

The River Wild – Going Deeper

Introduction

The power of story ! Jesus used story and metaphor all the time. That's why Acts is so exciting! It's real, it's LIVED EXPERIENCE!

Question: What are the top 2 highs and lows of your Christian walk. What have you learnt?

Today's Theme: embracing change, being a change maker – even if it challenges traditions and norms. If the Holy Spirit directs you – what will you do? We are going to apply Acts 4 and 5 to our church journey of change as we transition from DCF to Hope Church – **this is our River Wild !**

Recap Acts 1 to Acts 5

Question: Could you relay the story of Acts 1 to Acts 5? What key events and characters have stood out for you and why?

Question: When was the last time that you experienced the buzz of seeing someone come to faith or be baptised or spiritually grow or receive healing? Does church feel like a MOVEMENT to you or more like a MONUMENT?

Acts 5 v12-42

Acts 5 v12-16: 'The Apostles heal many'. Acts 5 v17-42: 'The Apostles meet opposition'

As we read Acts 4 and 5, the Apostles appeared to be people of:	Question: How would you rate yourself against these 6 qualities? What might God be saying to you?
1) PURPOSE: they knew why they were on mission	
2) PROCLAMATION and POWER: In Jesus name! Holy Spirit fuelled.	
3) PLEASING GOD: (not man)	
4) PREPARATION: prepared to count the cost	
5) PERSEVERANCE: keep going, stick at it, even in opposition	
6) PROMISE: rest secure in God promises, see promised fulfilled	

Our Journey / Your Journey?

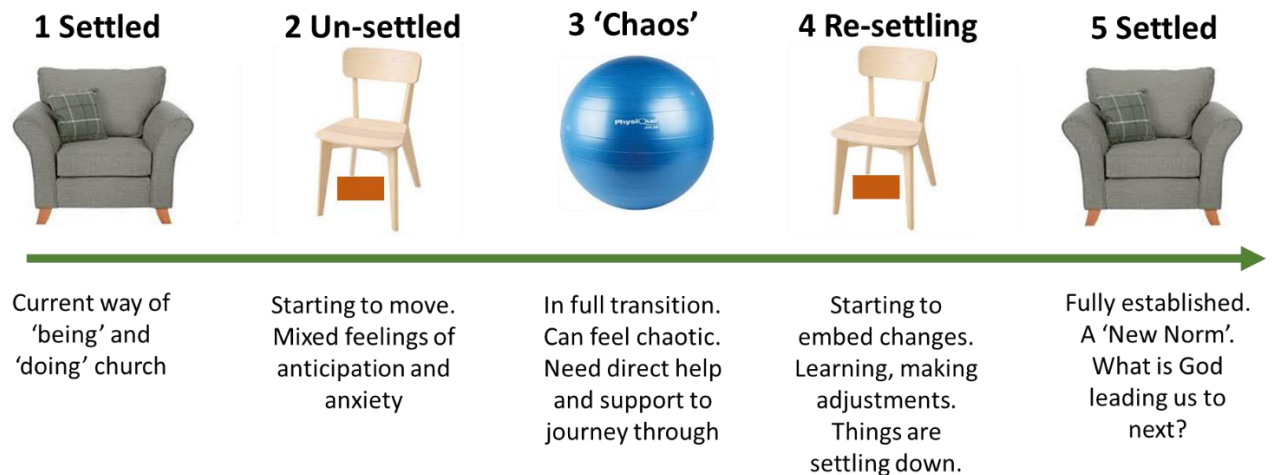
Over the last four weeks we have outlined the Vision:

- We are being to 'replant' DCF into Hope Church, this will mean leaving somethings behind
- WHAT: balance and focus activities around UP / IN / OUT
- WHERE / WHO / HOW: It's all about PIE! Move forward at the same time in different missional slices, we all get involved and we take lead roles according to CHARACTER, COMPETENCE and CALLING. We keep connected through shared values – 'the ingredients of the PIE'
- How do we know we are right? We will see and feel HOPE / JOY / PEACE

When it comes to change in churches, **Kate Coleman** talks about three types of people:

- **'Pioneers'** – active seekers of what God has next for a church family, they listen, obey and move according to the Holy Spirit's direction. Visionaries
- **'Travelers'** – those that are curious and keen to be obedient. They are willing to be a part of the journey but prefer to follow so they can see where they are going.
- **'Settlers'** – Those that are settled and who really don't want to or see the need to change. They are very happy to stay put.

Danielle Strickland uses the illustration of **'The Transition Bridge'**



Questions: Change starts with 'ME' – how am I feeling about these changes? Am I going to be a 'Pioneer', a Traveller' or a Settler'? Am I going to cross that 'Transition Bridge'? Where am I at the moment? Where will I need help?

Challenge

Will you join us on this transition journey and embrace The River Wild? If so, let's pray and recommit to our church family. Let's kneel in surrender and ask the Lord to reveal what part he wants us to play in His mission, in Jesus Name. Amen.



Reading plan for this week: Acts 6 and Acts 7

Next Sunday: "Gone with the wind" (Acts 8 v26-40)