

LEADER GUIDE



City Church Vision

2026

Jan 4
Feb 1



CITYCHURCH

THE MISSIONAL CHURCH (2026 CHURCH VISION)

A STUDY

from the Book of Acts 1-4

January 4 - February 1

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Written by TJ Johnson

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LEADER GUIDE



EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT

Acts 1:1-8; 2:1-4

Jan 4



CITYCHURCH

Sermon Series Overview

A new year, for most, means new resolutions, new goals, and new changes you hope to make in your life.

Last year, in 2025, one of my goals was to run a half-marathon... with my wife. Typically, our resolutions are individual goals: I want to lose weight, or I want to learn a language, or I want to grow in some skill at work, or I want to be a better husband. But my goal last year was a **COMMUNAL** goal. It was about **WE**... not just **ME**. By creating such a goal, I extended the work—and the joy—of accomplishing it to more than just myself. Jenni and I both had to train, schedule, plan, and strive to accomplish something **TOGETHER**.

In 2026, I want to extend my goal to even more people... to **YOU**, the church. Don't worry, I'm not asking you to run a half-marathon. But for 2026, as a church, I am asking you to join in the work - and the joy - of accomplishing the goal of openly and unashamedly sharing the gospel with those within our sphere of influence.

Let me encourage you to take some time to read our **2026 Vision Statement**—perhaps even memorize it—and begin to live it out this year:

At City Church, we are a people empowered by the Spirit to proclaim Christ so that, even in great opposition, the Gospel might reach all peoples in all places, thereby bringing all who believe into God's family (visibly represented through local churches).

For the next five weeks, we will look at each key phrase in this vision statement, praying that God gives us the passion and ability to accomplish this great goal for His great purposes.

The Missional Church: Acts 1-4

Week One: Empowered by the Spirit

Week Two: Proclaiming the Whole Gospel

Week Three: Expecting and Enduring Opposition

Week Four: Reaching All Peoples in All Places

Week Five: Bringing Believers into the Local Church (Membership) (Added to the Church)

Lastly, **WHEN** you have these gospel conversations, please take the time to share them with us so that as a church we can together give thanks to God who empowers us to faithfully proclaim Christ to a world in need of God.

GOSPEL STORIES | Registration Form

Proclaiming Christ with you,

Pastor TJ





Sermon Outline

Title: Empowered by the Spirit

Text: Acts 1:1-8; 2:1-4

Prop: Because Jesus has given His Spirit to His people, every Christian can confidently and faithfully proclaim Christ.

OUTLINE

1. The Spirit in You Has Empowered You to Make Much of Jesus.
2. The Spirit in You Has Empowered You to Make Much of Jesus.
3. The Spirit in You Has Empowered You to Make Much of Jesus.

Sermon Notes



Discussion Questions

At City Church, we are a people empowered by the Spirit to proclaim Christ so that, even in great opposition, the Gospel might reach all peoples in all places, thereby bringing all who believe into God's family (visibly represented through local churches).

1. What are the specific fears or barriers that keep you from sharing your faith here in Beijing? (e.g., language barriers, cultural misunderstandings, fear of creating awkwardness at work/school, feeling like you don't know enough).

Fears keeping people from sharing their faith include fear of rejection, judgment, looking foolish, or saying the wrong thing, feeling unequipped or awkward, and worrying about turning people off or being seen as a "Bible pusher." Other barriers are insecurity, a lack of knowledge about how to share your faith or testimony, past negative experiences, or the perception that evangelism is someone else's job. Another simple one, the law of China does not allow foreigners to share the Gospel with Chinese citizens.

2. In what ways does the Spirit empower us to be a witness for Christ and how should this help you move past your fears and trust in His working through you?

The Spirit gives us the courage, words, wisdom, and conviction we need to share our faith (Acts 1:8). He changes us so that Christ's love, joy, and peace flow from our lives. The Spirit helps us overcome fear by reminding us that it is His power at work, not our own. He is the one who touches hearts, so we can share our story, trust Him, and live honestly for Him, even if others reject us.





Discussion Questions

3. As the early church shared the “mighty works of God,” what is one specific “mighty work” God has done in your life that you could share with others?

A mighty work of God in someone's life can be a miraculously healing from serious illness, overcoming deep-seated addictions or trauma, finding purpose after profound loss, or experiencing radical transformation from a destructive lifestyle to one of faith, love, and service. This is often demonstrated through answered prayers, divine provision in desperate times, and supernatural strength to forgive and serve others.

4. What is your role in salvation and what is the Spirit’s role and how does a proper understanding of both protect you from discouragement (if someone seems uninterested) and pride (if someone is receptive)?

In salvation, your role is to believe and receive God’s free gift through faith, while the Holy Spirit’s role (the Applier) is to convict, draw, regenerate, and empower you, applying Christ’s finished work. Understanding this protects you from discouragement (when people are uninterested) by recognizing the Spirit’s work, not yours, and prevents pride (with receptive people) by giving glory to God, not yourself, as you are merely an instrument. You recognize you contributed nothing to your own salvation and realize that God’s grace, through the Spirit, made the person willing and able to believe.





Discussion Questions

5. What is one practical "next step" you will take this week to be guided by Spirit's empowerment for sharing Christ?

A practical next step to be guided by the Spirit for sharing Christ this week is to identify one person you know facing a struggle and offer to pray with them right then, and when they need it. To serve practically (buy coffee, help with a task) while being ready to share your hope in Jesus. It is about putting love and faith into action, not memorizing a speech, relying on God's Spirit for the words and timing.

Don't forget to share your gospel story with us:





Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports

LEADER GUIDE

Jan 11



PROCLAIMING THE WHOLE GOSPEL

Acts 2:22-41



CITYCHURCH

Sermon Series Overview

At City Church, we are a people empowered by the Spirit to proclaim Christ so that, even in great opposition, the Gospel might reach all peoples in all places, thereby bringing all who believe into God's family (visibly represented through local churches).

This Sunday, we continue our series on the 2026 Vision by focusing on **what** we are to proclaim. Turning to Peter's sermon in Acts 2, we'll break down the essential, non-negotiable, unchanging truths of the gospel. Jesus Christ—incarnated, crucified, risen, reigning, and returning.

The goal is to help us not just share our testimony, but to accurately explain who Jesus is, why He came, and how we should respond to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Proclaiming the Gospel with You,

Pastor TJ

The Missional Church: Acts 1-4

Week One: Empowered by the Spirit

Week Two: Proclaiming the Whole Gospel

Week Three: Expecting and Enduring Opposition

Week Four: Reaching All Peoples in All Places

Week Five: Bringing Believers into the Local Church (Membership) (Added to the Church)

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GOSPEL STORIES | Registration Form

Proclaiming Christ with you,

Pastor TJ





Sermon Outline

Title: Proclaiming the Whole Gospel

Text: Acts 2:22–41

Prop: As Christians, we have a responsibility to patiently and plainly proclaim Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and emanate return, so that people might be saved from this crooked generation.

OUTLINE

1. Jesus the Historical Man (Acts 2:22a)
2. Jesus the Approved Man (Acts 2:22b)
3. Jesus the Crucified Man (Acts 2:23)
4. Jesus the Resurrected Man (Acts 2:24)
5. Jesus the Exalted Man (Acts 2:33)

Sermon Notes



Discussion Questions

2026 Vision

At City Church, we are a people empowered by the Spirit to proclaim Christ so that, even in great opposition, the Gospel might reach all peoples in all places, thereby bringing all who believe into God's family (visibly represented through local churches).

1. Take a few minutes to briefly share your testimony—how you came to understand your need for Christ and placed your faith in Him.

People come to recognize their need for Christ and put their faith in Him in many different ways. Some realize their own shortcomings or sins, while others experience God's love through people or personal moments, such as answered prayers or a sense of peace. Studying the Bible, feeling a strong inner conviction, or going through life-changing events can also reveal a need for something greater. These experiences often lead to a decision to surrender to Christ, bringing purpose, joy, and a changed heart.

2. What are the essential, non-negotiable truths that must be included in a complete presentation of the gospel?

A complete gospel presentation must include four core truths:

- *God as Creator and Holy Judge (Hebrews 4:13).*
- *Man is sinful and separated from God (Isaiah 59:2)*
- *Christ as the God-man who lived, died for our sins, and rose again (Romans 4:25).*
- *Response of repentance (turning from sin) and faith in Jesus for salvation, leading to a new life in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17).*

These foundational truths explain who God is, the human problem, Jesus' divine solution, and what a person must do to receive it.





Discussion Questions

3. Of these non-negotiable truths, which do you think are the hardest to explain, which are the hardest to believe or accept? Why?

Many people struggle to accept the reality of our sinful nature. Confessing sins can be difficult because of pride, shame, fear of being judged, or wanting to protect our reputation. Admitting our faults is uncomfortable, but confession brings healing and helps restore our relationship with God. It challenges how we see ourselves and our tendency to rely only on ourselves, and it takes humility to accept God's grace, which we do not deserve.

4. Read Acts 2:40. What is the difference between a Biblical exhortation to believe the gospel vs using manipulative tactics to get someone to believe and why would that be wrong?

In Acts 2:40, Peter urgently and sincerely calls people to "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." This approach relies on truth, love, and the Holy Spirit to persuade, rather than using manipulation, fear, or guilt. Using God's Word for selfish reasons is wrong because it can damage people's faith and does not lead to real conversion. True conversion should be a free choice, guided by the Spirit, not something forced.

5. It is often easier for us to live a Christ-like life in front of non-believers than it is to sit down and clearly explain the gospel, like Peter did. What practical step can we take to help us to clearly and accurately proclaim the gospel this week?

You can write out the sharing of the Gospel. To think it through. To say it out loud. To practice it with other Christian's and get feedback.





Prayer & Praise

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Prayer Requests

Praise Reports