

Deeper Applications: We Value Series 1
“Kingdom Multiplication”
Acts 1:1-11
Cross Community Church, Savannah, Ga.
October 18, 2026

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

- **Main Idea: Jesus Christ’s followers are empowered by the Holy Spirit to advance God’s Kingdom (through multiplication)**

Summary

What does it truly mean to be a witness? In this message drawn from Acts 1:1-11, we are invited into one of the most pivotal moments in the story of God's kingdom -- the days between the resurrection and the ascension of Jesus, when he spoke persistently about one thing: the kingdom of God.

The central truth that emerges is both simple and staggering -- every follower of Jesus Christ has been empowered by the Holy Spirit to carry on the work that Jesus began. We are not spectators of a story that ended two thousand years ago. We are active participants in a kingdom that is still multiplying. The key verse, Acts 1:8, lays out a geographic and spiritual blueprint -- Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth -- that maps not just the expansion of the early church but the very shape of our own witness today. Wherever we live, work, travel, or serve, we are already standing in one of those circles. The question this message presses us to consider is not whether we have been called to witness, but whether we are actually doing it. The day we surrendered our lives to Christ is the day we received the Holy Spirit and became empowered witnesses. That date is not just a personal milestone -- it is the moment we were drafted into the greatest multiplication effort in human history.

Discussion Questions

The pastor describes the Holy Spirit as 'Jesus Continued' -- in what practical ways does your daily life reflect the ongoing work of Christ through the Holy Spirit dwelling within you?

Acts 1:8 outlines a progression of witness from Jerusalem outward to the ends of the earth -- how intentional are you about being a witness in each of those concentric circles, starting with the people closest to you?

The sermon draws a contrast between the disciples' expectation that people would come to them and Jesus' command to go out -- in what ways might your church or personal faith life still reflect that inward-focused mindset rather than a sending mindset?

The pastor argues that the baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs at the moment of salvation -- how does understanding that you already possess the full power of the Holy Spirit change the way you approach your calling as a witness?

The fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23 are described as things you cannot produce on your own -- which of these fruits do you find yourself trying to manufacture through personal effort rather than surrendering to the Spirit's work?

The sermon notes that the church has historically thrived under persecution, while comfort and freedom have often led to complacency -- what does that pattern reveal about the conditions under which genuine kingdom multiplication tends to occur?

The pastor emphasizes that your personal testimony is something only you can share, making you the world's leading expert on what Christ has done in your life -- what is holding you back from sharing that testimony more freely and consistently?

The story of Junior Hill hearing the enemy's voice after a night of powerful ministry raises the question of spiritual opposition -- how do you discern between the voice of the enemy and the voice of the Holy Spirit, and how does the Spirit's indwelling presence equip you to resist lies about your worth and calling?

The pastor describes the book of Acts as having no end because the kingdom work it records is still continuing -- how does seeing yourself as a living chapter in that ongoing story change your sense of purpose and responsibility as a follower of Christ?

The sermon challenges listeners to have a compelling witness, referencing David Hume attending George Whitefield's preaching despite his skepticism because 'he does believe' -- what would someone who does not

share your faith conclude about the reality of Christ by observing your life this past week?

Small Group Guide

Kingdom Multiplication — Acts 1:1–11

BEFORE YOU MEET

Encourage group members to read Acts 1:1–11 and Matthew 28:18–20 before gathering. Ask them to come prepared to share one way they have personally experienced the Holy Spirit at work in their lives this past week.

WELCOME AND OPENING

Begin your time together with a brief prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Then open with this icebreaker question:

Icebreaker: Think of a time you had a device but forgot the power source — a dead phone, a tool without batteries, something unplugged. What happened? How does that connect to living the Christian life without relying on the Holy Spirit?

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SERMON

Use these points to ground your discussion before diving into questions:

- **Cross Community Church exists to multiply** — specifically, to multiply Christ followers through gospel restoration.
- **Jesus' kingdom work continues through the promise of the Holy Spirit.** Every believer receives the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation, and with the Spirit comes the power to be a witness.
- **Jesus' kingdom work continues through the presence of the Holy Spirit.** In Matthew 28, Jesus promised to be with his followers to the end of the age. That presence is experienced through the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- **Jesus' kingdom work continues through the power of the Holy Spirit.** Acts 1:8 describes the Spirit's power as the enabling force behind every faithful witness.

- **Jesus' kingdom work continues through the persistence of our witness.** The church has always grown — often through difficulty and persecution — as ordinary people faithfully shared what Christ had done in their lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Work through as many of these as time allows. Feel free to linger on questions that generate meaningful conversation.

Understanding the Text

1. Read Acts 1:1–8 aloud together. What stands out to you about what Jesus chose to emphasize in the days leading up to his ascension? What does it tell you about his priorities?
2. The disciples asked Jesus whether he was going to restore the kingdom to Israel at that time. Jesus redirected their focus entirely. What were they expecting, and what did Jesus call them to instead? In what ways do we sometimes fall into the same kind of inward, "bring them to us" thinking?
3. Acts 1:8 is considered the theme verse and outline for the entire book of Acts — Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, the ends of the earth. How do you see that structure play out in the rest of what you know about the book of Acts? What does it tell you about how God often works?

Reflecting on the Holy Spirit

4. The pastor described the Holy Spirit using the phrase "Jesus continued." What does that phrase mean to you? How does thinking of the Holy Spirit that way change how you relate to him day to day?
5. The fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22–23 — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control — are described as evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence and power in a believer's life. Which of these fruits do you most clearly see the Holy Spirit producing in your life right now? Which one do you feel most dependent on him to develop?
6. The pastor made a distinction between asking the Holy Spirit to "fall like rain" and recognizing that believers already possess the Holy Spirit. How do you personally maintain an awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence in your daily life? What tends to make you less aware of him?

Personal Witness

7. The pastor described a compelling witness as someone who lives as though they genuinely believe Jesus has changed them from the inside. He referenced the story of David Hume attending George Whitefield's preaching not because Hume believed, but

because Whitefield clearly did. How would those who know you describe your witness? Would they say it is compelling?

8. The pastor encouraged everyone to be able to share their testimony in a 30-second version, a one-minute version, and a two-minute version — covering life before Christ, how they met Christ, and life since Christ. Have you ever written out or practiced sharing your testimony? What makes it feel difficult or easy to share?
9. The pastor said, "Evangelism is simply one beggar telling another beggar where you got bread." Does thinking about it that way make sharing your faith feel more or less accessible? Why?

Kingdom Multiplication

10. The pastor pointed out that the church in Jerusalem did not scatter into Judea and Samaria until persecution forced them out in Acts 8:1. What does that suggest about how God sometimes moves his people toward obedience? Have you ever experienced a difficult season that turned out to be God redirecting your witness?
11. The pastor challenged the group to think about witness in terms of four concentric circles — Jerusalem (your immediate community), Judea (your region), Samaria (cross-cultural contexts), and the ends of the earth (global mission). Where is your witness currently strongest? Where is it weakest or most undeveloped?
12. The pastor stated, "The mission of Cross Community Church has to become your mission." What would it look like practically for kingdom multiplication to become a personal mission for you, not just something the church as an institution pursues?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one or more of these as a group commitment for the coming week:

1. Write Your Testimony Take 20–30 minutes this week to write out your personal testimony in three parts: life before Christ, how you came to faith, and life since Christ. Practice sharing it in under two minutes. Consider sharing it with your small group next time you meet.

2. Identify Your Jerusalem Make a short list of three to five people in your immediate circle — coworkers, neighbors, family members, friends — who, as far as you know, do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Commit to praying for them by name each day this week and asking the Holy Spirit to open a door for a conversation.

3. Reflect on Your Witness Circles Draw four concentric circles and label them Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. Write in each circle the names of people or places where you currently have a witness. Then identify one circle where you feel the Lord may be calling you to expand your reach — and take one concrete step in that direction this week.

4. Record the Date If you know the date or season when you surrendered your life to Christ, write it down somewhere meaningful — in your Bible, in a journal, on a notecard. If you are not sure that you have made that decision, talk with your group leader or the pastor this week.

5. Pray for Global Multiplication As a group, spend five minutes praying specifically for the global spread of the gospel — including the church planting effort in Kenya mentioned in the sermon, the work in Jessup, and any other mission efforts your church supports.

CLOSING REFLECTION

Close your time by reading Acts 1:8 aloud together one more time. Then ask each person to complete this sentence before you pray:

"This week, I will be a witness for Jesus Christ by _____."

Close in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to empower each person in the group to carry on the life of Christ wherever they go.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Acts 1:8 — Jesus tells his followers that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them and that they will be his witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Sermon: "Kingdom Multiplication" — Acts 1:1–11

Day 1: The Promise That Changes Everything

Reading: Acts 1:1–5; John 14:15–17

Devotional: Jesus did not leave his followers without resources. Before ascending, he made a promise — the Holy Spirit would come. This was not a small comfort; it was the guarantee of divine presence and power for every believer who would follow. The same Spirit promised to those first disciples has been given to you. You did not receive a partial gift or a temporary arrangement. You received the full, indwelling presence of God himself at the moment of your salvation. Consider what it means to carry that promise with you into an ordinary Monday. You are not alone. You were never meant to be.

Reflection: On what day did you receive the Holy Spirit? If you know that date, spend time today thanking God for it specifically. If you are uncertain whether you have surrendered your life to Christ, ask him now.

Practical Application: Write down one area of your life where you have been relying on your own strength rather than the power of the promised Holy Spirit. Surrender that area to him today in prayer.

Day 2: The Presence That Never Leaves

Reading: Matthew 28:18–20; Romans 8:9

Devotional: Jesus closed his Great Commission with a staggering promise — he would be with his followers to the end of the age. He was not speaking only to the eleven standing on that hillside. He was speaking to every person who would come to faith through their witness, including you. The enemy will whisper that you are alone, forgotten, or beyond the reach of God's care. That voice is a lie. If the Holy Spirit dwells within you, the living God is present with you at this very moment — in your home, your workplace, your grief, and your doubt. His presence is not conditional on how well your week is going.

Reflection: Have you ever felt the weight of the enemy's accusation that you are alone or forgotten? How does the promise of God's permanent presence challenge that lie?

Practical Application: Throughout today, pause at least three times and quietly acknowledge that the Holy Spirit is present with you in that moment. Let that awareness shape how you respond to the people and circumstances around you.

Day 3: The Power to Witness

Reading: Acts 1:6–8; 1 Corinthians 12:12–13; Galatians 5:22–23

Devotional: The disciples were still thinking small. They wanted a restored political kingdom centered in Jerusalem. Jesus redirected their vision entirely — not inward and centralized, but outward and expansive. He told them they would receive power, and that power would make

them witnesses to the ends of the earth. That same power lives in you. You cannot manufacture love for difficult people, peace in impossible circumstances, or patience when everything in you wants to react. Only the Holy Spirit produces those fruits. But here is the remarkable truth — those very fruits are themselves a witness. The way you love the unlovable testifies to a kingdom that the world cannot explain on its own terms.

Reflection: Which fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22–23 is most visibly lacking in your life right now? What would it look like to yield that area to the Holy Spirit rather than striving in your own effort?

Practical Application: Identify one person in your life who is difficult to love. Ask the Holy Spirit specifically to produce his fruit in you toward that person this week. Then look for one concrete opportunity to act on it.

Day 4: The Witness Only You Can Give

Reading: Acts 8:1–8; 1 Peter 3:15

Devotional: Persecution scattered the early church out of Jerusalem, and the scattered believers carried the gospel with them wherever they went. What looked like a catastrophe was actually kingdom multiplication in motion. God did not waste their suffering — he used it as a sending mechanism. You carry a story that no one else on earth can tell. Your testimony of what Jesus Christ has done in your life is a unique and irreplaceable witness. You may not be a trained theologian. You may stumble over your words. But no one can argue with a genuinely changed life. The world's leading expert on what Jesus has done in your life is you. That is not an accident — that is a calling.

Reflection: Have you ever written out your personal testimony? Can you describe your life before Christ, how you came to faith, and what has changed since? If not, what is holding you back from doing so?

Practical Application: Take fifteen to twenty minutes today to write a brief version of your testimony. Aim for something you could share in two minutes or less. Practice saying it aloud. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you one person in your life who needs to hear it.

Day 5: The Persistence of Kingdom Multiplication

Reading: Acts 13:1–4; Matthew 28:18–20; Revelation 7:9–10

Devotional: The book of Acts has been called the book with no end, and that description is fitting. The kingdom work that began in Jerusalem has never stopped. It crossed cultural lines, geographic boundaries, and centuries of history to reach you. You are sitting in the middle of a

story that started before you were born and will not be finished until every tribe, tongue, and nation stands before the throne of God. Cross Community Church, your local church, your life — all of it is part of that unfinished story. Faithfulness to your Jerusalem, your Judea, your Samaria, and your uttermost parts is not optional for the believer. It is the natural overflow of a life that has been genuinely changed by the gospel.

Reflection: Where is your Jerusalem right now? Where is your Samaria — the cross-cultural or uncomfortable place where God may be calling you to witness? Have you ever considered going on a mission trip or supporting cross-cultural gospel work?

Practical Application: Pray specifically over each of the four spheres from Acts 1:8 — your immediate community, your region, cross-cultural opportunities nearby, and the ends of the earth. Ask God to show you one concrete step of faithfulness in each area. Then take the first step this week.