

The Church on the Move: The Gospel Breaks Out

Acts 2:14-41 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 12 June 2022

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: What's a favorite activity of yours that you never have enough time for?

Worship: [Psalm 110](#) (*Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation?*)

Sermon Summary for [Acts 2:14-41](#) (*Read aloud before reading the sermon summary.*)

A church on the move – one is enduring, flourishing, and taking flight – is a community shaped and propelled forward by the Gospel, empowered by the Holy Spirit. In Acts, we watch as Christ followers proclaim a Gospel that breaks out, racing forward, toppling kings and kingdoms, laying low those in power, and lifting up the lowly in Jesus's name. It gives hope to the hopeless, raises up those who are completely stuck, and sets the imprisoned free. Jesus is still at work today through His church as His Gospel breaks out. But, what is the Gospel really? It is literally the “Good News” from God about Jesus for everyone that changes everything:

The Gospel is Good News // Peter's sermon isn't meant to be good advice for followers of Christ; it's about the Good News of God's victory achieved in Jesus. It's Good News for all, proclaimed to bring wonder and hope to all of creation. The Gospel is therefore something to be celebrated, treasured, and delighted in. At Pentecost, the fire of God – His Spirit – is put within us. But what does this look like? What does it look like for our lives to be living spectacles of the Gospel? This is a call to truly be alive to our calling and to love God and our neighbor. The church exists because of the Gospel; it's meant to be the center of all we are and do, because it's the only thing worthy of being the center of our lives. By it we are called to life and by it we live.

The Gospel is Good News from God about Jesus // This Good News belongs to God. It is from Him; it is His great plan which He organizes and oversees. Our hope is for all people from all corners of the world to take to heart the truth of God's victory won in Christ through death and resurrection ([v36](#)). The Gospel isn't just about Jesus; it is of Him, since He is God. It is both what Jesus did while dwelling with us and what He is still doing now by His Spirit in and through His church.

The Gospel is Good News from God about Jesus for everyone // “At Babel, we in our pride tried to ascend to Heaven; whereas in Jerusalem at Pentecost, Heaven humbly descended to earth,” wrote John Stott. On that day, people from across the Mediterranean heard of the mighty works of God in their own language ([Acts 2:5-11](#)). The Gospel has one voice in Christ, but it is exceedingly personal, coming to each of us where we are. Luke, a gentile, is uniquely qualified to express the universality of the Good News. In both his accounts, he devotes extended time speaking to Christ's heart for the outsiders, the vulnerable, and the needy. Meaning that whatever our own background, however low we might be, the Good News of Jesus is for each and everyone of us.

The Gospel is Good News from God about Jesus for everyone that changes everything // To hear the Gospel is to turn away from all other hopes or gods, merging our lives with Christ through repentance and baptism. The Gospel changes everything as Christ is made alive in us. Having been wholly, graciously forgiven, we grow to be quick to forgive; having received the richness of God's mercy, we become rich in mercy. We look to God's strength in our weakness, for we understand that life comes through death. We begin to look to die in all sorts of ways to ourselves so that life might flow forth. This union with Jesus enables us to say no to the unrighteousness that remains in our hearts; it gives us the ability and strength to pursue life, hope, justice and mercy; and it is this union that gives us that confidence to expect real change as God's Spirit moves to renew all of creation ([Ps 110:1-2](#)).

Discussion Questions (*You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.*)

The Gospel is Good News

- How would you – in simple terms for a non-Christian audience – describe the Gospel?
 - How has the Gospel been good news for your life?
- What does it look like for our lives (as Paul said) to be “living spectacles of the Gospel”?
 - How can we “treasure, celebrate and delight in” the Gospel?
- How is Acts a continuation of the Gospel? What does it look like for it to “break out” into the world?

The Gospel is Good News from God about Jesus

- Read [Genesis 50:20](#) and [Acts 2:23](#). Where else in Scripture do you see a clear teaching of God’s sovereignty over world events and human responsibility for evil deeds?
- What does it mean for Jesus to be at the “right hand” of God? References of this in Scripture include:
 - [Psalm 110](#), [Matt 22:44](#) & [26:64](#), [Mark 12:36](#) & [14:62](#), [Luke 20:42](#) & [22:69](#), [Romans 8:34](#), [Psalm 16:11](#) & [17:7](#) & [98:1](#) & [139:10](#).
- Peter finishes his sermon by declaring Jesus as Lord and Christ. What evidence does he point to in the rest of the sermon to support these claims? (See also [2 Sam 7:6-16](#).)

The Gospel is Good News from God about Jesus for everyone

- The disciples speak and the resident foreigners “*hear them telling in their own tongues the mighty works of God*” (Acts 2:11). This miraculous communication did not depend on their education (which was minimal) nor eloquence, but on the movement of God’s Spirit. Where else in Scripture do we see the power of God working despite or through human weakness?
 - How have you seen God working through your own weakness?
 - What is required of us for the Holy Spirit to work in and through us?
- Jesus promised that the Gospel would spread to the end of the earth. Peter proclaims that “*the promise is . . . for all who are far off*” (Acts 2:39). Do you see a time in your life where you were “far off” from Christ?

The Gospel is Good News from God about Jesus for everyone that changes everything

- Peter tells his listeners, “*Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins*” (Acts 2:38). Have you ever made a commitment to praying for people in your life who do not yet have a relationship with Christ? Describe that experience.
- [Acts 2:2-3](#) describes the filling and presence of the Spirit as a mighty wind and fire. Considering passages like [Ex 13](#) and [Ez 1](#), what’s the significance of the Spirit appearing and being described in this way?
 - What does it look like in the New Testament for people to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
 - What does it look like for us to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
- What is it about Jesus that “changes everything”?
 - What changes and how?

Prayer

For this week’s Prayer Guide for personal or group use, click [HERE](#).

Engage & Experience: Prayer & Gratitude

Every young person needs a team of adults strategically investing in their lives through prayer. Rooted in the truths that God uses His Word, His people, and prayer to change the world, the *Pray for Me Campaign* creates a web of intergenerational relationships and equips adult believers to pass on a sustainable faith to the next generation. Will you join us in becoming a Prayer Champion for our young people at PCC? Click the link for more information on becoming a prayer champion OR to have your child(ren) and/or teens prayed for.

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