

“Multiplying a Movement”

We Are Sent- week #3

2.

Acts 2:5-13 ESV - 5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians--we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." 12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

1 Corinthians 15:20, 23 ESV - 20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ... 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

Read Acts 2:38-41 in your Bible

John 14:26 NIV - 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

3.

John 16:7 ESV - 7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

Acts 1:4-5, 8 NIV - 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ... 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 2:1-4 ESV - 1 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

1 Samuel 10:6 NIV - 6 The Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person. Romans 8:11 ESV - 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

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INTRODUCTION

Throughout history movements have come and gone. But Christianity is unique among them. It is not just another political, social or religious movement. The impact of Christ can be seen across the span of centuries in art, science, education, medicine and government. But how did this movement become so far-reaching? God sent his people out to the world to share the good news of the Gospel. He still sends His people on that mission, and that includes all of us who follow Jesus. God is clear that we are all “sent”, but he also clearly provides us with the power that makes this movement unstoppable.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

Have you ever witnessed first-hand an “unstoppable” force of nature?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

We are Sent

1. Read John 14:12, Matthew 28:16-20

When you think of who Jesus “sent out” you might envision the twelve disciples in Luke 10:1, or maybe the seventy-two in Mark 6:7. If you believe that Jesus has selected only certain gifted evangelists or preachers to bring the Good News to the world, you might not count yourself among those He has sent.

In John 14:12 who does Jesus say will do even greater works than those they had seen Him do? That word “greater” might make you wonder “How can anyone do greater works than Jesus?” But if you consider the word “greater¹” is defined as a measurement, how many more lives have been touched by the followers of Jesus over the past 2,000 years? So, if you are one who believes in Jesus, you are included in doing greater works!

¹ *meqas-* great in particular, A. of space and its dimensions, B. of number and quantity

Jesus’ final words to his disciples are referred to as the Great Commission. What does He command His disciples to do in Mat 28:19? In verse 20 what are they to teach the new disciples to do? So, if they were commanded to make disciples, does this tell us the new disciples were also commanded to make more new disciples?

A disciple is a learner or one who follows someone's teaching. What was it like for you when you first were learning to follow Jesus? Who helped you

and how? How would you describe what it takes for you to make someone a disciple of Jesus?

Pentecost

2. Read Acts 2:5-13; 1 Corinthians 15:20, 23; Acts 2:38-41; John 14:26

The Christian community associates Pentecost with the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. It is observed 50 days after Passover. We may fail to realize that this began as a significant Jewish festival; the Feast of Weeks. In fact, all God-fearing Jews were required to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to observe this festival by bringing the first fruits of their wheat harvest. That is why so many foreign Jews were in Jerusalem who spoke other languages in Acts 2.

How does Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians 15:20, 23 link Jesus to the observance of the Jews at Pentecost? If Jesus is our first fruits, who would be the harvest to come (v.23)? After receiving the Holy Spirit, Peter preached powerfully to the Jews in Jerusalem. What would you say was the resulting "harvest"?

Tradition tells us that Moses received the 10 commandments 50 days after the first Passover, teaching us how God wants us to live through His Law. God sent his Holy Spirit 50 days after Christ's resurrection (during Passover). What does John 14:26 tell us is one of the functions of the Holy Spirit? Can you describe how you know that God, through His Holy Spirit, is teaching you how you should live? For example, how might He teach you during a sermon, a time of prayer or reading the Bible? Do you find it different from simply studying and learning?

The Spirit Comes

3. Read John 16:7; Acts 1:4-5, 8; Acts 2:1-4; 1 Samuel 10:6; Romans 8:11

Even as He neared the time of His death, Jesus was preparing the disciples to receive the Holy Spirit. In John 16:7 why did Jesus say it was to their advantage that He depart? How does Jesus refer to the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:4?

The disciples were told they would receive power² and they would be witnesses. The Spirit has the power to change us into a different person (1 Samuel 10:6). In fact, the Greek word used for power, *dynamis*, has the same root from which we get our word dynamite. What does Romans 8:11 tell us about how powerful the Spirit is and our access to him?

² *dynamis* -strength power, ability

What were some of the physical evidences of the Holy Spirit's power at Pentecost? What was the evidence of the spiritual power and change that He brought?

The Book of Acts tells of the ordinary people who were empowered by God. They waged war against the powers of darkness and advanced God's kingdom. We don't have to preach to thousands to see God's Spirit at work.

Share with your group some of the everyday activities that could be opportunities for the spirit to work through you in someone's life. If you need suggestions, start with the list of "SENT" opportunities that New Life is doing during the Month of May (newlifepismo.com/sent).

WRAP-UP

God sends His followers into the world to bring the Good News. But He doesn't ask us to go under our own power. At Pentecost God fulfilled his promise and sent the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower believers to become witnesses to the world. If we allow God's Spirit to work through us, we too can do great works and bring the kingdom of heaven to those in our neighborhoods, across the Central Coast and to the ends of the earth.

Memory Verse

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- Matthew 28:19 ESV

Challenge- Take advantage of one opportunity to go into the community as the hands and feet of Jesus this week. Check the list at newlifepismo.com/sent if you aren't sure where to start.

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs: (see back for more space)

Bible Verses

1.

John 14:12 ESV - 12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

Read Matthew 28:16-20 in your Bible