

5. By the Power of the Holy Spirit

Main message: The power of the Holy Spirit, demonstrated through signs and wonders, is vitally important in sharing the Gospel.

Recap from session 4: Last week we discussed learning to listen well. The Great Commission challenge was to find out what someone else believes about the meaning of life, God, or faith. Break into groups of 3 or 4 and briefly share how you got on.

As the leader of the discussion, you may want to remind people about the Great Commission challenge a couple of days before your small group meeting.

Video: Watch the video of how Hannah aims to walk in step with the Holy Spirit as she shares the Gospel with others. It's available on the Great Commission resources page on our website:

<https://www.kingschurchedinburgh.org/resources/great-commission/>

Or you can find the direct link on our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cU7dzGQJ_dE

Opening question(s): Do you expect the Holy Spirit to create opportunities for you to speak to others about Jesus? Do you have any experience of this that you could share?

Scripture: Read **1 Corinthians 2:1-5** together.

Question: Why do you think Paul says that he did not rely on "plausible words of wisdom" as he shared the Gospel with the Corinthians?

Paul was relying on the power of the Spirit and not clever arguments. He was weak and nervous but he had the Spirit's power to declare the message of the cross and resurrection. These are events that defy natural 'laws' and conventional wisdom. The Gospel is supernatural!

This should free us from the pressure of needing to appear super-confident or having to have 'all the answers'. We should expect God's power to be at work through us as we share the Good News of Jesus.

Scripture: Read **Acts 3:1-10** together.

Question: What do you think Peter meant when he said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I do have I give to you"?

Peter had received the promised Holy Spirit (see Acts 2). Having received the power of the Holy Spirit, he was eager to share that power with others. Proclamation of the Gospel in

the New Testament is often preceded or accompanied by a demonstration of God's miraculous power.

Scripture: Read **Acts 3:11-16** together. This is a continuation of the same story!

Question: What happened as a result of the miracle we read about in verses 7-8?

V.11. Observers were "astounded." This event could not be explained away, and it understandably drew a crowd!

V.11. People ran to Peter & John for an explanation of what they had witnessed.

V.12-16. Peter immediately began to speak about Jesus.

Scripture: Read **Romans 15:18-19** together.

Question: What does Paul say led the Gentiles to put their faith in Jesus?

V.18. Word and deed. Words (proclamation and explanation) are important! Deeds alone are not enough.

V.19. Signs and wonders, accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit, were essential in bringing people to put their faith in Jesus. When Jesus demonstrates His power through His followers, He verifies the claims He makes in His Word.

V.19. Illyricum was the Roman province on Italy's eastern border. The area from Jerusalem to Illyricum covers the entire Eastern Mediterranean! Paul is making the point that God's strategy to reach people with the Gospel ("by the power of signs and wonders") wasn't just a one-off! God normally worked through signs and wonders where Paul went.

Prayer in small group: Read **Acts 4:29-30** together. Split into smaller groups and ask God that He would give you boldness to pray for those who don't yet know Jesus. Ask God to fill you with His power so you can share it with others. Pray that the demonstration of God's power would give you opportunities to share the Gospel.

Great Commission challenge: Offer to pray for someone who doesn't yet know Jesus this week. If they need physical healing, you could offer to pray for that. Or you could offer to pray a blessing for someone, as Hannah suggested in her video.

If you feel God giving you a prophetic encouragement for that person, share it with them.

If you offer to pray and the person says "no", that's OK! All we can do is offer.

Leader, you may need to remind the group of this activity during the week!