

LEADER GUIDE



City Church Vision

2026

Jan 4

Feb 1



CITY CHURCH

THE MISSIONAL CHURCH (2026 CHURCH VISION)

A STUDY

from the Book of Acts 1-4

January 4 - February 1

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Beijing, China

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Written by TJ Johnson

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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



PROCLAIMING THE WHOLE GOSPEL

Acts 2:22-41

Jan 11



CITY CHURCH

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)

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: 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

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

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



EXPECTING AND ENDURING OPPOSITION

Jan 18

Acts 4:1-31



CITY CHURCH

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 week we continue our series on creating a culture of evangelism. In Acts two we get the excitement of salvation, when two thousand souls repent and believe. But a few short chapters later we find that evangelism isn't just the joys of positive responses to Jesus. Sometimes evangelism means bearing the reproaches of Christ.

As 1 Corinthians 1 reminds us, the gospel is offensive (*skandalon*) to those who are perishing. Therefore, as you share the gospel in your workplace, communities, and families, you can expect hatred and opposition. This type of response can make cause us to be timid about our faith or even afraid to identify as a Christ follower. Therefore, this Sunday we want to be very honest about what it will cost us to be faithful witnesses and why Christ is worth that sacrifice.

In Him,

Elder TJ Johnson



Sermon Outline

Title: Expecting and Enduring Opposition

Text: Acts 4:1-31

Prop: Faithful witness will bring opposition—but Jesus is worth it.

OUTLINE

1. What to Expect.

2. How to Respond.

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. What are some reasons why the world today might get annoyed or offended at the proclamation of the gospel?

*From Acts 4:1–31, one reason the world was annoyed or offended by the proclamation of the gospel is that **the Sadducees were disturbed by the teaching about the resurrection (4:1–2)**. Since they did not believe in the resurrection, the message of Jesus directly challenged their theology and authority.*

*In modern times, the gospel can similarly offend people when it **contradicts their worldview**. This may include issues related to sexuality and gender, family values, standards for raising children, or even the idea that having a family is good and God-ordained. When the gospel confronts deeply held beliefs or cultural norms, it often provokes resistance.*

*In the passage, the religious authorities also viewed the apostles as **uneducated and ordinary men** (4:13). Yet, despite this, Peter spoke boldly and with authority because he was **filled with the Holy Spirit** (4:8). This challenged the leaders' assumptions about who was qualified to speak for God.*

*In modern contexts, people who lack high social status, wealth, or formal education may also be dismissed or looked down upon by those in positions of power or influence. However, the gospel reminds us that **God works through ordinary people**, not human credentials.*

There are likely many other examples of why the gospel offends, and these are good topics for group discussion.



Discussion Questions

2. What opposition do Christians face in Beijing when sharing the gospel and how can we support one another in the midst of this great opposition?

Christians in Beijing face several forms of opposition when sharing the gospel.

*First, there are **legal restrictions**. The law of the land does not allow foreigners to openly share their religious beliefs with local citizens. This creates an environment where believers must be careful, discerning, and wise in how they live out and communicate their faith.*

*Second, as an **international city**, Beijing brings together people from many nations with very different worldviews. These worldviews often conflict sharply with biblical teaching. For example, in South Africa same-sex marriage is legal, while in Russia it is illegal even to publicly discuss views on same-sex relationships. When sharing the gospel with people from such diverse backgrounds, Christians must explain the **biblical foundation of sin and redemption**, showing that the gospel calls all cultures to repentance and offers freedom that transcends political or cultural systems.*

*Third, Beijing hosts many **international schools, companies, and embassies** that promote values contrary to Christian beliefs. These institutions may actively or subtly support agendas that oppose Christianity through events, policies, or cultural pressure. Being part of such environments makes gospel witness challenging and often costly.*

*In the midst of this opposition, Christians must **support one another through prayer, encouragement, and fellowship**. Believers need wisdom from the Holy Spirit to know how to speak truth with love, courage without arrogance, and faithfulness without fear. Supporting one another helps Christians remain steadfast and united in their witness.*



Discussion Questions

3. In what ways have you felt your family, workplace, or community try to “silence” you from sharing the gospel?

*In the workplace, this can include expectations such as **using preferred pronouns in email signatures**, which may pressure believers to affirm beliefs that conflict with their convictions.*

*Within family or cultural settings, believers may feel compelled to **participate in religious practices**, such as bowing before idols at a temple during family visits, even when doing so contradicts their faith in Christ.*

*Cultural expectations can also silence believers through **social pressure**. For example, over-celebrating secular holidays like Halloween while avoiding or minimizing the celebration of Christmas can create an environment where openly expressing Christian faith feels unwelcome or inappropriate.*

These situations may not involve direct persecution, but they still pressure Christians to compromise, remain quiet, or blend in rather than live openly as followers of Christ.

4. What are the most common objections to the gospel and what are some faithful and loving responses to these objections?

Very often, people dislike the claim that Jesus is the only way to God. However, while salvation is exclusive in its source, it is offered freely to everyone through Jesus Christ (John 14:6).

Another common objection is the belief that being a good person is enough to go to heaven. However, we are not reconciled with God through our behavior, but through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Salvation is a gift of grace, not something we earn by our works (Ephesians 2:8–10).



Discussion Questions

5. Do you know anyone (individual or group) who is currently suffering for the gospel? Share their story and take time to pray for them.

There are definitely groups of believers around the world who are currently suffering because they follow Jesus and faithfully share the gospel. As a church, we can respond by praying for their protection, perseverance, and boldness, asking God to strengthen them and to continue advancing the gospel through their faithfulness. Taking time to pray for these brothers and sisters reminds us that we are part of one body in Christ and called to bear one another's burdens.

Be sure to share your Gospel Story from last week.





Prayer & Praise

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Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



REACHING ALL
PEOPLES IN ALL
PLACES

Jan 25

Acts 1:8



CITYCHURCH

Sermon Series Overview

What if the Christian life was never meant to be lived in human strength alone? What if God intended His church to be empowered, bold, and unstoppable in every place and every culture?

This Sunday morning we will explore Acts 1:8, where Jesus reveals both the power source and the purpose of the church. Before He sent His followers into the world, He promised them something they could not live without...the infilling of the Holy Ghost. That power was not just for the early church; it was meant to carry the gospel from Jerusalem to the uttermost parts of the earth. Come ready to be challenged, encouraged, and reminded that God never called us to reach the world without first filling us with His Ghost.

Elder Raphael Moffett



Sermon Outline

Title: Reaching All Peoples in All Places

Text: Acts 1:8

Prop: Through our faithful preaching the Gospel is meant to expand —to our home, workplace, school, city, and world.

OUTLINE

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. What people groups have been least (and most) responsive to the gospel and how might we support the gospel work taking place there?

The least responsive group is often called Unreached Groups in the 10/40 window (Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu), with 2 % Christian and limited gospel access. Supporting them involves focused prayer, contextualized evangelism (showing the Gospel's relevance), supporting local believers, providing resources (Bible translation, education), and long-term commitment to share Christ's message and build local church communities.

Those most responsive are open to spiritual inquiry, those experiencing crisis (war, poverty, injustice), and those with historical exposure (e.g., Latin America, Africa, and some pockets in Asia/Europe. We can support them by deep discipleship, not just conversion, equipping new believers to live out their faith. Additionally, we can assist in church planting, holistic ministry (addressing poverty, education, and health), and leadership training.

2. What types of people in Beijing have you found least (and most) responsive to the gospel, why, and how might we support gospel work among these types of people?

The least responsive are often disillusioned young people, the "lie flat '(tang ping generation) who live in urban areas. While some turn to faith, many manifest a cynicism toward any belief system, including Christianity. To share the gospel with Chinese young people, focus on building relationships through shared meals and life stories. Use technology and culturally relevant tools for contextualized sharing, engage in activities and creative discussions (using simple icebreakers or storytelling). Prioritize loving, patient presence over direct preaching to build trust and show Christianity's world impact.



Discussion Questions

Young professionals, the urban generation, are searching for meaning and purpose in a fast-paced society. They often find the gospel message more attractive than other ideologies. To reach them with the gospel, focus on one-on-one discipleship that helps them turn to Christ and to lay the foundation for a strong, lasting faith.

3 .What were the “places” mentioned in the sermon? Are there other places to add to this list, and from that list, which places do you find hardest to share the gospel among and why?

The sermon mentioned several “places” where sharing the gospel can be challenging. Other places could include universities, where openly sharing religious beliefs is often restricted, as well as classrooms, embassies, and international companies, where there is a strong emphasis on neutrality and a value placed on not promoting personal beliefs to others.

4. Share in your group strategies you have found helpful for sharing the gospel in your workplace, school, or family.

Helpful strategies for sharing the gospel at work, school, or home involve building genuine relationships, living out your faith consistently, being a good listener, and creating natural opportunities through service or conversation. Focus on being a light and showing God’s love rather than being pushy. Key tactics include prayer, serving others (Matthew 25:34-40), inviting people to events, using kindness, and being transparent when faith naturally comes up.

5. How can we do a better job of sharing the gospel with individuals coming to Beijing?

Focus on building genuine relationships through hospitality (invite people to your house, share dinner with them, have them see what your life with your family is like), meeting practical needs, and using culturally relevant tools like WeChat. Use a listening and serving approach rather than aggressive proselytizing to build trust and demonstrate Christ’s love.



Be sure to share your Gospel Story from last week.



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Prayer Requests

Praise Reports