

STUDY 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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EMPOWERED BY
THE SPIRIT

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

Jan 4



CITY CHURCH

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 Johnson





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

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

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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 Johnson



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

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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.
2. What are the essential, non-negotiable truths that must be included in a complete presentation of the gospel?
3. Of these non-negotiable truths, which do you think are the hardest to explain, which are the hardest to believe or accept? Why?
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?
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?





Prayer & Praise

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Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



EXPECTING AND ENDURING OPPOSITION

Acts 4:1-31

Jan 18



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

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1. What are some reasons why the world today might get annoyed or offended at the proclamation of the gospel?
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?
3. In what ways have you felt your family, workplace, or community try to “silence” you from sharing the gospel?
4. What are the most common objections to the gospel and what are some faithful and loving responses to these objections?
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.

Be sure to share your Gospel Story from last week.





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Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



REACHING ALL
PEOPLES IN ALL
PLACES

Acts 1:8

Jan 25



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

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1. What people groups have been least (and most) responsive to the gospel and how might we support the gospel work taking place there?
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?
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?
4. Share in your group strategies you have found helpful for sharing the gospel in your workplace, school, or family.
5. How can we do a better job of sharing the gospel with individuals coming to Beijing?

Be sure to share your Gospel Story from last week.





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Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



ADDED TO THE CHURCH (CHURCH MEMBERSHIP)

Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 28:18-20

Feb 1



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).

Over the past four weeks, we have gone section by section through our 2026 vision:

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

This Sunday, we end our series on evangelism by exploring the biblical call to church membership. Far too often, this is a forgotten part of evangelism. But actually, it's the goal of evangelism: bringing all who believe into God's family, visibly represented through local churches. The mission Jesus left to the church was not just to tell people about the gospel, but rather to MAKE DISCIPLES. And discipleship best takes place within a local church. God's plan has always been to bring His people into His Church—a committed, accountable community where we grow under Christ's Word, care for one another, and continue the mission together.

This means that, in order to be faithful witnesses, we need to take church membership seriously. WE should commit to the body of Christ and encourage OTHERS to commit to the body of Christ. Join us Sunday to learn more about how YOU can be a committed member of Christ's church.

Membering with you,

Pastor TJ



Sermon Outline

Title: Added To the Church (Church Membership)

Text: Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 28:18-20

Prop: Every believer is called to join a local church where they can grow under Christ's authority, live out the "one anothers," and participate in the life and mission of God's people.

OUTLINE

Sermon Notes



Discussion Questions

2026 Vision

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1. How would you explain the difference between the "universal Church" (all believers everywhere) and the "local church" (like our own)? Can you share a specific time when being part of a local church made a real difference in your life?
2. What are the key responsibilities of a church member and in which of these areas do you struggle with the most? Why, and how can you become more faithful?
3. Imagine a friend says, "I love Jesus, but I don't need to join a church." How would you gently and biblically respond? What Scriptures and personal experiences would you share to highlight the importance of committed local church membership?
4. What are some groups or organizations that you are a member of and what are the key differences between church membership and those other memberships (see 1 Cor. 12:26)?
5. Discuss the key things one should look for when joining a local church?

Be sure to share your Gospel Story from last week.





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