

Transition:

Jesus has been crucified, died and resurrected from the dead. He has appeared to over 500 people. But He has told His disciples that it is GOOD that He go away. Jesus commissioned His people to go and make disciples, but now has told them to wait in the city and wait for the promise of the Father. He prophesied that He would build His church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it. How did the Christian faith that began with a few followers of Jesus in Israel spread to Rome and points beyond? How did an ardent Jew who was not even a believer become the apostle to the Gentiles? How did the early church, which was exclusively Jewish, begin to reach out to and incorporate the Gentiles?

Tell The Story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild The Story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Does a believer have the Holy Spirit prior to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? What is the difference between the regenerative work of the Holy Spirit and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?
2. In John 20:22: "He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." If the disciples already had the Holy Spirit prior to the events in Acts, why did Jesus tell them to wait in Jerusalem?
3. What was the role of the Holy Spirit in launching the Church?

Fundamental:

Holy Spirit Baptism (Promise/Purpose) - All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry.

1. Why do you and I need the Holy Spirit in salvation? (John 16:8-11; Rom 6:22; 1 John 1:9, 2:1-2)
2. Why do I need the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? (Acts 1:8)
3. How do I receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? (Luke 11:13)
4. Who baptizes you in the Holy Spirit? (Matt 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33)

Homework/Challenge:

1. What should be your response to Jesus' command in Acts 1?
2. Please read Acts 2 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Share your story of being empowered by the Holy Spirit to be Jesus' witness and to live holy.

Prayer:

Pray for your people to understand the need for Holy Spirit baptism. May they be comforted by the thought of waiting upon the Lord and His promise.