

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Jesus the King has Sent the Holy Spirit to His People

Acts 1 & 2

Message Reflection Guide

When Paul articulates the gospel in Romans 1:4, he says that the Son has now been appointed Son-of-God-in-Power, but then qualifies the nature of Jesus' rule "according to the Spirit of Holiness." In other words, Jesus' reign is coextensive with the Spirit's empowering presence in the midst of his people. This is also why Paul can say that the Scripture preached the gospel in advance to Abraham. Likewise, Paul can state, "Our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction." **The sending of the Holy Spirit is genuinely part of the gospel.**

- Matthew Bates, *Gospel Allegiance*

Conversation Starter

Why do you think the Holy Spirit is illustrated using water references in the Bible?

Getting Into the Scriptures

Brandon said, "**The Holy Spirit saves.**" Read Acts 1:5. What is the difference between John's baptism and today's believers' baptisms?

The Holy Spirit empowers. Read Acts 1:8. You may know that the same power that rose Jesus from the dead lives in you, but why do you think it doesn't always feel like it?

The Holy Spirit gives. Read Acts 2:1-4. Describe the gifts being given by the Holy Spirit in this passage. When is the last time the Holy Spirit gave you an opportunity to share your faith?

The Holy Spirit moves. Read Acts 2:41. Describe a time when you were prompted by the Holy Spirit. Did you obey, or quench the Spirit? What happened?

MAKING IT REAL

Part 1: Turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then, your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

Part 2: Are you ready and anticipating the movement of the Holy Spirit?