Pastor Shawn talked about "looking back, looking up, and looking forward." Explain the benefit of each of these elements. Share an example of how you have seen this process work during a circumstance in your life.

6. How does reflecting on God's past goodness help us during difficult times?
7. Gather some colorful pens, markers, and highlighters. Take some time to do the Spiritual Life map exercise together. This is a fun and impactful way to get to know each other better and to think about God's faithfulness in your life. You'll be encouraged as you share stories of where and how God showed up in your personal history.

GROUP EXERCISE: Spiritual life map

1. On the next two pages, take 5 minutes to plot 5–10 key points (how much time you'll spend on this exercise depends on how old you are) in your life on this template. Mark the graph with a dot to show how positive or negative each event or experience was.
2. Connect the dots together to form a graph.
3. Then circle the times you most experienced God's presence, His encouragement, and His power in your life.
4. Share with each other 1–2 highlighted times when you can look back and see God's faithfulness through a specific circumstance.
5. Close by praying and thanking God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do.

LIFE MAP





TAKE 5

GLANCING BACK TO LOOK AHEAD

Shawn Thornton, Senior Pastor

ACTS 2:14-41

Fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, His followers were gathered for prayer in an upper room in Jerusalem—just as He had instructed them. They waited expectantly for the coming of the one Jesus told them would be their comforter. His arrival would spark something new—a fresh movement of God among the followers of Christ. He would usher in the Church!

Acts chapter 2 records the very moment for which they had been waiting. God, the Holy Spirit, came upon them. They were moved by joy and left the upper room, bringing that same celebration to the streets of Jerusalem. The unusual celebration and supernatural signs associated with the coming of the Spirit prompted many questions from the crowds. Then, the Apostle Peter steps forward to set the record straight. He delivers the first sermon ever in the church.

In Acts 2:14-41, Peter glances back at Old Testament events and people to give context for what is happening. He also looks forward to what God will do as he glances back. Finally,

Peter invites all to join this fresh movement of God.

As a church, Calvary Community Church will spend the next eight weeks grasping God's vision for us together in the next decade. We will first look back to see the faithful hand of God in our church for over four decades. Then, we will celebrate His goodness.

Think about your relationship with God. Look back at how you came to Christ, how your life has changed, and how God has walked with you as you have grown in Him. Write down three or four milestones and the names of several essential people in your spiritual journey. Then, joyfully thank God for those moments and those people.

Gratefully glancing back at our journey with God helps us look forward to what He has next for our lives!



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