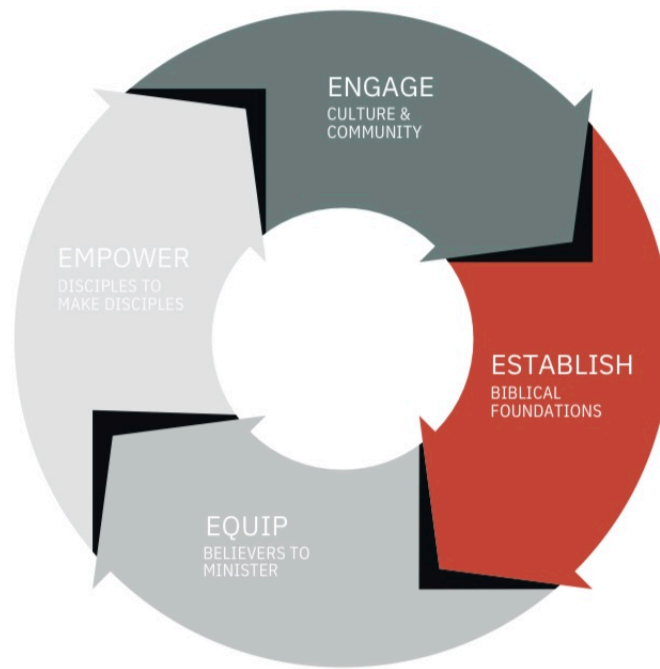


The mission of Rise Up Church is to raise disciples, empower families, and revitalize neighborhoods by the transformational power of the gospel. At Rise Up Church, our discipleship rhythm shapes how we live and expressed in four key movements that we call the 4E's. It is all about following Jesus and helping others do the same.



The purpose of our Koinonia Gatherings is to establish people in biblical foundations by building Christ-centered connections. We believe the Scriptures teaches that life change happens best in community, as we grow together in God's Word and are led by the Holy Spirit.

Below, you'll find a sermon-based guide from the most recent sermon to help lead a Rise Up Church Koinonia Gathering, along with a five day devotional designed to help you apply the sermon throughout the week.

Koinonia Gathering Leaders Guide

Title of Sermon: Heaven's Microphone

Scripture Focus: Acts 2:1–13

Exegetical Focus: At Pentecost: God poured out his spirit on His people, so that his people could proclaim the gospel, which demands a response from all people. And we are going to see four movements:

Leader Guide

- Begin with prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit to lead and guide.
- Ask the Spirit to soften hearts, convict where needed, and encourage transformation.
- Remind leaders to create space for everyone to share—draw out quieter voices.
- Keep focus on Jesus and the Word.

Sermon Summary

Pentecost marks the moment when God poured out His Spirit on His people so they could proclaim the gospel in power. The rushing wind, tongues of fire, and voices declaring God's mighty works revealed that the Spirit had come to dwell within the people of God. At Sinai, Israel stayed near the presence but resisted entering in. At Pentecost, God's presence came into His people. The Spirit empowered the disciples' sound and voices to proclaim the gospel across languages, reversing Babel's division. The day ended with a clear call: how will we respond? Some mocked, but many repented and believed, receiving new life. Pentecost shows that Jesus kept His promise, sending the Spirit to empower His church to carry His mission forward.

Point 1: The Presence of Heaven (vv.1–3)

God's presence came as wind and fire, filling His people. This fulfilled the Feast of Pentecost, which celebrated both harvest and the giving of the Law. Just as fire appeared at the burning bush and wind often symbolized God's Spirit, these signs confirmed His presence. The key difference is that at Sinai, Israel only drew near to God's presence but resisted entering it, staying at a distance out of fear. They chose idols over intimacy with God. At Pentecost, however, God's presence came to dwell in His people. The Spirit doesn't merely surround us—He lives within us. This difference changes everything, because being near God can leave us unchanged, but being in His presence transforms us from the inside out.

Application Question: Are you living near God's presence or in it? What keeps you from fully stepping into His presence?

Leader Guide Note: Encourage people to share honestly about fears, habits, or idols that keep them content with being near but not in God's presence.

Defeater Beliefs & Overcoming Doubt:

- God's presence will destroy me. → The gospel shows His presence brings life, not death.
- I don't feel worthy. → None are worthy, but Jesus makes us worthy by His blood.

Point 2: The Sound of Heaven (vv.2,6)

The Spirit's arrival was marked by the sound of rushing wind, grabbing everyone's attention. In Scripture, sound often precedes revelation—at Sinai, the trumpet blast prepared Israel for the Law; in Revelation, trumpets announce God's reign and judgment. At Pentecost, the sound announced the Spirit's presence and prepared people to hear the gospel in their own language. God still uses sounds today: a sermon, a worship song, a conversation, or even the testimony of a changed life can catch our attention and point us to Him. The question is not if God is making a sound, but whether we are listening.

Application Question: What “sound” has God used recently to get your attention? How are you responding?

Leader Guide Note: Guide the group to recognize different ways God has spoken—through people, Scripture, or life circumstances.

Defeater Beliefs & Overcoming Doubt:

- God doesn't speak anymore. → Scripture and testimonies remind us He still speaks.
- I can't hear Him. → God speaks in many ways; we must tune in by prayer and obedience.

Point 3: The Voice of Heaven (vv.4–11)

The disciples began speaking in other tongues, and each person heard the gospel in their own language. This moment reversed Babel, where human pride divided nations. At Pentecost, the Spirit united people under the gospel. Our voices are powerful tools that can either build up or tear down. Scripture reminds us that life and death are in the tongue. The Spirit empowers believers to use their voices as heaven's microphone—to bless, to build faith, to proclaim Christ, and to extend grace. When people hear us, they should hear more than our own words—they should hear heaven's voice speaking through us.

Application Question: When people hear your voice, do they hear heaven or just you?

Leader Guide Note: Challenge the group to think deeply about their speech—in conversations, in conflict, and in daily interactions.

Defeater Beliefs & Overcoming Doubt:

- My voice doesn't matter. → God used ordinary fishermen's voices to proclaim the gospel. He can use yours.
- I don't know what to say. → The Spirit gives utterance and equips us through His Word.

Point 4: The Response to Heaven (vv.12–13)

When the Spirit moved, people were divided in their response. Some were amazed and wanted to know more, while others mocked and dismissed the work as drunkenness. This shows that the same message can produce different outcomes, depending on the heart's posture. At Sinai, Israel mocked God's presence by building a golden calf and perished. At Pentecost, 3,000 responded in repentance and faith and received life. Our response determines whether the gospel becomes life or judgment for

us. The Spirit is still speaking today—through His Word, through His people, and through His church. How we respond is the difference between mockery and salvation.

Application Question: How are you responding to God's invitation today—mocking, delaying, or receiving?

Leader Guide Note: Don't let the discussion stay theoretical. Call people to personal reflection and response.

Defeater Beliefs & Overcoming Doubt:

- I'll respond later. → Tomorrow is not promised; today is the day of salvation.

- I've mocked too much. → God's mercy is greater. Peter denied Jesus but was restored and used by God.

Five-Day Devotional

Day 1 – God's Presence Within

Read: Acts 2:1–3, Exodus 3:1–6

Reflect: God's presence is not just near—it is within you through the Spirit.

Prayer: Lord, thank You that Your Spirit lives in me. Help me to walk in Your presence daily.

Day 2 – The Sound That Awakens

Read: Acts 2:2, Exodus 19:16–19

Reflect: God often uses sound to wake us up to His movement.

Prayer: Lord, help me recognize the ways You are trying to get my attention.

Day 3 – The Voice That Builds

Read: Acts 2:4–11, Ephesians 4:29

Reflect: Our voices should proclaim God's works and build others up.

Prayer: Lord, purify my words so they carry life and point others to You.

Day 4 – The Call to Respond

Read: Acts 2:12–13, Acts 2:37–41

Reflect: Everyone must respond to the gospel. Some mock, some believe.

Prayer: Lord, I choose to respond to You in faith today. Help me not delay.

Day 5 – Jesus Keeps His Promise

Read: John 14:15–18, Acts 2:33

Reflect: Pentecost is proof that Jesus keeps His promises. He gives His Spirit so we can carry His mission.

Prayer: Thank You Jesus for sending Your Spirit. Help me live empowered, bold, and faithful.