

outpouring



•  
UNLEASHED  
WITH  
HOLY  
SPIRIT  
POWER  
•





# **Outpouring**

Unleashed with Holy Spirit Power

A Community Groups Study  
of Crossline Church

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# prologue

The journey was long and the desert was hot. My back hurts and my eyes are sore from the sun. However, none of that matters - I am here! Mount Zion! The holy city, Jerusalem! For generations my family has come to Jerusalem from the sands of Arabia to celebrate the festivals. With celebration and gatherings, we remember the faithfulness of our Lord God. He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob! The one who splits the seas and brings forth water from the rock. He is Yahweh.

And yet, this year is different...There have been murmurings that the teacher called Jesus, whom the Romans crucified has risen from the dead. Chatter that some here have seen him and claim that he is the messiah. I do not know much about him, but know that he was a mystic healer who, according to the Jewish leaders, spoke blasphemy. If that is what they say, then in my eyes, he is condemned. Still, in conflict with my loyalty, I secretly wish I could have seen him. Who was this man and is he truly alive?

As my sister and I make our way back to our quarters, we hear a loud commotion echo through the alleyway. The shouting of voices. Bewildered, we turn toward the sounds which only grows louder as we get closer. As we turn a corner, we see a large crowd already gathered around a group of simple Jews—Galileans from the looks of it. They were the ones shouting. I could not understand what they were saying, so I grab my sister's hand and pull her through the crowd to get a closer look. As I am pushing my way past the bodies, I feel a tug on my hand. My sister has stopped. I turn to see her staring directly at a ruddy young Galilean. His eyes are locked onto hers. She looks stunned. Just as I am about to say something, I hear what this young Galilean is saying. He is declaring the wonders of God. Yet, it is not what he is saying that left me astonished. It was how he was saying it and how we were hearing it. For he was speaking in our language.

What does this mean and who are these men?

# a word to hosts/ leaders of the group

Starting this 5-week community group study, you likely have a wide variety of emotions going through your head and your heart right now. Some of you are beyond excited and rejoicing that this study is finally here. You have been looking up new dessert recipes, printed out custom prayer request cards, and already comprised your email and text distribution lists for the group! Some of you may be terrified, and you are questioning why in the world you've decided to do this. Wherever you are now, allow us to share one thing we know with great confidence—**you and your group will be blessed because you stepped out in faith!**

We have a specific encouragement for you: **YOU CAN DO THIS!** Our enemy, the devil, would want you to believe that you can't or that you should be afraid, but God is with you, and He has great plans for you and each person in your group! The Bible states that "[You] can do all things through Christ who strengthens [you]" (Philippians 4:13). The Lord proclaims over you, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9).

In addition, you are not alone. Take full advantage of the Church that God has put around you. Reach out to fellow hosts, key volunteers, leaders, or church staff. We all want to come alongside you and help you be successful! Don't try to do this in isolation, but instead link arms with your brothers and sisters!

May the Spirit of the Lord be upon you as you host and shepherd the group of people God has entrusted to you! Blessings!

# how to get the most out of this study

Welcome to the exciting adventure of studying the Bible! In *Outpouring: Unleashed with Holy Spirit Power*, you will be diving into Acts, chapter 2 and learning about the Holy Spirit's influence on the Church. In studying what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit and by tracking along in the narrative of the early days of the Church of Jesus Christ, you can gain insight about how to experience the power of the Holy Spirit for yourself, personally.

To make the most of this study, here are some important suggestions:

1. First of all, the best way to get the most out of this study is to ENGAGE. Come to your community group ready to listen and ready to discuss! If you are distracted or closed off, we can guarantee you that this experience won't be all that it can be for you.
2. Secondly, make an intentional effort to do the Daily Devotionals for each week. Each of these readings are designed to enhance your weekly discussions. They are written by pastors and ministry leaders serving within the church. These are men and women just like you and they write from a very personal perspective. You are likely to connect with these devotions in ways that are different than the other sections of the workbook.
3. Thirdly, come as you are and don't let this study burden you! This workbook has been put together to be a refreshing, thought-provoking, easy-to-use aid for discussion and study. All the Scripture references are already contained in the workbook. No need to access a Bible. Though, you certainly are welcome to bring your Bible to group and read from that.

# nobody not connected

Community is an essential need of humankind. When the weight of the world comes down upon us, it is a community that enables us to stand. Consider the wise words of King Solomon,

“Two are better than one,  
because they have a good return for their labor:  
If either of them falls down,  
one can help the other up.  
But pity anyone who falls  
and has no one to help them up.  
Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.  
But how can one keep warm alone?  
Though one may be overpowered,  
Two can defend themselves.  
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

(Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

Whether you are stumbling over habits, feeling the biting cold of destructive thinking, or being attacked, there is a security in belonging to a community that is for you.

With that in mind, we are strongly urging you to take ownership of the vision of making sure that everyone who wants community can find it. This is not something that leaders or hosts are solely responsible for; this is the conviction that must be woven into every person participating in this study. This means compassionately taking responsibility to walk alongside those you meet that are looking for a group. This means that groups must be more open to receiving newcomers. This means that new hosts and leaders must rise up from existing groups. This means that we need to be sacrificially thinking of the needs of others above our own needs.

*Nobody not connected...*



# introduction

Welcome to *Outpouring: Unleashed with Holy Spirit Power*, a 5-session small groups curriculum from Crossline Community Church. Although you can do this curriculum individually, it is best in the context of a small group of people. We pray that this content will bless you and assist you in your process of discipleship.

In *Outpouring*, we will have the chance to dive into the Bible and explore the truths from the book of Acts, chapter 2. As we do, we will see how the Holy Spirit is the power source of the Church. Everything that the Church is and all that the Church does is because of the Holy Spirit. The book of Acts, written by the doctor and scholar, Luke, is really a continuation of the Gospel of Jesus, showing how He continues His ministry to the world through His Church. The hope is that as you go through the five sessions of this study, you will experience the power of the Holy Spirit in your life personally and that He will transform your group, collectively, into a community that is truly supernatural.

In addition to the written content in this booklet, videos accompany each session and can be accessed by going to [crosslinechurch.com/outpouring](http://crosslinechurch.com/outpouring)

## *PART 2 OF A SERIES OF CURRICULA on ACTS 1-4*

If you enjoy this study, we want to encourage you to continue with the other studies that are a part of this series. Part 1, *Expectation: Living as Children of Promise*, is the prequel to *Outpouring* and focuses in on Acts 1. It is a great way to get even more context for all the content within this study. The final installment is called *Advancement: Moving and Authority and Confidence* and focuses on Acts chapters 3-4. All of these studies are uniform in format and produced by Crossline Community Church.

# session 1

**EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT (ACTS 2:1-4)**



It is estimated that nearly 2.5 billion people on earth describe themselves as Christians. That's right, 2.5 billion people claim to follow Jesus. For this study, we will rewind to the start, where we observe a small group of believers in Jerusalem gathering together in prayer (Acts 1:12-15). Let me set the scene: after Jesus' resurrection and before He ascended to heaven, Jesus met with His disciples in an intimate gathering. He instructed them to wait and stay in Jerusalem until the coming of the Holy Spirit. So there they were, in Jerusalem, prayerfully expecting the Holy Spirit.

I remember being on a small boat off the coast of Cape Town, South Africa, within False Bay. Our guides were a fun loving, sun-kissed, husband and wife duo who loved being out on the ocean. So, in that moment when the captain looked directly at me with an intense stare, I knew something serious was about to happen. As his wife was attaching a black buoy to the back of the boat, he said, "Lock your eyes on that buoy and DO NOT take them off of it. If you look away, you will miss it." In response to the authority of his words, I stared at the buoy with intensity and as we began to tow it behind the boat. The water's surface was still; the only movement was the small white stream from the wake of our boat. When out of nowhere, the water exploded, and a monster from the depths emerged. Violently and powerfully, the buoy shot into the air. And there it was, having fully breached, a colossal great white shark was flying through the air 25 feet from our small boat, rows of razor-sharp teeth on display and whipping its impressive tail through the air. It was the most awesome thing I have ever seen.

Now, back to the small group of believers in Jerusalem. Before Jesus left, He looked at them and told them to prayerfully watch for the Holy Spirit. While Jesus' followers did not fully understand what this meant or what they should be looking for, they knew the power of their resurrected Savior, and they were expectant.

As we begin this study on Acts 2, we will see:

- How Jesus delivers on his promise
- How the Holy Spirit erupts on the scene, unleashing the believers with Holy Spirit power.
- How this power available to anyone who places their faith in Jesus.

**Now Watch “Session 1: Empowered by the Spirit”  
found at [crosslinechurch.com/outpouring](http://crosslinechurch.com/outpouring)**

**READ: Acts 2:1-4**

*When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

**DISCUSS:**

1. How do you feel when someone makes you a promise and keeps it?
2. Acts 2 describes God fulfilling His promise. Read the following Scriptures and discuss the big picture of God's promise fulfilled in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost.

**Joel 2:28-29:** *And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. <sup>29</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.*

**Matthew 3:11:** *I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the*

## *Holy Spirit and fire.*

**John 7:37-39:** *On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink."<sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."<sup>39</sup> By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

**Acts 1:4-5, 8:** *On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about."<sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."<sup>6</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

3. After Jesus was resurrected and ascended to heaven, the disciples gathered together for prayer and waited to fulfill God's promise (Acts 1:8-14). On the day of Pentecost, a Jewish festival, God fulfilled His promise, and the disciples were all filled with the Holy Spirit. What do you think it means to be filled with the Spirit? (Use the following verses as a reference: Acts 4:31, Ephesians 5:18-21, Romans 8:5-16)

4. What do you think are the pre-conditions necessary for a person to be filled with the Spirit?

5. Jesus promised that if we were thirsty and came to Him to drink, then our lives would overflow with the living water of the Spirit. Jesus also promised that if we asked the Father for the Holy Spirit, the Father would give us His Spirit. How can you practically live out these promises in your daily life?

6. The following prayer represents a heart desire. What

do you think would happen if you regularly prayed this prayer in faith?

*"Jesus, to the best of my knowledge, I surrender my life to You. Would You please fill me with Your Holy Spirit? Take control of my life and empower me to serve You. As I come to You and drink, I ask You to fulfill Your promise and fill me with Your Spirit. In Jesus' name, amen."*

#### APPLY:

In response to what you saw, read and discussed today,

**Write out some areas of your life in which you would like to experience more of the Holy Spirit's power and pray it back to Him.**

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devotionals

## **DAY 1: THE FURY, THE FIRE AND THE FILLED**

### **ACTS:2:1-4**

*JP JONES*

Have you ever been caught in a violent thunderstorm? The wind is howling and the rain drops like sheets of water. Lightning illuminates the darkened sky and the boom of thunder echoes all around you. The physical phenomenon is so dramatic that there is no way to escape its notice. Picture that scene in your mind and you have a glimpse into the visceral experience of the Apostles. Those gathered in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost were in awe and confused by what happened.

*When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:1-4)*

A violently blowing wind, tongues of fire, and the miraculous outbreak of people speaking in languages previously unknown to them! This event was the fury of God's promise-fulfillment to pour out His Holy Spirit.

To understand this event, one must see it in the context of the promises of the Old Testament, the promises of Jesus, and the interpretation given in the New Testament writings. God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to establish His new community, the Church. The followers of Jesus were baptized with the Spirit and received power to be Jesus' witnesses (Acts 1:4-8). Pentecost was a unique experience for Jewish Apostles of the Messiah to be the foundational community for all people who believe in Jesus and receive His Spirit.



Reading the rest of Acts 2, one comes to see the purpose behind the filling of the Spirit and the outpouring of speaking in tongues. God's miraculous provision enabled these first followers to proclaim the gospel in the heart language of people. God was moving to save the lost and establish His new community of the Church (Acts 2:38-47).

Acts 2:1-4 reminds us that God fulfills His promise. God does miracles to save people who are distant from Him. God fills us with His Spirit so that we might boldly share the good news. God is building His Church! As you reflect on these truths, how does it make you feel? What stirs in your heart as you read Acts 2:1-4 and consider its meaning in the broader context of God's plan? How do you fit into what God is doing?

Let me suggest you take some time right now and talk to God about how you feel and what you want Him to do in your life. Surrender your life to Him, ask Him to fill you with the Holy Spirit. Make yourself available to be used by Him today. Pray about how you can be a part of building His Church. Remember the fury of the storm; God may want to use it to change your life!

## **PRAYER**

*Lord, I make myself available to be used by You. I am Your servant and I ask You to use me in the building of Your Church. Help me to live by Your Spirit. Amen.*

## DAY 2: HIS POWER FOR HIS PURPOSE

### ACTS 1:4-8

GIGI JOHNSON

I tell everyone I know about ALDI. Their prices are great, and it's a small enough grocery store that you can run in and run out in a matter of minutes. Unless you find yourself sucked into the ALDI Finds aisle, that is. Then you're toast, and I'll see you next week. My friends make fun of me, but ALDI changed my life. It helped me tolerate grocery shopping—a task I typically loathe. So, in light of this, why wouldn't I tell all my friends about this awesome discount grocery store that they, too, can enjoy... as long as they bring a quarter for their cart.

When something impacts our lives for the better, we tell all our friends. When something (or rather someone) saves our souls for eternity, we tell all our friends and all “our strangers”! We can't keep silent!

In Acts 1: 4-8, we read about Jesus as he's spending time in his resurrected body with 11 of his closest friends. He clearly instructs them to wait for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, and though I know they heard him, they were quick to ask their burning question—“Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” (v. 6) In other words, “Jesus, are you going to go ahead and fix the world now?! Are you going to finally make everything perfect?”

Jesus kindly and compassionately gives them what some might view as an unsatisfying answer—“It's not for you to know the time or date the Father has sent by his own authority” (v. 7). But immediately he shifts back to the point He was on his way to making.

*But you will receive power with the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)*

Jesus is telling them to shift their focus onto the power He's promised them. Wait for it, get ready for it, and when it comes, know what to do with it! He wants them to know that it will equip and empower them to be His witnesses, to heal, to do miracles, signs, and wonders in His name, to proclaim Truth, to preach the Gospel, and to help others come to the salvation that they've come to know through faith in Jesus Christ.

We all desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit in our day to day lives. We want the wisdom, strength, endurance, courage, and care the Holy Spirit promises. But have we become self-centered and perhaps forgotten that the purpose of the Holy Spirit is intended to grow the Kingdom of God, and not simply to make us more comfortable or to make our lives easier?



**But we have become self-centered and perhaps forgotten that the purpose of the Holy Spirit is intended to grow the Kingdom of God, and not simply to make us more comfortable.**

When you ask the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you today, get ready for your life to begin proclaiming Truth through your words and actions. And don't keep it to just your friends, be sure to let it shine to "your strangers", as well.

Oh, and about that quarter... you get it back when you return your cart. Try it, you'll love it! Or maybe you'll just have some good fodder to poke fun at me with, alongside everyone else.

## **PRAYER:**

*Jesus, thank You for giving us the gift of Your Holy Spirit, and for the power that it fills us with. Remind us today, Jesus, that this power is for Your intended purposes of telling more people about You and living more like You so others can see You and glorify You. Amen!*

## DAY 3: DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING ELSE ACTS 4:5-12

JORDAN GASH

"Please, Dad! Pleeeeeeease! Can we? Please!" My kids shouts come from the back of the car. I look at the clock on the center consul and start to do the calculations of time in my head to the tune of desperate children. I'm not a hard sell, but right now, at the peak of the lunch rush, the line is bound to stretch almost out of the parking lot. I make my decision. Today I get to be a hero. "Let do it! In-n-Out it is!"

Founded in 1948 by Harry and Esther Snyder, In-N-Out Burger was built around simple philosophies and a simple menu, but with quality ingredients and quality service. Today, In-N-Out Burger remains privately owned and to say that it is thriving is an understatement. However, one of the most satisfying things about In-N-Out is its simple menu. The only thing that will be served to you across the counter is either a burger or fries--no chicken nuggets, no turkey wraps, no salads, no onion rings—just burgers, don't expect anything else.

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**When a submitted and Spirit-filled person gets pressed, the truth of Jesus comes out.**

When we explore the nature of the Holy Spirit, we can understand that He will speak only the truth of Jesus and only guide us in a way that glorifies His name. Don't expect anything else. When a submitted and Spirit-filled person

gets pressed, the truth of Jesus comes out. Anything else is not of Spirit, but of the flesh. We can see an example of this within Peter and John in Acts 3 when they are arrested and questioned by the Jewish rulers and elders.

*“Rulers and elders of the people!...It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stand before you healed...Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:8,10,12*

This is exactly what Jesus said would happen in these moments of pressing (check it out in Mark 13:11). The point is that when we are filled and under the influence of the Holy Spirit, we will be witnesses to the world around us. We will be speakers of the truth. We will courageously proclaim His name when challenged. Don't expect anything else.

## **PRAYER**

*Lord Jesus, I submit myself to Your control. Burn away anything that is not of You and is of me. Help me to not overthink how to be Your witness in this world, but rather increase my faith to trust that You will be with me. Amen.*

## **DAY 4: SHAKEN AND STIRRED**

### **ACTS 4:29-31**

*GREG MUNCK*

“Shaken, not stirred” is a catchphrase used by James Bond in Ian Flemings books and movies. It describes Bond’s preference for the preparation of his martini cocktail. When God’s Holy Spirit moves in and through us, we are Shaken and Stirred. That reminds me of the first time I was invited to be a counselor at a junior high church camp when I returned from the Gulf War. I had an amazing week, and that Friday night, Dan asked me to give my testimony about my life. I was like, “are you sure?” He said, “Just be yourself, Greg.” He invited me up after worship, and I told my story and hit many of the tragic themes of my life and God’s saving grace. It was so raw, authentic, and real. The Jr. Highers were glued to every word. I think I accidentally said the “S” word during the testimony, and the junior highers didn’t even flinch or laugh at that. At the end of my testimony, I asked them to pray for me because I still hated my dad, who was currently in jail. I didn’t pull any punches with them and told them I knew that only through the grace of Christ would I learn to forgive my father. I remember powerfully experiencing the presence of God after giving my testimony. During the final worship, I was overwhelmed with emotion as over fifty kids came over to have me pray for them. My whole cabin locked arm-in-arm together, worshipping the Lord. That was the first time I felt the Spirit of God working in and through me, taking the worst from my life and using it for His best to draw people to Him. I was humbled, and there is no greater feeling!

Have you ever had an experience where God used you, and you felt His presence so much that it shook and stirred you to your core? When we surrender our lives to God, He uses us in ways we never thought possible, it’s not a one-time thing it’s a constant experience, and that process can sometimes have a visceral impact on us emotionally and physically. Just like we read about in Acts 4:

*And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness. (Acts 4:29-31)*

The early church's prayer is consumed with God's cause and glory, not the comfort and advancement of the disciples. They pray for things that will lead to more confrontation, not less. They did not ask to do miracles themselves. They understood that Jesus heals by His hand; and that He does it from heaven through His people. They were given an earthquake as a unique emblem of God's pleasure. We don't know the extent of the shaking; it may have been confined to the house itself. The idea that we are "Spirit filled" only at an experience known as the "Baptism of the Holy Spirit" is wrong, though there may be a wonderful and first yielding to the Spirit's power. We must be continually be filled with the Holy Spirit, and make our "immersion" in Him a constant experience. The boldness they pray for is necessary today and we need to share God's love and Word with all the people we come in contact with. Don't deliberately hide the work of God in your life from others who would benefit from hearing about it. In the power of the Holy Spirit, step out in faith and be bold. You will be shaken and stirred!

#### PRAYER:

*Lord, help me to be consumed with Your desire. Please help me to impact everyone around me with Your love and truth. In the name of Jesus help me to heal those that need Your touch. May Your Holy Spirit be constantly working in and through me in powerful ways, giving me boldness, Amen.*



## DAY 5: ARE YOU A GOOD PERSON?

### ACTS 11:22-24

DONNA JONES

Years after seeing the movie, ***Saving Private Ryan***, the last scene remains fresh in my mind. Private Ryan, now a gray-haired old man, stands soberly at the gravesite of one of his fallen war buddies. Moved by how his salvation allowed him to live a full life while other soldiers had been less fortunate, he turns to his family--his wife, children and grandchildren--and asks only one question:

"Was I a good man?" In the end, don't we all want to be known as "good"?

But, how does one define a good person? Is there a God-approved litmus test? Acts 11:22-24 gives a glimpse into the life of a man God deemed good.

*News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. (Acts 11:22-24)*

According to God, Barnabas was a good man. Named Joseph at birth, he was dubbed Barnabas which means "son of encouragement". A respected leader of the church in Jerusalem, Barnabas was entrusted to check out the spiritual movement going on in Antioch. When he saw what the grace of God had accomplished in Antioch he wasn't threatened, jealous or judgmental; he was glad. More than that, he "encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts."

Barnabas lived God-centered and others-centered. Lesser men are self-centered.

As a result of Barnabas' encouragement, faith, and fullness of the Holy Spirit, a great number of people were impacted so deeply that they were brought to God. This is the fruit of a good life.

But, how does one become good person when being good is not always easy, especially in a fallen world?

The answer is found in verse 24: *He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith.* Only God in us (the Holy Spirit) can produce lasting goodness through us. If we try to be good without being filled with God, we'll quickly realize just how difficult it is to be good. Frankly, it's an impossible task, even for the nicest people among us. But, if our hearts are filled up with faith and the Holy Spirit, our lives will be filled up with the fruit of His Spirit, which is goodness.

God's people are to be good people, which is possible when we live full of the Holy Spirit and faith.

### **PRAYER:**

*Lord, I want to be a good person. I confess that apart from You, I'm not. But, You've poured Your Holy Spirit into my heart because of my faith in Jesus. I want to live my life full of Your Holy Spirit and faith. I want everything about my life to encourage fellow believers to stay faithful to You, and draw those who don't know You yet, to You. And one day, when I stand before You face to face, may I hear you proclaim, "He/She was a good person", because I lived full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and my life reflected it. Amen.*



**Barnabus  
lived God-  
centered  
and others-  
centered.  
Lesser men  
are self-  
centered**





# session 2

**ACTIVATED TO ACTION (ACTS 2:5-14)**

“Is it plugged in and turned on?” There is a reason that technical support representatives ask that question first. The fact is, far more electronics are “fixed” by simply plugging them in and turning them on than we’d like to believe. How often the human race forgets the most foundational need for an electronic device to work properly: a power source.

It may be funny to think about, but hey Church, are we so much different?

We first meet Peter on the shores of the sea of Galilee and we have no context for who this man is—only that he is a fisherman and has a brother named Andrew. However, as the story unfolds, seen in each of the four Gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), we learn a lot more about Peter. We see that Peter is a simple and impulsive Jewish man. He is wildly curious and confident (at times over-confident). We observe some of his victories and some of his failures. Most importantly, we see that he was closely connected to Jesus. When we reach Acts 2, and the coming of the Holy Spirit, something remarkably significant happens. Peter, this humble fisherman, aware of his shortcomings, is filled with the Spirit and sets sail on a whole new chapter of his adventure with Jesus. In his service to Jesus, he experiences things he could never have dreamed. Yet, Jesus knew his story all the way back on the shores of the sea of Galilee.

God has a magnificent plan for you. When we are surrendered to the authority of Jesus and living under the influence of His Spirit, we can be assured that the things He has done in your life and the things He is doing right now are all contributing to a grand story that will bring Him glory. So, when you feel His nudging and prompting,

don't overthink it, but rather lean in and trust that He is activating you into another chapter of your magnificent God-story.

**Now Watch "Session 2: Activated to Action" found at [crosslinechurch.com/outpouring](http://crosslinechurch.com/outpouring)**

**READ: Acts 2:5-14**

*Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. <sup>7</sup> Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" <sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." <sup>14</sup> 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.*

**DISCUSS**

1. If you were to hear a loud commotion and see a crowd quickly gathering, what would your response be?

2. On the day of Pentecost, Jesus kept His promise and filled the Apostles with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:1-11); having been filled with the Holy Spirit, what were the disciples enabled to do?
3. Read Acts 2:12-13. What was the response of the crowd who observed the Apostles' behavior and heard their message?
4. In Acts 2:1-13, the gift of tongues was the supernatural enablement to speak the gospel in a previously unlearned language. This phenomenon created a "divine appointment" with the gathered crowd. What was Peter's response? Why do you think Peter stepped into this situation with bold initiative?
5. Peter was filled with the Spirit. When we are filled with the Spirit, we are activated to step into divine appointments and opportunities to serve Christ and share His message. Read up the following verses and discuss how they explain the Spirit's role in activating believers for these types of divine opportunities:

**Luke 12:11-12:** *"When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, <sup>12</sup> for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."*

**Mark 13:11:** *Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.*

6. Because of their devotion to prayer and the filling of the Spirit, the Apostles were activated. Take note of the sequence of events: Acts 1:8, Acts 1:12-14, Acts 2:4, Acts 2:12-14. What role do you think intentional and specific prayer plays in activating a believer to action?

7. Read Colossians 4:2-6; what does this passage say about being activated to action and seizing divine appointments?

*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. <sup>3</sup> And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. <sup>4</sup> Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. <sup>5</sup> Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

8. Based on this study, what is your takeaway? How should you be devoted to prayer to be activated by the Spirit for divine appointments?

## APPLY:

In response to what you saw, read and discussed today,

**As a group, ask the Lord to miraculously orchestrate divine opportunities in your lives this week and pray for boldness from the Holy Spirit for when those moments come.**





devotionals

## DAY 6: THE GREAT REVERSAL

### ACTS 2:5-14

GRANT GUNTHER

Twenty-five years ago, one of the greatest reversals in all of history took place. It is still one of the most shocking moments of my childhood. As an avid fan of World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE), the moment Hulk Hogan turned heel (aka went from being a good guy to a bad guy in the wrestling biz) left me in utter disbelief. This was the Hulkster, Hulkamania, the iconic yellow and red, how in the world could he become a villain? My nine-year-old self was unprepared and left in shock by the fact someone could make a switch like that, especially after only knowing him to be the hero.

While this moment was certainly an iconic one for me when it comes to the unexpected happening, there have been plenty of other moments throughout my life where the unexpected has happened. I am sure if you were to reflect back on your own life you could easily find moments where the opposite of what you expected has happened. Maybe they are not quite as memorable as the Hulkster turning heel, but they are there.

When we look at the story of Scripture, we quickly see the God of the Bible doing the unexpected and impossible, reversing the course of history. In Genesis 11 the Lord confuses the language of and creates disunity within a group of people at Babel, because they were attempting to build a tower to the heavens in order to make themselves great. Yet, in Acts 2 we see the reversal of this language confusion when the Holy Spirit descends in tongues of fire and power, bringing people back together by unifying their language.

Here is what it says in Acts 2:

*And they were astounded and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? How is it that*

*each of us can hear in our own native language?... we hear them speaking the magnificent acts of God in our own languages.” (Acts 2:7-8, 11)*

What had caused separation for thousands of years, each nation having its own native tongue, God reverses through the power of the Spirit. In a room full of people seeking after the Lord, rather than trying to usurp Him, God shows up in power and causes them to miraculously speak in non-native languages that others may know Him. Even if we feel like a certain situation is a foregone conclusion, the God of the Bible can show up and completely change it through His power. Rather than being shocked when the impossible happens, would we be a people who ask and believe that God is able to do the impossible through His Spirit!



**Even if we feel like a certain situation is a foregone conclusion, the God of the Bible can show up and completely change it through His power.**

## **PRAYER**

*Lord, each day we might be faced with an impossible or hopeless set of circumstances, but You, Lord, are not stymied. You are able to reverse what we might believe is irreversible, to do the impossible, to provide hope when it feels like all hope is lost.*

*Would I be someone Lord who seeks after You, asking for Your Spirit to show up in power in my most desperate moments, and believing Lord that You are able to reverse the irreversible.*

## DAY 7: GOLD METAL IN SPEECH!

### EXODUS 4:10-12

NANCY MATOSSIAN

I am not an eloquent speaker. Many would disagree with this perspective which I have of myself. Many of you reading this have seen me on the platform at TVBS or other speaking opportunities. Most people consider me quite gifted and confident on stage. The flaw in my perspective, is that I compare myself to others. I see others who are more educated, have a broader vocabulary or more sophisticated word-bank in the library of their mind and feel inadequate with myself. I see my vocabulary as very juvenile. But if I was to live in the limitations that I see of myself, I would be living life with a very small faith.

A long time ago on my journey with the Lord, I chose to set aside my limited perspective and live willing to walk in the vast perspective of the Lord. And as a result of that willingness, I have done more than I would ever have dreamed.

Moses has always been a role model for me. I can enthusiastically relate to the following passage:

*Moses said to the Lord, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." The Lord said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."  
(Ex. 4:10-12)*

Moses may have openly questioned God's plan, but out of his questions came a beautiful answer for us on which we can build our faith. When we let the Holy Spirit empower us, God will take us beyond our limited perspective into his unlimited plan!

PRAYER:

*Lord, Help me to live with confidence, knowing YOU will do more with me when I allow You to lead. I am willing and can't wait to see Your plans. All the glory goes to You!*

## DAY 8: READY OR NOT

### MATTHEW 10:19-21

SERGIO SERRANO

*When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. 20 For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. (Matt. 10:19-20)*

"Think fast!" was what the eager hoopster on the blacktop said when he threw the basketball at my face. Before could I even react, my text books were scattered on the ground and I was rubbing my face hoping it would rub away the numbing nose sensation, as quick as possible. I had no time to react and ready myself to catch the basketball. The fun side bar to this story was that is it only fueled my play in our lunch time basketball game, back at Ensign Intermediate School.

Have you ever been blind-sided? Have you ever been not-so-pleasantly surprised? There is little to no time to react or ready yourself for what is coming at you.

In this passage, Jesus sends His 12 disciples out to reach lost people within the house of Israel. He charges them preach about the Kingdom of God and to minister to the needy. Not only that, but Jesus warns the disciples with an important heads up, about the way they would be received and treated. Some would receive their ministry well and even serve as hospitable partners. While others, would resist and reject them, even to the point of opposition by leaders in religious or political positions.

God is the ultimate expert in encouraging and equipping us in the journey. This is what He does. He assures us with His love, and also, forewarns us about what's ahead. He forecasts for us because He's been there and He equips

us because He cares. As He instructs us to be message-carriers and image-bearers of His family, He prepares us to endure opposition with a Kingdom perspective and inner-strength. Christ provides awareness in the battle ground. Sure as the sun rises and sure as it sets, it's inevitable that in this earth we will experience trials. There is no sugarcoating it. Jesus doesn't leave us alone in the sending. He doesn't say, "Ready or not, your on your own, fend for yourself." He lines it up for us.

Where will it come from? Difficulties will come from the world, the evil one and from our own flesh. Opposition will come. Suffering will come. Brokenness and the consequences of sin, will come. In a way I hear Jesus saying, "here it comes and be ready." How do we ready ourselves? Rest in Jesus. When we rest on the character and words of Jesus, we operate from the power of Jesus.

#### PRAYER:

*You lead me and You equip me at the same time. Help me to rest in You. May I operate from that place. Sorry for turning to other lesser options for replenishment. You are the only true source of rest and renewal. Jesus may we rest unto You when the day ends and wake up with an awareness of You, as the day begins. Holy Spirit I re-surrender everything I am. In Christ Name, amen.*

## DAY 9: THE HERO

### 1 SAMUEL 17:20-37

KYLIE HEALY

It is no surprise that the story of David and Goliath holds widespread popularity. As mainstream culture puts it, it is the victorious tale of an underdog: the weaker, smaller opponent faces a much bigger, stronger adversary and comes out triumphant! Of course, our Disney-loving hearts celebrate a story like this! Don't get me wrong; I love a good Disney movie, but what if we have missed the entire point? What if in an attempt to bring popularity to this epic Biblical battle we have emphasized the wrong character? What if this story isn't about an underdog at all?

I'm just going to rip the Band-Aid off: in the story of David and Goliath, David is not the hero. God is. And if God is the hero, this isn't a story about an underdog at all. It is the story of a big and powerful God who does big and powerful things in the lives of ordinary people. David knew this. David knew God was the hero and was capable of defeating even the biggest and scariest enemies.

*All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid. And the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel...." And David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (1 Sam. 17:24-26)*

While the other men of Israel fled in fear, David had an accurate view of the God he served. He knew that with God as the hero, Israel's army was more than capable of defeating the enemy. David was faithful and obedient to God and because of this, God used David to display His power and victory. God does not need us to accomplish



His plans. Yet, in His loving-kindness, He invites us in, equips us, and gives us the victory.

When we see God as the hero in our lives and elevate Him to His rightful place, we too have the opportunity to be used by Him. God used David, a young shepherd boy, to bring victory to the army of Israel. Even though Goliath was big, the true hero of the story is bigger, more powerful, and far more capable. David was the underdog, but God never was; He was and is the hero and the victorious one!



**God does not  
need us to  
accomplish His  
plans. Yet, in His  
loving-kindness,  
He invites us  
in, equips us,  
and gives us the  
victory.**

#### PRAYER:

*God, You are the victorious one! Help me see You for who You really are! I pray that I would have an accurate view of You so that when I look at You, my enemies seem small. I pray that I would place You at the center of my life and recognize You as the hero. Help me be faithful and obedient so that I can be used through the power of Your Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen!*

## **DAY 10: CAN I GET A WITNESS?**

### **COLOSSIANS 4:2-6**

*KYMBRY MUNCK*

I've been a Christian for many, many years now. Throughout my life, evangelism has never been my strongest gift. I have often prayed that God would allow me to be sensitive and give me eyes to see opportunities to share the gospel and that He would speak through me when the opportunities arose. For most of our lives, since getting married, Greg and I have been fully involved in ministry and have been surrounded by like-minded believers. Whereas I have found so much joy because of that, there was times, especially early on, when I felt like there was a void. A void because I wasn't finding many opportunities for evangelism.

When our son, Noah, was 11, he was cast in a tv show on Nickelodeon. That meant that I would be driving him to West Hollywood Monday through Friday every week while the show was filming. I would be surrounded by all different types of people. There would be a few believers along the way, but most of the people were not Christians. I began to seek the Lord, thanking Him and praying for opportunities to lead people to Him. Throughout the 7 years of Noah being on iCarly, the Lord answered my prayer many times over and gave me opportunities to tell people about Jesus.

One occasion that impacted me the most was when we were in Montreal, Canada. We were there because Noah had been cast in a Nickelodeon movie, "Nicky Deuce". He was the star of the movie! It was an incredible experience. During our 6 weeks in Montreal, I continued to pray and ask God to give me eyes to see opportunities and a sensitivity to people who were hurting and needed Jesus.

Towards the end of our 6 weeks in Montreal, we went out to lunch with the head producer for the movie. We had a great time and were able to get into some deep, meaningful

conversations. In the middle of the conversation, he amazingly began talking about how he'd like to start taking his family to church. He said he'd never been religious or had any interest before until he had seen the way Noah and our family interacted with each other and how we treated other people. He said, "I don't know what it is, but you guys have a light in you, and I have to believe that must have something to do with the fact that your dad is a pastor and that you guys go to church". If this wasn't an opportunity for evangelism, I don't know what was! Noah and I had the opportunity to share Jesus with this man who we really didn't know well, and I can tell you that it was so impactful for him and us as well. He said that he was going to look for a church to take his family to when he got home. It's beautiful when, as you seek the Lord and diligently pray for chances to share His love, you experience answered prayer firsthand! This story reminds me of our passage today

*Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person. (Colossians 4:2-6)*

In this passage, we are reminded to pray that God would open doors for His word to be spoken. Verse 5 hit me especially hard as it reminded me that it is important that we live our faith out loud. We need to be well-prepared in knowing the gospel message and be ready to make a defense to everyone who asks us to give an account for the hope that is within us. What we do and how we speak and treat other people matters. We are an example of Jesus--sometimes the only example a person might see up close.

We must speak with grace and truth. It's important that we know the word of God and have hidden it in our hearts so that when the time comes for us to share, we are able to do so and in turn, bring glory to His name.

**PRAYER:**

*Lord, thank You that You love us so perfectly. Jesus, I pray for the opportunity to proclaim the goodness of Your name. As I go out today, please bring me into contact with those who have been given eyes to see and ears to hear. Help me to bear great witness and bring glory to Your name. Direct my steps and lead me into the conversations You want me to have today. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.*



**We are an  
example  
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# session 3

INFLUENCED TO RESPOND (ACTS 2:38-41)





Every one of us is different and we make decisions in different ways. That is the beauty of how God created us. We are not a bunch of clones. However, psychology defines three primary motivations that drive decision-making within people and each one of us gives varying levels of weight to those motivations. Although they can be defined using an assortment of terms, those three motivations are logic, feelings, and intuition. So, in deciding what to have for dinner tonight, a logical person will think through things like what they had earlier in the week and what activities they will be doing in the morning and the amount of time they will have to prepare it and make a decision. A feelings oriented person will think through who they are having dinner with, what they may enjoy, and the mood that can be set by particular types of food and make their decision based on the experience of dinner. An intuitive person will make a quick decision based on what intuitively sounds good to them, not overthinking it. How would you say you make decisions?

Transitioning to how this relates to the Holy Spirit, we can take a look at Acts 2 once again. Last week, we saw how Peter stood up amongst the crowds of people and was activated by the Holy Spirit to share the good news of Jesus. We also read verses in our group discussion that shared about how the Holy Spirit will speak for us in those divine appointment moments. It is important to recognize something amazing about the Holy Spirit's words through Peter in Acts 2:14-36. What we recognize is that in a matter of a short speech, the Holy Spirit speaks to all the people—the logical people, the feelings people and the intuitive people. He leaves people without excuse and what we will explore in today's session is the miraculous response to those words. We will talk about the work of the Holy Spirit in drawing people to Jesus. Whereas there are moments when we meet people and more specifically share the

good news through the lens of logic (Acts 8:26-35) or feelings (John 4:7-26) or intuition (Acts 10:24-46), the Lord had a bigger, more sweeping work to be done with these listeners in Jerusalem.

**Now Watch "Session 3: Influenced to Respond" found at [crosslinechurch.com/outpouring](http://crosslinechurch.com/outpouring)**

**READ: Acts 2:14-41**

*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. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*

*"In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.*

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

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

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

<sup>21</sup> *And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'*

<sup>22</sup> *"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. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> David said about him: "I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand,  
I will not be shaken.

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

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

<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence.'

<sup>29</sup> "Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup> 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. <sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. <sup>33</sup> 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. <sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

"The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand

<sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies  
a footstool for your feet."

<sup>36</sup> "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

<sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart

*and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"*

*<sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."*

*<sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."*

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

## DISCUSS:

1. It has been said that "Information with no action is just information, but information plus action is transformation!" The previous statement is valid with the gospel of Jesus Christ. There is both information and action. In Acts 2, the Apostle Peter preaches the gospel in response to the phenomena of Pentecost. What are the responsive actions Peter is calling upon his audience to make?
2. In Peter's action-oriented appeal, he makes some promises to those who respond. According to Acts 2:38-41, what gospel promises do you observe? Why do you think it is essential to know what God promises to you if you obey the gospel?
3. Peter calls for an action response based upon the information he communicated in Acts 2:22-37. Discuss what information you think is critical to understand to respond to the gospel. What gospel facts does Peter highlight in this passage?

4. An often used informative-action presentation of the gospel is called “The Romans Road.” Each of the Scriptures in this plan of salvation comes from the book of Romans. Based on the following verses, what information needs to be believed and what action needs to be taken?

**Romans 3:23:** *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

**Romans 6:23:** *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Romans 4:24: But also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.*

**Romans 10:9:** *If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

5. In Acts 2:22-37, Peter presents Jesus as the crucified Lord God raised from the dead. Jesus’ death paid for our sins, and His resurrection vindicates His identity and authority as the Lord of life. Why do you think it is not enough to know these facts to have a saving relationship with God? Why must a person respond with an Acts 2:38-41 commitment?

6. If you have made an Acts 2:38-41 action response to Jesus, briefly share your story with the group.

7. If you have never acted upon the information of the gospel, then the following is a suggested heartfelt prayer of repentance and acceptance of Christ.

"Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God and resurrected Lord. I believe You died for my sins to forgive me and make me right with God. Lord, I repent and turn to You. Please forgive my sins, come into my heart and be the Lord of my life. Thank You for hearing my prayer and giving me the gift of salvation. In Jesus' name, amen."

## APPLY:

In response to what you saw, read and discussed today,

**Take time this week to personally write out the gospel of Jesus in a way that speaks to you and share it with someone close to you. Feel free to use the "Romans Road" explanation of the gospel in the back of this book to help you.**

\*\*\*If you sincerely prayed a prayer of repentance in this session and invited Jesus to be the Lord of your life, then Jesus has forgiven your sins and has come into your heart. We would love to be aware of that and support you in your journey! Please let your group host know! Your next step is to go public and be baptized as one of His followers.



devotionals

## DAY 11: THROUGH THE FLUFF

### ACTS 2:22-41

JORDAN GASH

Have you ever sat across the table from someone trying to sell you knives? You sit there as he or she goes through all the different variety of knives and why their knives are so much better than anything you could ever have. However, in the back of your mind you know the price tag on these knives and think to yourself, “how can any one particular set of knives be better than the other?” A master of their trade, they already know you are thinking this and that is why they end their presentation with a show-stopper. “Want proof of the quality of our knives? Watch me cut through this penny.” As they cut through the penny, you sit there baffled and amazed. Like that, you’re hooked. You buy them. Though cutting through a penny is wildly impractical, you can sit confidently, knowing that you could if you wanted to.

People may think they can group Christianity with all the other religions of the world, but that is absurd. It stands apart. Faith in Christ is not a system of values, a combination of beliefs or some feel-good ideology. The Holy Spirit of Jesus is far more invasive than that, disrupting your sense of control and flooding into the parts of yourself that you have hidden away. He is not interested in only living in your mind, but goes after your heart, bringing healing and hope in the places that matter most.

Take note of the response of the crowds from Acts 2 immediately after hearing the truth of Jesus:

*When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37)*

The word of God, carried by the Holy Spirit, cuts through all the fluff. It cuts through external facades. It cuts through narratives we tell ourselves to protect us from the pain of our past. It cuts through the fortress of “successes” that we build around ourselves. It meets us at the heart and confronts us with the truth that transforms. The author of Hebrews explains that it is “sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Heb. 4:12). Why? Because the Holy Spirit knows that real healing, real change, real salvation, comes from inside out. Love is experienced at the heart and we have a God who recklessly loves us.



**The word of  
God, carried  
by the Holy  
Spirit, cuts  
through all  
the fluff.**

## **PRAYER**

*Lord Jesus, I open my heart to You. I welcome Your healing and transformation from the inside out. Sanctify me by Your word and lead me in the path of everlasting. Thank You that I have Your word and that I have Your Spirit that reminds me of Your Word. Grant me a spirit of discipline to seek You within the scriptures all the day of my life.*

## **DAY 12: GOD'S HOLY OPPORTUNITIES**

### **ACTS 3:12-21**

*GIGI JOHNSON*

My high school years, though far from perfect, included a lot of spiritual growth. It was there I really began to understand God's love for me and take ownership of my faith journey. So, when given the choice between going to a Christian college or a secular college, due to my recent spiritual growth at the time, I confidently chose a secular college, with full intentions of being a light in the darkness.

Unfortunately, over the course of the next 3 years, that "dark campus" and all that went with it got the best of me, and "this little light of mine" was blown out quickly. Not only was I largely ineffective in my efforts to share Christ with those who needed it, the whole experience was borderline deadly for the state of my soul. The choices and decisions I made back then still sadden me to this day, but I know God can, has and will continue to use my experiences and my testimony for Himself in ways I cannot imagine.

Upon graduating from UCSB and moving back home, God's grace offered me a clear and safe way back to him. Thank you, Jesus! When that opportunity came, I did NOT pass it up! By this point, I knew—and I mean knew—what it meant to feel lonely, insecure, hopeless, unloved, and striving for what the world said was important, and I wanted out. I said a hard and final YES to God, and His endless, overwhelming and undeserved grace continues to carry me every single day.

In the story we read today in Acts, Peter is preaching to those who saw him and John perform the miracle of making a lame man walk (and further jump and leap in praise). Many of the people he's speaking to in the temple were the same people that had a hand in putting Jesus on the cross. They'd disowned Him, traded his life for that of a



murderer's, and thoughtlessly handed him over to be killed. Yet, in His power and by His will, God still raised Jesus from the dead, and still chose to offer His grace to these men once again—giving them the chance to have redemption from their sin. Though they'd acted in ignorance, God gave them the holy opportunity to repent, to receive the forgiveness of their sins, and to put their faith fully and completely in Jesus.

Friend, if you need another chance to put your faith fully and completely in Jesus Christ, now is the time! The heart of God is that NO ONE should perish. Will you commit right now to taking it? Don't let anything slow down your hard YES. God is so kind—receive Him!

#### **PRAYER:**

*Father, thank You that You offer us grace when we least deserve it. Thank You for dying for us while we were still sinners. Thank You for the holy opportunity to receive the forgiveness You offer—forgiveness that covers every misstep, every ignorance, every rebellion. Jesus, your love is perfect and we desire it more than anything. May You continue to lead us and love us like only you can. Amen.*

## DAY 13: HOLY SPIRIT'S AGENDA VS MY AGENDA

### ACTS 8:26-39

THOMAS OH

Have you ever witnessed an unusual move that a coach had made at a crucial moment in the game or even a questionable career change of a friend who was successful in their job? Though there may be questions and assumptions we have towards these kinds of unexpected situations, we've all had this thought in our mind: *Why?*

I believe those around Phillip—one of the seven men who was chosen to preach the word of God (Acts 6:5)—had similar speculation in their mind when Phillip decided to leave Samaria where his ministry was flourishing, with crowds responding to the gospel message and people experiencing powerful healing through the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:4-8).

Based on the text referenced above, it's safe to assume that Phillip's ministry was expanding. Perhaps others may agree and claim that his ministry was succeeding. However, the Holy Spirit had a different agenda. All throughout His ministry, Jesus never cared about numbers; He cared about reaching the hearts of man. He was focused on the expansion of the Kingdom on earth (Mark 1:21-39).

*Now an angel of the Lord said to Phillip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure... So Phillip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Phillip to come up and sit with him... Then Phillip opened his mouth, and beginning with*

*this Scripture he told them the good news about Jesus....  
And [Phillip and the eunuch] went down into the water and  
[Phillip] baptized him. (Acts 8:26-39)*

Phillip put the Spirit's agenda above his own. This faithful act led him to an Ethiopian eunuch whose heart was ready to hear what Jesus had done for him. Touchdown! The gospel has landed in Africa. The Holy Spirit was ready to have the gospel be preached all over Ethiopia and its surrounding countries through his people. There we witness a compelling fruition of Jesus's last command to his disciples: Go make disciples of ALL nations.

### **PRAYER:**

*Lord, thank You for being a gracious and loving Father. May You reveal any form of agenda that I have placed in my life that is not of Yours. Help me to see, understand, and believe in the plans You have for me. I give my life to You. Amen.*

## DAY 14: MY HEART = YOUR HOME

### ACTS 17:16-34

SERGIO SERRANO

*The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' (Acts 17:24-28)*

What do you give to someone who has no need for anything? Or offer to a God who owns it all? God is self-sufficient and has no need for anything. He does desire one thing; He desires our undivided Heart. He desires to abide, to dwell, not just visit, but inhabit our heart.

Our heart is like a house. Jesus says, "I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." (Rev. 3:20) Our heart is where He desires to abide as the One master of the house. When we surrender to Him and when

“

**When we  
surrender to  
Him and when  
we truly worship  
Him, we are  
opening the door  
to the house in  
our hearts for  
Jesus to come in  
and not just be  
a guest, but be a  
resident.**

we truly worship Him, we are opening the door to the house in our hearts for Jesus to come in and not just be a guest, but be a resident. He can come in and sit on the best chair, take his shoes off, kick His feet up and just be. The idea of Christ in us, is mind-blowing, yet so desirable and right. It brings us back to the garden where it all started. Unhindered, rich, deep, real and intimate fellowship and friendship. Him in us and us in Him.

There is a groan that is ringing from the cavernous depths of every living and existing soul to be the residence place for the One who spoke that soul into existence. It is a cry coming from the church. The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the Water of Life.

*"Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong." (Ephesians 3:17)*

## **PRAYER:**

*Glory be to You. All of it. No one can steal Your glory. Forgive me for the times I tried to take credit or neglected to give You credit, for great fruit, blessings that only flowed from You in the first place. My heart is Yours. Make our heart Your home. We desire to be one with You. In Jesus Name, amen.*

## DAY 15: SPIDEY SENSES

### 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8

SARAH AUNGST

Parents have spidey senses, like Spiderman, who knows when trouble is close by and exclaims, “My spidey senses are tingling.” They always know when to check in on their kids. It’s the perfectly timed phone call when the kids are planning to go to the friend’s house they aren’t allowed to, or the perfectly timed check in when their kid had a tough day. Spidey senses.

Paul was like a caring parent to early churches and, filled with the Spirit, he would write at the perfect time with some encouragement, reminders, and hard truths. Our scripture for today was written to the city Corinth of Achaia. This city was a juggernaut politically and commercially, highly trafficked with travelers. Being an area with lots of people, resources, and wealth, there was much wickedness. In fact, there is an old Greek word born from this area, the transliteration is, “Krothiazomai,” (or Corinthianize) which meant to practice fornication. I think we get the picture. Let’s read Paul’s letter to the believers in this lost area:

*Now brothers, I want to clarify for you the gospel I proclaimed to you; you received it and have taken your stand on it. You are also saved by it, if you hold to the message I proclaimed to you—unless you believed for no purpose. 3 For I passed on to you as most important what I also received:*

*that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then He appeared to over 500 brothers at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep.*

*Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one abnormally born He also appeared to me. (1 Corinthians 15:1-8)*

Paul is burdened by the Holy Spirit to write letters to these people. He desired to disciple them, witness to them, and hold them accountable to the Christian life. He didn't give up despite their reputation of wickedness and godlessness, but remained steadfast encouraging them to hold tightly and stand upon the Gospel. Let's seek the Holy Spirit today and ask who in our community we need to send a timely text, phone call, or even a letter. Let's think of the people we may have counted out because of their reputations or environment. Let's tap into our spidey senses and see who the Holy Spirit is calling us to bring encouragement, reminders, and truth today.



**Let's tap into  
our spidey  
senses and see  
who the Holy  
Spirit is calling  
us to bring  
encouragement,  
reminders, and  
truth today.**

### **PRAYER:**

*Holy Spirit, bring to mind a face, or a name of a person that I could encourage and check in with. Speak through me and give me the perfect words to remind them of the Gospel they can stand upon. Give me divine wisdom to encourage them in their unique situations and struggles. Help me to remind them of the saving power found in Jesus and importance of holding to it. Amen.*



# session 4

**UNITED TO WORSHIP (ACTS 2:42-46)**





Somewhere in Colorado around the turn of the century, a group of people began a conversation about an outrageous idea: a non-stop 200 mile relay-run. That idea turned into an internationally known race series called the Ragnar Relay and it happens around the nation and around the world. One could argue that its success has to do with the concept of it, the locations or the even the clever marketing, but my confident belief is that it is due to the team nature of the event. It's an amazing experience to do with your friends. Long distances, no sleep, and smelly vans cannot overpower a unified purpose.

Groups of people will do tremendous things when they are dedicated to the same goal. After all the effort and exertion and perseverance, they cross the finish line together. The victory is a collective one. This is the desire of Jesus for His Church and His Holy Spirit will work to this end. In Acts 2:42-46, following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and thousands turning to Jesus for salvation, we can see the impact of the Holy Spirit on a community of people and it is nothing short of astonishing. It is made astonishing not because a bunch of people are trying to be unified, but rather it is astonishing because the Holy Spirit is unifying them. This love within a Spirit-filled community can be observed by the world and is a testimony to the Lordship of Christ. (John 13:35, 17:23).

We are unified in our worship of the Lord. Let's run the race and cross the finish line together.

**Now Watch "Session 4: United to Worship" found at [crosslinechurch.com/outpouring](http://crosslinechurch.com/outpouring)**

**READ: Acts 2:42-47a**

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and*

to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

## DISCUSS:

1. In Acts 2:42-47, what are the experiences that the whole church shares together?
2. The first church consisted of the original apostles, the prayer group from Acts 1 and all the people who responded to Peter's gospel message on the day of Pentecost. Each person in the gathered community experienced the fulfillment of the promise in Acts 1:4-8 and responded with the response of Acts 2:38-41. What do you think is the relationship between transformed individuals and a transformed church?
3. The hallmark of the first church community was their unity in seeking the Lord. Read Jesus' prayer in John 17:20-26. In what specific ways was Jesus' prayer answered in the first church?

*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup>that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we*

*are one—<sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.<sup>24</sup> “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.<sup>25</sup> “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.<sup>26</sup> I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”*

4. Do you think local churches today should strive after the reality of the early church's experience in Acts 2? How do you think a church should pursue being united in seeking the Lord in worship?

5. Remember, transformed people experience transformed community. What kind of spiritual transformation do you need to experience to contribute to a united and dynamic church?

6. The Holy Spirit changes our lives when we respond to the gospel (Acts 1:4-8, 2:38-41). What will you ask the Holy Spirit to do in your life to help bring about unity of worship in your church?

## APPLY:

In response to what you saw, read and discussed today.

**This week, find a need that one of your brothers or sisters in Christ has and be intentional to fulfill that need, in worship to Christ.**



devotionals

## DAY 16: WE'RE IN THIS LOVE TOGETHER

### ACTS 2:42-46

JP JONES

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts. (Acts 2:42-46)*

In the early 80's, jazz singer, Al Jarreau, released a hit titled "We're in this love together." The feel-good tune matched the positive lyrics:

It's like a diamond ring  
It's a precious thing  
And we never want to lose it  
It's like a favorite song that we love to sing  
Ev'ry time we hear the music  
And we're in this love together  
We got the kind that lasts forever  
We're in this love together  
And like berries on the vine  
It gets sweeter all the time

Being together in love is a value that transcends generations and cultures; it is the intrinsic value that characterizes the first Church in the book of Acts. Being together in love with Jesus and one another is God's design for His people. It's like a diamond ring, and it's a precious thing!

Togetherness in worship, life, and service is a fruit of being transformed by the Holy Spirit. Filled with the Spirit, Peter proclaimed the gospel to those who had been attracted by

the Pentecost phenomena (Acts 2:1-37). Eager to respond to the gospel, Peter urged his audience to repent, believe in the crucified and resurrected Jesus, and be baptized in Jesus' name. Those who responded were promised forgiveness, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the salvation that God provided. Around 3,000 were converted and became the nucleus of the first church.

Changed people make up a changed community. Acts 2:42-46 describes the love that created togetherness in the early Church. Do you think that love can be experienced today? Is Jesus still in the business of changing lives? Can people who have been changed and do life together experience a changed community? Each of the previous questions needs to be asked and answered from God's Word. If the answers are yes, yes, and yes, then the next question is, what is my part? God has a position for you to play in experiencing life and community change.

Today, right now, take some time to ask God, what is my part? Remember, we are in this love together, and it's like a diamond ring, it's a precious thing!



**Changed  
people  
make up  
a changed  
community.**

## **PRAYER**

*Lord God, thank You for the Love that You give so lavishly! Thank You for unifying our church in Your love. Continue to show me the part that You would have me play in Your Church. Amen!*

## DAY 17: SOMETHING WORTH CELEBRATING EPHESIANS 2:11-22

DONNA JONES

The tour host wheeled his large van up to our hotel right on time. Since JP and I were the first participants to be picked up for our bike tour, we thought it only polite to ask a few questions as we stepped into the vehicle.

“How’s your week going?” JP inquired.

We assumed we’d get the standard, “pretty good. How ‘bout yours?” reply.

Instead, the driver surprised us with an elated, “Great! I became an American citizen!!!”

After we offered our heartfelt congratulations, he went on to tell us about the day he was granted citizenship and how other Americans responded to the news: A family at Trader Joe’s bought his groceries. The woman behind him at a coffee shop bought his coffee. Neighbors brought a houseplant.

Everyone had the same response: We’re glad you’re one of us. Let’s celebrate your citizenship!

It’s this same enthusiasm for oneness which Paul writes about in Ephesians 2:

*[Jesus] came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. (Eph. 2:17-20)*

Jesus preached peace with God to those who were far away from Him and to those who were near. Through Jesus all people have access to the Father by the Spirit. Consequently, all who choose to follow Jesus become citizens of the same kingdom and siblings of the same household--God's.

But, more than that, Ephesians 2:21 tells us, "In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."

Through our common connection with Jesus believers are built together, joined together, and rise together. For what purpose? To become a holy dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

This imagery brings to mind the house we purchased when we first moved to Orange County. I remember seeing concrete trucks, wood beams, and a host of other building materials sitting on our lot. Honestly, it looked more like a hodgepodge than the makings of a house. Eventually, though, those materials fit together to become our home; a dwelling where the Jones family lived.

In the same way, through the working of the Holy Spirit, God fits his children together to become His holy temple, a dwelling in which He lives. When we function as fellow citizens and siblings, working together and joined together, we become a dwelling where God Himself displays his glory.

Now that's something heaven can celebrate!



## PRAYER

*Jesus, thank You that You preached peace to me and now I have access to the Father through the Spirit. Your Holy Spirit made me a citizen of heaven, a child of God, and a sibling with all other believers. Lord, I want to work together with other believers so that we can be a dwelling for You to show the world Your glory and Your love. Amen.*

## DAY 18: BIG UGLIES

### EPHESIANS 4:11-16

GRANT GUNTHER

As a bigger guy, when I played football growing up I was a natural fit on the offensive line. What can I say, God gave me a body to push people backward rather than trying to juke or run by them. Sometimes offensive linemen are affectionately known as big uglies. We are probably not going to be homecoming or prom king, or be the most popular person in our school. Most spectators will not be able to name an offensive lineman, and throughout the course of a game the only attention we are probably going to receive is when we mess up and draw a flag. Yet, even the most well-known and greatest quarterbacks, running backs, and wide receivers would be utterly useless without an offensive line. While we are not going to be the playmakers everyone cheers for, or drafts for their fantasy football team, we are going to be the ones that enable the playmakers.

Your job on the o-line is to create space, and buy time so that your skill position guys can flourish and get the job done. Offensive linemen do not take pride in their own accomplishments, but in the accomplishments of their teammates. Being a big ugly is about setting up your teammates for success.

In Ephesians 4, Paul talks about the different leadership roles the Lord has given the church, which includes apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. When most people think of these roles within the church, to borrow the football analogy from above, they think of these roles as the star players--you know, the quarterbacks, the wide receivers, and the running backs. However, look carefully at what Paul says in Ephesians 4:

*And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to*

*build up the body of Christ... (Ephesians 4:11-12)*

If we take what Paul says seriously in these verses, then rather than these roles being the stars of the show, they are more like big uglies. Y-O-U are the playmakers, the ones who are going to make the splashiest and most memorable plays. Leadership roles within the church are all about enabling and equipping those under their care. Yes, it is incredibly important for you to commit to church that you might be led, but ultimately you are going to be the one that leads and makes the greatest impact in your family, with your neighbors, and within your community. God's Spirit lives in you, the same way He lives in leaders, and He wants to work through Y-O-U! God gave you the local church, filled with a bunch of big uglies, to help train you up to do the work He wants you to accomplish in your spheres of influence.



**Ultimately you  
are going to be  
the one that  
leads and makes  
the greatest  
impact in your  
family, with  
your neighbors,  
and within your  
community.**

## **PRAYER**

*Lord, thank you that you do not leave us adrift in this world without help. You have given us Your Spirit, and You have given us spiritual leaders to help guide us along in life. Would I be willing to humble myself daily and be attentive to Your leading in my life Lord.*

*Help me to see myself as a part of Your plan, someone that You desire to work through. You have given me help that I might be enabled to accomplish the work You have for me, would I be willing to step out in faith and be used by You.*

## **DAY 19: CHOSEN AND PRECIOUS**

### **1 PETER 2:4-10**

NANCY MATOSSIAN

As I read through 1 Peter 2:4-10, the words precious and chosen stood out to my heart.

The God of the Universe sees me as chosen and precious. Wow. Having four teenage girls in the house, we are constantly barraged with the negative voices inside their heads. (Such as: I am too short, tall, thin, heavy. My hair is too dark, light, thin, frizzy. I am too loud, quiet, nervous, dumb or whatever) this, even though we spend a great deal of time reminding them what God says about them in His Word. They are actually PRECIOUS and CHOSEN!

It still amazes me that I need this reminder on a regular basis as well! Since I have the 'gift' of overthinking, I can spend a great deal of time processing and reprocessing everything I do and say. I was recently reminded by a friend that overthinking can actually help us to notice God and zero in on His work in each step of our lives. It is living out 1 Peter 2:9b,

*that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Pet. 2:9b)*

When we recognize the work of the Holy Spirit, we declare His praises. When we acknowledge and live as chosen and precious, we declare His praises. When we remind our kids of our identity in Christ alone, we declare His praises.

## **PRAYER**

*Lord, help me to believe and embrace how chosen and precious I am in Your eyes. You are truth. You are love. Walk with me as I learn to see myself as chose and precious. Help me to live out loud declaring Your praises with my whole life. Amen.*

## DAY 20: KINGDOM ATTITUDE IN A WORLD OF PAIN

### PSALM 100

THOMAS OH

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1). The gospel news brings immense joy and if Jesus had not died on cross for mankind and resurrected, we would live a hopeless life. Tim Keller once said, "Opposite of joy is not sadness. It's hopelessness."

As Christians, we have the greatest hope in Jesus. Through the resurrection of Christ, believers know what this means. It means that Jesus had conquered death and had received the punishment that we deserve. It means that if we now confess that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised him from the dead, we will receive salvation (Romans 10:9). With salvation, the Holy Spirit now dwells in our heart. This is good news! Our outer self that was wasting away from sin and from death is now being redeemed by the grace of God. We are no longer enslaved to sin but enslaved to righteousness.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." (Romans 15:13) According to Jesus, it was to our advantage that he must go, in order for the Holy Spirit to be at work among believers. What a great reminder that in the midst of our tribulation, we are able to rejoice in hope because of the promises we have in Jesus.

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!*

*Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!*

*Know that the LORD, he is God!*

*It is he who made us, and we are his;*

*we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter the gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with*

*praise!*

*Give thanks to him; bless his name!*

*For the LORD is good;*

*his steadfast love endures forever,*

*and his faithfulness to all generations.*

*(Psalm 100)*

The Lord is good and his steadfast love endures forever. There are people in the world who do not know what Jesus had done for them or cannot even grasp the amount of love God has for his children. As people who have been transformed by the gospel, this is too good of a gift to not share with everyone in our proximity. Proximity matters in love. Praise God that the Lord is near to the end of the age.

#### **PRAYER:**

*Abba Father, may You continue to remind me of Your goodness.*

*Help me to understand Your grace, love, and mercy so that I may have the heart of gratefulness of what you have done for me. Let my gratefulness of Your goodness bring joy in my life! Amen.*



**As people who  
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Proximity  
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# session 5

**TRANSFORMED TO OVERFLOW (ACTS 2:47)**



Not one of us reading this book right now has lived without modern media. Today, information can span the globe in a matter of minutes through the Internet. The information can be important world news or silly cat videos. The fact is that it doesn't really matter-- if it is put through the right channels, it will instantly travel far.

However, in the 1st century, news didn't spread like that. It was simply one person telling another and then that person telling another and so forth. Yet, for news to make it beyond the immediate vicinity, it had to be something truly compelling, of immense importance, or outlandish. It's within this context that we must understand the story of Acts 2. The Holy Spirit was intentionally and miraculously working things out for the message to spread wide. The coming of the Holy Spirit comes at a time when many Jews from throughout the world were gathered in Jerusalem for the festival of Pentecost. Furthermore, the miracle that happens involves the wonders of God being declared in many languages.

So, when the three thousand were added that day and Spirit-filled communities surged onto the scene, it was a recipe, concocted by the Spirit, for revival.

**Now Watch "Session 5: Transformed to Overflow" found at [crosslinechurch.com/outpouring](http://crosslinechurch.com/outpouring)**

**READ: Acts 2:47b**

*And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

## DISCUSS:

1. According to Acts 2:47, what was the result of believers gathering together?
2. An accepted truth is that healthy things grow. Healthy relationships, healthy organizations, and healthy churches all grow and overflow. Going back to Acts 2:42-47, discuss the signs of church health that lead to overflow.
3. Transformation is both God's part and our part. What role can you play to facilitate your church being a transformed community that overflows?
4. What does it mean to be contagious? In light of that, when you consider that God was adding people who were being saved to the new church, what can you infer about the relationships between believers and the new people being added?
5. God's part is to "add". Our part is to live a transformed life in a healthy church. How can you and your church be a witness for Christ in the world (Acts 1:8)? How can you "overflow" in your neighborhood, workplace, and community?
6. Take a moment before you wrap up discussion to dialogue about how you, as a group, want to be transformed to overflow. Talk about how you want to be a contagious community of believers. Then pray and invite the Holy Spirit to partner with you in seeing these desires fulfilled.

## APPLY:

In response to what you saw, read and discussed today:

***Who is one person with whom you want to be intentional about sharing what you have learned from this study? Write out there name here...***

***I want to share with:*** \_\_\_\_\_



devotionals

## **DAY 21: THE DAM HAS BROKEN**

### **ACTS 2:47**

*JORDAN GASH*

Many pristine, gorgeous lakes around the world are formed through the creation of a dam. It's upon these lakes that we gaze at sunsets, teach our kids how to fish, and enjoy recreation with our friends. However, beneath the surface, pushing upon that dam, is an extraordinary force caused by millions of tons of water.

In a few circumstances throughout history, the force moves from being an extraordinary force to an unstoppable force which the dam can no longer contain. When a dam fails, a wall of water, traveling at staggering speeds explodes forth and quickly floods the entire area, miles wide. Any attempts at thwarting it's spread will only fail in the face of this immense power.

When the Holy Spirit comes in Acts 2 and fills the community of believers with all the power of the Kingdom of Heaven, they became an unstoppable force flooding into all the world. With a quick look at the numbers mentioned in Acts, we can see how fast revival is spreading. In Acts 1:15, the number mentioned is 120 believers in Jerusalem, then in Acts 2:41 it says 3000 were added, then in Acts 4:4 it says that the number of believers was 5000 men (not including women and children). In less than 3 chapters, this small group of 120 believers in Jerusalem grew to likely over 10,000 people.

In Acts 5:28, we see the frustration of the Jewish leaders when they say, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching." It was an unstoppable force that was transforming Jerusalem. A statement that so perfectly captures this truth is Acts 2:46-47,

*Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:46-47)*

This expansion that we see in Acts ought be no surprise, because it is exactly what Jesus said the Holy Spirit would do in Acts 1:8. The more important question to ask is: Are you experiencing this type of overflowing expansion within your own life and your own community? If not, do you want to? Sometime we mistakenly think that the way to spread the gospel or see our church grow is to have the right event or say the right words in a clever way. Whereas those things aren't wrong and there is a proper time for that, the better tactic is to seek to live by the Spirit, constantly inviting Him to move within the spaces of our lives, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, our families and our church. Let's remove any obstacles and allow his power to flow. Break the dam.

## **PRAYER**

*Holy Spirit, I give You full control. Flood into all the areas of my life. If there is anything that is impeding me from hearing Your voice and responding to Your leading, in Jesus' name, I ask that You remove it! By Your power, make me an unstoppable force for Your name and Your glory!*

## **DAY 22: CUT IT HALFSIES**

### **ACTS 6:1-7**

*SARAH AUNGST*

As a twin, I had to share EVERYTHING. This wasn't inherently a bad thing, however, it was imperative that things were split evenly; whether it was time or a piece of chocolate cake, it had to be split evenly. This wasn't because one of us was more-or-less hungry or more-or-less needy. At the core of it, it was each of us wanting to feel equally valued.

In the early church there was a situation where there was a complaint that certain widows were being cared for more than other widows. Acts 6:1 says, "In those days, as the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint by the Hellenistic Jews against the Hebraic Jews that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution." Reading this verse, can we know decisively that the Hellenistic Jew widows were being slighted? Not necessarily. Can we tell that no matter what is true, one of the groups is feeling devalued? Yes, and ultimately, we can tell that there is a problem here that needs to be fixed!

Take the time to read our entire passage for today, Acts 6:1-7.

At first glance, we may look at this passage like, "Sheesh! The Apostles just didn't want to get their hands dirty, or do the practical job!" Knowing this community was committed to Christ & each other, at second glance, we see the Holy Spirit granting wisdom to the Apostles that they are not called to be EVERYTHING for the early church. They have a unique calling for them to accomplish. The Holy Spirit had already equipped other caring, wise, organized members in the church for this specific job. These leaders, full of the Spirit and wisdom, could think wisely on behalf the care of the widows in this early church so they feel valued and supported. With these leaders leaning into their own

callings and using their gifts given to them by the Holy Spirit, the church is healthier, kinder, wiser, and more effective as we see in verse 7,

*“So the preaching about God flourished, the number of the disciples in Jerusalem multiplied greatly, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.” (Acts 6:7)*

There are a few questions we should ask ourselves after reading this passage... Are you a person who is characterized by being “full of faith and the Holy Spirit?” Do you do THE role in our church assigned to your call & giftings and not just every role that comes your way? Do you serve our church and step up into leadership so our church community can be the healthiest and fullest expression of the Holy Spirit’s work in this world? Whew, some pretty big ones to ponder.



**Are you a person who is characterized by being “full of faith in the Holy Spirit?”**

### **PRAYER:**

*Lord, help our church to be a community that serves each other. Help all people from all backgrounds feel cared for and supported in our church. Help me to be a believer that is full of faith and the Holy Spirit. Help me to see the ways Your Holy Spirit has gifted me and step into opportunities to serve where I can use those gifts to serve our body. Amen.*



## **DAY 23: BURSTING AT THE SEAMS**

### **ACTS 9:31**

*GREG MUNCK*

I cut my teeth in youth ministry at Garden Grove Nazarene. Since I was available and willing, I became the volunteer youth pastor at GGNaz, a church of 200 people, and every Wednesday and Sunday, I was with those youth. The ministry didn't grow because of my vast experience, I had none. My little ministry grew from 6 to over 75 because I was available and on my hands and knees in total fear, praying that God would guide me. Praying they wouldn't find out, I had no idea what I was doing. God equipped me as I went. Kymbry and I had a blast learning what works and doesn't work in ministry.

About a year in, we were trying to figure out what we were going to do. We gathered with two other couples that were helping me, and we prayed. It was the first time I prayed for more than 5 minutes, the Holy Spirit showed up, and after 3 hours, we finally finished. It felt like only 20 minutes had gone by, and I had a renewed focus to work diligently for the Lord without expectation from man.

We painted and redid the youth room, reformatted our Sunday and Wednesday experience, and our ministry exploded. The Holy Spirit moved, the youth started to get saved and baptized. Our mid-week program would get over 100 kids from the community. We had the largest amount kids attend the Anaheim District Nazarene Summer Camp. I became the Orange zone youth president for the Church of the Nazarene, planning events for multiple churches to get together, and became the Anaheim District Jr. High Camp director. The other youth pastors thought I was a full-time youth pastor, but I was just a volunteer.

Two years later, the parents got together to pay me a stipend of \$200 a month so I would not leave. I was so

grateful as I spent more than that personally to help kids in the neighborhood go to our events. I had nothing to offer, but my availability and reliance on the Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit and God grew our ministry!

Do you want to see growth and increase at Crossline and in your life? Let's read Acts 9:31:

*Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers. (Acts 9:31)*

Acts 9 began with a zealous man breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord. But God was more than able to turn this terrible threat into a great blessing. Now Luke shows that God's work not only continued but it was strong, despite the great opposition that came against it. The fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit: Each of these are needed in the Christian walk. At any given moment a disciple of Jesus may more need the fear of the Lord or the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Often, God wants the comfortable to be afflicted (gaining the fear of the Lord) and the afflicted to be comforted (by the comfort of the Holy Spirit).



**The fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit: Each of these are needed in the Christian walk.**

Can you imagine how powerful our Crossline community would be if EMPOWERED, ACTIVATED, INFLUENCED, UNITED, and TRANSFORMED by the Holy Spirit.

## **PRAYER:**

*Lord, would You use me and Crossline Church to bring people together in South Orange County. Help us to preach the word boldly and have a healthy fear of who You are God. Help us to put You first and focus on what matters to you. I pray Your Holy Spirit would reign at Crossline, and we would see thousands come to faith in Jesus Christ and be transformed, empowered, and activated to do Your will. Amen.*

## DAY 24: THE CALL TO OUR COMMUNITY

### ACTS 11:19-26

GIGI JOHNSON

I'm not a goal setter in the slightest. As a matter of fact, "ambition" is the category in which I score the lowest when it comes to lengthy personality tests. (And it doesn't even bother me—how about that?!) I often hear the word "goal" and think, "oh, great, another opportunity for a clearly defined failure". (Yes, I realize that's unhealthy, and yes, I'm working on this. You can pray for me...) But because I'm not a natural goal-setter, I tend to shy away from making formal, long-term commitments to people or activities. Such pressure, eek!

In the passage we read in Acts today (Acts 11:19-26), we find Barnabas, a generous encourager in the Lord, receiving word that many people in the city of Antioch were told the good news of Jesus Christ and chose to put their faith in God! When he arrives to see for himself, he finds *"the evidence of the grace of God."* (v.23) The verse continues, *"He was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts."* (v. 23) A short time later, he tracked down his brother in the faith, Saul (soon to be Paul), who ultimately joined him in Antioch for a year of discipleship work.

I don't know if Barnabas and Saul had a plan of how long they would spend in Antioch, but Scripture tells us that they first saw God working there, and then spent a year with the new believers (v. 26). They faithfully and consistently poured into these people, teaching them the Word of God, expanding upon what they'd heard of the Good News, and leading them in how to live a Spirit-filled life doing God's work. It was real, honest, committed and sincere discipleship. It was followers of Christ teaching others to be followers of Christ, who would later go on to teach others to be followers of Christ!

Barnabas and Saul set a beautiful example for us of what it means to answer the call of God to discipleship in the context of community. It requires time, authenticity, and vulnerability. It also requires wisdom, understanding of Scripture that came through faithful study, humility, and a consistent prayer life. Though it may sound like a lot, when given the opportunity to engage in the work God is doing in the people around us, we can't let fear of commitment, perceived lack, or potential failure take us out of the game. The call to our community is too important and we can trust that as we teach, pour into, and care for one another, we will all grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ together.



**When given the opportunity to engage in the work God is doing in the people around us, we can't let fear of commitment, perceived lack, or potential failure take us out of the game.**

### **PRAYER:**

*Heavenly Father, thank You that the evidence of Your grace is visible. Please give us eyes to see it, and invite us to participate with You as You grow Your people! Help us understand the value and importance of discipleship and equip us to answer the call when we're needed. We desire to live lives of service to You and to one another. Amen.*

## DAY 25: THE CRAZIEST SCRABBLE GAME EVER 1 THESSALONIANS 1:4-10

KYLIE HEALY

A few years ago, my husband Tim and I were playing Scrabble with his Grandma. We were nearing the end of the game and Tim was in last place with one turn left. As he was reviewing the letters in his hand and the words on the board, a huge grin formed on his face. His Grandma and I glanced at each other in anticipation as Tim proceeded to lay down the letters T-A-N-K-A-G-E connecting it to an "S" that was already placed on the board. In a crazy twist of events, Tim's final word was perfectly placed on the board to receive two triple word scores, multiplying the point value of "tankages" by 9. It was at that moment I realized Scrabble could be extremely controversial. Serious debate ensued over the validity of the word "tankages". For the record, it is an actual word and Tim received nearly 150 points, moving from last place to first.

On its own, the word "tankages" can earn a player 13 points. However, in the craziest scrabble game ever, it wasn't merely the word Tim played that changed the direction of the game, it was how he chose to play the word. In our passage for today, we see the same concept reign true in the church of Thessalonica.

*...because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction... you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere...how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God..." (1 Cor. 1:5-8)*

When the Thessalonians received the word of the Gospel in power and the Holy Spirit, they were moved to faith and obedience. They took the scrabble letters they had been given and through the power of the Holy Spirit played the letters in the best way possible – faith and obedience. As one commentator puts it, “Unless the Spirit of God comes with the word of God, it will be to us a dead letter.”

The Thessalonians didn’t allow the word they received to be a dead letter. In the power of the Spirit, their faith and obedience rippled out as an example of the Holy Spirit at work in their lives. Just like our scrabble game, it wasn’t merely that the Thessalonians received the gospel in word; it was how they received it (in power and the Holy Spirit) and what they did once they received it (faith and obedience). The Holy Spirit transforms our lives and it’s through this transformation that we can be examples that point people to Jesus.

## **PRAYER**

*Holy Spirit, transform us and make us more like Jesus so that our lives are an example of Your power! Motivate us to action. Fill us with faith and obedience to live transformed lives for You! In Jesus’ name, Amen!*

# the romans road

## AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOSPEL

As we look at the book of Romans, written by the apostle Paul, we can see that it provides a detailed map for our salvation and eternal fellowship with God. Just follow these steps:

1. We must acknowledge God as the Creator of everything, accepting our humble position in God's created order and purpose. Romans 1:20-21

*"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened."*

2. We must realize that we are sinners and that we need forgiveness. None of us are worthy under God's standards. Romans 3:23

*"For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God."*

3. God gave us the way to be forgiven of our sins. He showed us His love by giving us the potential for life through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ. Romans 5:8

*"But God demonstrates His love toward us, in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

4. If we remain sinners, we will die. However, if we repent of our sins, and accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we will have eternal life. Romans 6:23



*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

5. Confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead and you are saved. Romans 10:9-10

*"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*

# ingredients for a great group

Whether you have been a part of a group like this before or not, please take a look at the following guidelines to help your group function to its greatest possible potential.

- **Don't Miss it!** This first tip is a big one! As a community group, commit not to miss a gathering! And be on time! If you are going to miss or be late, make it a commitment to let your host/group know ahead of time! (Not an hour before the group starts!)
- **Assign a timekeeper!** Within the group, someone appreciates organization and timeliness—assign this person to be the timekeeper for group time together. Permit this person to move things along to make sure everything gets done, and the group ends on time.
- **Keep it Confidential!** One of the beautiful things about Community Groups is the deep, meaningful conversation that happens. A definitive rule for your group that everyone ought to agree on is to keep sensitive things that are shared confidential!
- **R-E-S-P-E-C-T!** Your group comprises all sorts of people that come from all kinds of backgrounds—it's one of the great features of your group! As a group, commit to making your group a safe environment with mutual respect. Respect not only your fellow group members and your host but also the property of who's home you are meeting!

- **Have Fun!** Don't forget to have fun! Laugh! Play games! You can even make specific space for that stuff!
- **EAT UP!!** Food always provides a sense of comfort and unity in group settings, so whether it's a full meal, snacks, dessert, or coffee—Eat up!
- **Take Turns!** Many groups find ways for members to take turns on things such as providing food, leading prayer requests, texting reminders, or opening their home for the group. It's always healthy to not have one person in charge of something every time. (You can even assign a group member to coordinate this).
- **Find your groove!** Here is what is essential to know—no community group is the same, and that's okay! As a group, find your groove on how you do things and stick with it.
- **Don't let kids control!** If you are a group with kids, make group time a priority. It's easy to become overwhelmed with kids and their schedules and babysitters, but don't let that control your involvement! As a group, figure out the best scenario for childcare early on so that you can fully participate in the group. (E.g. Individual babysitters, group babysitter(s), putting on a movie in the back room, etc.)

# creating a multiplying group

*“Every day, they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:46-47)*

The traditional and most widely accepted understanding of a small group in western culture is that it is a place for you to find friends from your church that you can grow close to over the course of years as you study the Bible. It is a social gathering with a spiritual emphasis. Then, once you find the right mix of friends, you protect it so that you can have an inner-circle community that you can do life with; we believe this is a central part of small groups. However, this definition is not fully complete and is lacking the missional purpose of a small group. As we see in the passage above, the Lord added daily those who were being saved as a response to the fellowship of believers meeting in their homes and in the temple courts. As a follower of Jesus, isn't that your greatest hope? People being saved? If we collectively share this hope, we must acknowledge that it needs to be a core emphasis of our small group gatherings.

Similarly, small groups of believers must also have the same heart and attitude as Christ, who compassionately saw the crowds of Israel as “sheep without a shepherd” (Matt. 9:36) and who pulled the outcasts and overlooked into community with him. So, whether it's someone lost in sin or an uninvited brother or sister, small groups of God's people must have open doors.

Anything healthy and attractive will grow. If your group is healthy, you should expect it to grow. Our job is not to stifle growth and, with prayerful discernment, seek out the will of God for our group. That said, here are five helpful tips that you can weave into the leadership of your group that will create a culture of multiplication while still maintaining closeness with those in the group.

- **Communicate and Meta-Message the vision:** One of the essential parts of creating a multiplying group is to be clear about the mission and purpose of your group. This means that it would be wise to communicate the vision for your group at the start of each new study and check in with your group members about that vision. You also can meta-message the vision in group discussion throughout each study.
- **Stay Flexible:** Be very careful not to get too rigid in the structure or makeup of your group, which would prohibit newcomers from participating and stunt growth. Instead, be flexible to change things up and be checking in with your group members often.
- **Celebrate newcomers:** If you or one of your group members happens to (after first notifying the group) bring a newcomer, celebrate their participation! Be sure to extend loving hospitality that makes them feel genuinely welcome. Do your very best, as a group, not to come off as cliquy or exclusive.
- **Train up the members of your group:** As a leader, you should always be seeking to train the group members to lead as well. You can do this by asking them to facilitate conversation, lead prayer, set up the meeting schedule, select and lead a study, etc. Then be sure to follow up with them about it. If you are doing everything yourself, you are not creating a multiplying group.
- **Plant seeds of leadership:** One of the biggest reasons

people do not lead or serve in ways they are capable of is that they are not asked. As you begin to notice certain members of the group evidencing leadership skills and spiritual maturity, it may be time to ask them if they would consider leading a group of their own. That can mean passing the torch of leadership to them OR having them start their own group OR splitting/subgrouping the group (which is growing) and having them lead the other group out of the split.

Having a multiplying group that you truly see people connected and brought to salvation through is wildly rewarding. I fully understand that it may seem to be disruptive to the closeness of your group. Still, counterintuitively, it brings a group much closer as you engage in mission together and see God working through it. Don't feel like you have to start over every time your group grows, but rather just pull people on board for the journey that you are already on and trust the Holy Spirit!

# commitment contract

(Some groups may want to consider utilizing this simple commitment contract as a way of keeping each other accountable to healthy group participation.)

- I commit to taking this group seriously.
- I commit to being intentional with my attendance to this group.
- I commit to engaging in conversation.
- I commit to respecting my fellow group members and keeping everything I hear confidential.
- I commit to being honest.
- I commit to all the things listed above because I value community, and I desire to grow closer to all those in my group.

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# how to access an excellent bible study resource:

RightNow Media is your all-inclusive ticket to tens of thousands of streaming videos with vetted and fantastic Christian content. The wide breadth of content is available via a web browser or the app available for iOS, Android, Roku TV, Apple TV, and Fire TV.

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1. Text "RightNow Crossline" to 41411.
2. Create an account, and you are ready to go!

We encourage you to look around the many different libraries for content that is appealing to you! Happy browsing!



# other crossline groups resources

If you enjoyed this series, you might also enjoy the other small group studies produced by Crossline Community Church. Small-Group workbooks are available at Crossline Community Church. You can access all the content and arrange a pickup of hardcopy workbooks by going to [Crosslinechurch.com/community-groups](http://Crosslinechurch.com/community-groups)

## **The Man. The Myth. The Legend.**

Getting to Know the Real Jesus

## **XII**

Experiencing your Best Relationship with God and Others

## **FAITH**

Against All Hope

# about the editors

**Jordan Gash** is the Community Life Pastor at Crossline Community Church in Laguna Hills, CA. He graduated from Azusa Pacific Seminary with a M.A. in Pastoral Studies. Jordan has been working in both the Church and Christian organizational spheres since 2006. In his role as Community Life Pastor, Jordan oversees and shepherds a vast network of Community Groups. He has contributed to multiple adult small group curricula, including co-authoring FAITH: Against All Hope and XII: Experiencing your Best Life with God and Others, and authored several youth ministry groups' curricula. He also was the author of the first installment of this series of curricula, Expectation: Living as Children of Promise. As a speaker at conferences and camps, he is passionate about encouraging practical application to Biblical truths. He is married to his wife, Alexandra and has three young sons.

**JP Jones** is the Founding Senior Pastor of Crossline Church in Laguna Hills, CA. JP is a graduate of Talbot Seminary where he did his Master of Divinity and Doctoral studies. A published author, JP has written the men's book, Facing Goliath and several small groups' curricula such as FAITH: Against all Hope and XII: Experiencing your Best Life with God and Others. JP is a popular speaker at Men's events and conferences and his radio program, Truth that Changes Lives is listened to in all 50 states and over 150 countries of the world. JP is on the faculty of Biola University where he teaches Theology and Biblical Studies. JP is married to his wife Donna and they have three children.

## **CROSSLINE COMMUNITY CHURCH:**

Three words describe the history of Crossline Church:

Prayer, Faith and Relationships. In the fall of 2004 I began to seriously pray about the future God had for me and my family. I was at a crossroads in ministry and needed clear direction from God. I went to Forest Home, a Christian conference center in the San Bernardino Mountains and earnestly sought the Lord. Praying on the spot where God spoke to Billy Graham, I asked God to speak to me about where and how He wanted me to serve Him. That time of prayer launched a 10 day period of prayer and fasting to seek the confirmation and leading of God. True to His Word, God spoke to me and others about the vision to start a church that would reach both seekers and committed disciples with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. For a period of four months, a weekly prayer meeting gathered to pray and dream about God's direction. Following the pattern of the early disciples in Acts 1-2, the founding core group of Crossline spent a focused 10 day season of prayer before it launched the first public worship services in February of 2005.

Our new congregation grew over the next 4 years to a little over 1,000 in attendance. With growth came good challenges and once again we spent a focused period of prayer concerning a move from the high school campus to a permanent home for our church. That season of prayer was answered miraculously by God and Crossline now meets at its 25 acre home in Laguna Hills, CA. Our congregation has grown to over 2,000 and prayer continues to be a core value for the daily life of Crossline, its vision and its future.

Crossline began as a commitment of faith. Not sponsored by any denomination, foundation or church, the Pastors and volunteers stepped into an initial ministry with a million dollar a year budget. Having no meeting place, offices or staff, within a few months God miraculously

answered prayer and provided everything we needed to be a mobile church. From its inception, Crossline has had a core commitment to believe great things about God, to ask great things of God and attempt great things for God! What began as a prayer meeting with 16 people has grown to a local church of over 2,000.

Crossline Church is a body made up of ordinary people who believe in an extra-ordinary God. We believe that everyone is on a spiritual journey and whether you are a first time visitor or have been with us from day one, you are a vital part of our church right now and of the community He is shaping us to be for the future. At Crossline it our desire to connect people to Jesus Christ and to one another. Our motto is, "Love God, love people and have a blast!" We would love for you to join us. Together we can do great things for God!

JP Jones  
Founding Senior Pastor

# about crossline

## **Sunday Services:**

### **Main Services**

**9:00am & 11:00am** – Worship Center

**5:00pm** (Young Adults/Summit) – Fellowship Center

### **Classic Service** (Traditional)

**9:00am** – Chapel

### **Crossline En Español**

**11:00am** – Chapel

### **Information:**

23331 Moulton Parkway  
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

**(949) 916-0250**

**[www.crosslinechurch.com](http://www.crosslinechurch.com)**

What happens when the power of the One who created the universe gets placed inside a group of people. What transpires when the power of the one who raised the dead to life fills a church. How does the world react when the power of the King of kings and Lord of lords comes and rests upon common men and women. This is what we see in Acts, chapter 2. As you go through this 5-session group study, you will be transported to the first days of the Church of Jesus Christ and witness their ignition and their unleashing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, who was promised by Jesus, is not only for those first believers, but is promised to all who would call on the name of Jesus for salvation.

*Are you experiencing the power and transformation of Holy Spirit within your life personally and within your Church? Open your hearts as you go through this study and invite the Holy Spirit to work within you in ways that you could never even imagine!*