

**Transition:**

Sometimes believers are so focused on the gifts that they forget about the Giver and His reasons for giving us the gifts. We talk (and even argue) a lot about tongues, prophesying, interpreting, healing, and other miraculous works of the Spirit, but we tend to forget that, while the spiritual gifts are intended to build up the Body of Christ, the ultimate purpose of being filled with the Spirit is to fulfill Christ's mission to seek and save the lost. In the book of Acts, the Spirit constantly empowered God's people to proclaim the gospel. In Acts 2:4, the Spirit fell, and 120 followers of Jesus began to proclaim "the magnificent acts of God" in the languages of all the pilgrims to Jerusalem. Then Peter stood up, empowered by the Spirit, and preached the gospel so powerfully that 3,000 took baptism! In Acts 4:8, Peter and John were filled with the Spirit while on trial. The Spirit gave Peter and John bold words to proclaim to the religious leaders of Jerusalem. After they were released, a group of believers prayed again until they were filled with the Spirit. The result was that they "began to speak the word of God boldly" (Acts 4:31). It's simple: If you are filled with the Spirit, you will proclaim the gospel. If you are not proclaiming the Gospel, are you filled with the Spirit?

**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! Mention the context of the story: the preceding and consequent verses, prophecy, promises, and God's purpose for these events.

**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. What is the main obstacle in your life that prevents you from sharing the Gospel with the lost? What can you do to overcome it?
2. If the law prohibits sharing the Gospel in certain circumstances or places, are you obligated to obey that law?
3. If your company policy prohibits sharing the Gospel at work, are you obligated to obey that policy?

**Fundamental:**

Jesus was a missionary to humanity. He started the mission to seek and save the lost, and then He commissioned us to finish that work. He taught us the message and the strategy, which includes being empowered by the Holy Spirit to preach the Gospel with supernatural boldness and confidence. He didn't tell us to stay in the church building and wait for the lost to come to us. He said "Go!" That's part of the strategy – to go and seek the lost. Jesus sought out the lost, often (seemingly) going completely out of His way to reach just one soul. The early disciples did that too, and so are we to follow this example to go. He gave us the precious gift of the Holy Spirit – EXPLICITLY to be His witnesses. Let's not waste the gift! If we love God we will keep His commands, and if we love our neighbor we want him to find salvation.

**Homework/Challenge:**

1. The Holy Spirit has been prompting you to share the Gospel with at least one person, but you have not done it for one reason or another. Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower you and do it this week!
2. Organize your Small Group to go out in the next 1-4 weeks and share the Gospel in public (park, mall, parking lots, etc).

**Discipleship Tip:**

Some of your disciples are new to the faith and may feel they are not equipped to evangelize. Convey to them that if they know enough to be saved, that's all they need to know to share the Gospel with others. Get everyone out of the comfort of your living room into the field of "plentiful harvest!"

**Prayer:**

Father, we are so grateful that you sent Jesus to us with the Good News of salvation, and now we want to share this Good News with our neighbors, coworkers, family, friends. Please, prepare opportunities for us to preach the Gospel, anoint us with the Holy Spirit to give us boldness and the words to say. And prepare the hearts of those who will hear the Gospel! Holy Spirit, soften their hearts even as we pray.