

WARM-UP

- Do you keep a to-do list? What do you do when you are faced with multiple tasks?
- Recall a time when someone helped you carry something heavy. How did it feel?
- Is there a time when you went out of your comfort zone to do something you thought you could not do? Tell us what happened.

WORD

*²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. **1 CORINTHIANS 2:2-5***

Before He conquered the grave, Jesus made a comforting promise to His disciples. He told them that they would not be alone in doing the works of His kingdom. The Holy Spirit would be with them. On the day of Pentecost, this promise was fulfilled as the Holy Spirit clothed them with power. Today, we will look at the importance, means, and result of boldly proclaiming the good news of Christ's sacrifice.

1 | The gospel is of first importance.

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. **1 CORINTHIANS 2:2**

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures . . .

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3

Knowing the purpose and power of Christ's death and resurrection allows us to see the magnitude of God's great love for us. His sacrifice echoes just how important we are to God—and it also makes the message of the cross so inescapably important. It is what we stand on as Christians; it is what we proclaim. Do you remember the first time you heard the gospel? How has it ministered to you and reconciled you not only to God but also to others?

2 | We proclaim the gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit.

. . . and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power . . .

1 CORINTHIANS 2:4

On our own, it would be impossible to fully grasp and proclaim the good news of Christ's sacrifice. We cannot rely on our own strength or ability; our skills and knowledge would fall short. It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can minister to others and share God's truth with the world. How has the Holy Spirit helped you in proclaiming the gospel? How has knowing that you can rely on the power of God inspired you to preach the gospel?

As we do so, people's faith will rest on the power of God.

... so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. **1 CORINTHIANS 2:5**

The result of gospel demonstration and gospel proclamation is that people will rely on God, not their own wisdom or power. Our careers, success, human effort, and hard work can not save us. And this is what we proclaim. We desire to see people come to faith in Christ alone. According to 1 Corinthians 15:2, what are we supposed to do with the word of God that was preached to us? How can demonstrations of the Spirit's power help others put their faith in Christ and *hold fast* to the gospel?

APPLICATION

- Pause and give some thought to the things that are important to you. Ask God to realign you to the message of the cross and give you the grace to always put Him first in everything.
- How has the Holy Spirit empowered you to be a witness for Christ? Share it with someone who needs encouragement to boldly proclaim the message of the cross.
- As you proclaim the gospel to your family and friends, in what ways do you desire to see the Spirit's power demonstrated? Ask the Holy Spirit to increase your faith to step out and do these.

