

GRACEPOINT CHURCH

Weekly Devotional

**Spirit-led living
More than a Sunday Experience**

Witnessing in the Spirit – Ian France –17.5.2026

Scripture

Acts 1:4-8 Mark 2:1-5

Open your mind and heart as you read the passage of Scripture aloud and then again quietly to yourself. Listen for God's word to you.

Spend some time in worship.

Observation

Acts 1:4-8

Jesus instructed the disciples to wait in Jerusalem, for He knew they could not be effective if they followed His further instructions in their own strength. He once again demonstrated how the Trinity acted together as One Person. Jesus gave the instruction; the promise was made by the Father; and this promise would be fulfilled when the Holy Spirit came. The followers of Jesus would be baptised – immersed – in the Holy Spirit in a few days' time. The disciples had gathered with Jesus for the last time on earth.

There is no indication that they realised this was the case, but they still wanted an answer to their question about the restoration of Israel as a political, territorial kingdom. They knew this restoration of Israel was part of the New Covenant Jesus had initiated; and they knew the Old Testament prophecies that had been made in this regard; but Jesus told them this wasn't something they needed to know. Only the Father knew the timing. Even as the risen Son of God, Jesus showed His submission to the Father's authority.

However, the disciples would receive the power they would need to witness to the world about Him. When the Holy Spirit came upon them, they would be witnesses to ever-increasing circles of people. This is evidenced throughout the book of Acts: chapters 1-7 describe the spreading of the Gospel in Jerusalem; chapters 8-12 show it spreading in Judea and Samaria; and Acts 13-28 show how the Gospel spread out to the end of the earth. The Holy Spirit would empower them to fulfil this instruction.

THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

PBO Reg. No. 18/11/13/690

GRACEPOINT METHODIST CHURCH

Tel: 011 702 4600 Emergency no.: 076 498 2088 WhatsApp Connect: 071 892 9382 E-mail: info@gracepoint.co.za

P.O. Box 1408, Lonehill 2062. 125 Duncan Road, Glenferness, 2191

Rev. Ian France, Rev. Linda Magengenene-Moyake

www.gracepoint.co.za



GRACEPOINT CHURCH

Weekly Devotional

Mark 2:1-5

Jesus' fame had spread rapidly. People had heard about Him and they crowded around to see and hear Him, so there was no room for the four men to take their paralysed friend into the house to Him. But they believed Jesus could help him and they were determined to take him to Jesus. So they made the decision to take him up onto the roof and let him down into the room. This would have taken considerable physical effort to remove enough of the roof to enable him to go through the hole.

They revealed their faith in the healing taking place, for to get their friend up onto the roof again would have been a challenge. They counted on him walking out of the room. Jesus saw their faith. He understood that they wanted their friend healed. But when He spoke to the man lying before him, He dealt with his more immediate need – which was for his sinful condition as a member of the human race to be forgiven – even before He granted him physical healing.

Icebreaker:

What is the most fantastic event that has happened to you in your life? Why was it so special? Who did you tell?

Application

- Think back for a moment at your own, personal, spiritual family tree. Through the ages, and around the world, they spread the message of Jesus. Sometimes they may have faced persecution of some sort. How does their dedication to and their faith in Jesus make you feel? What does it mean to you? What would you like to say to this crowd of witnesses who enable you to hear the story of Jesus Christ?
- *The Holy Spirit gives us power to know Christ personally:* Is Jesus real to you? How do you know He is real? What doubts might you have if you are not sure? What difference has it made to you to know Jesus personally, rather than to just know about Jesus? Who can you tell?
- *The Holy Spirit gives us the power to communicate Christ:* How do you do this? Do people respond favorably when you speak to them about Christ? Have you tried listening first and only speaking once you have heard the other person's story? Do you rely on the Holy Spirit to give you the words to say?

THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

PBO Reg. No. 18/11/13/690

GRACEPOINT METHODIST CHURCH

Tel: 011 702 4600 Emergency no.: 076 498 2088 WhatsApp Connect: 071 892 9382 E-mail: info@gracepoint.co.za

P.O. Box 1408, Lonehill 2062. 125 Duncan Road, Glenferness, 2191

Rev. Ian France, Rev. Linda Magengenene-Moyake

www.gracepoint.co.za



GRACEPOINT CHURCH

Weekly Devotional

- *The Holy Spirit gives the power to lay down our lives:* What does this mean to you? What sacrifices are you making to spread the Gospel and speak about Jesus to others? What does it cost you? How can you live for Jesus and serve Him best?
- **For Parents:**
 - If there are parents in the group, these questions are for them to discuss in the group, if there is time, or to consider at home for the benefit of their family.
 - What space do you give your children to introduce them to Jesus? How do you model your relationship with Him for your children?
 - How well do you listen to your children? What can you do as parents to make time to really hear your children? What benefits do you think this will bring to your family?
 - How can you help to make Gracepoint a place where future generations will hear and encounter the real Jesus? How can you make your own home such a place? Are you prepared to make whatever sacrifices are needed to do so?
- How can the group help you with the struggles you have mentioned during this session?

Prayer

- Spend a moment thanking God for your spiritual family tree; and for the opportunities you now have for being a part of that parade of people to introduce others and future generations to Him.
- Pray for the parents in your group that they may speak of Jesus to their children and help them to realise that Jesus is part of their family.
- Pray for one another in regard to the issues that have been raised during your discussion time, and in regard to other needs of the group.

Service

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your conversations with all you meet this week so that the thread of your faith may be woven through that conversation and Jesus may be glorified.

Bibliography

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/acts-1/>
<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/mark-2/>

THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
PBO Reg. No. 18/11/13/690
GRACEPOINT METHODIST CHURCH

Tel: 011 702 4600 Emergency no.: 076 498 2088 WhatsApp Connect: 071 892 9382 E-mail: info@gracepoint.co.za
P.O. Box 1408, Lonehill 2062. 125 Duncan Road, Glenferness, 2191
Rev. Ian France, Rev. Linda Magengenene-Moyake
www.gracepoint.co.za

