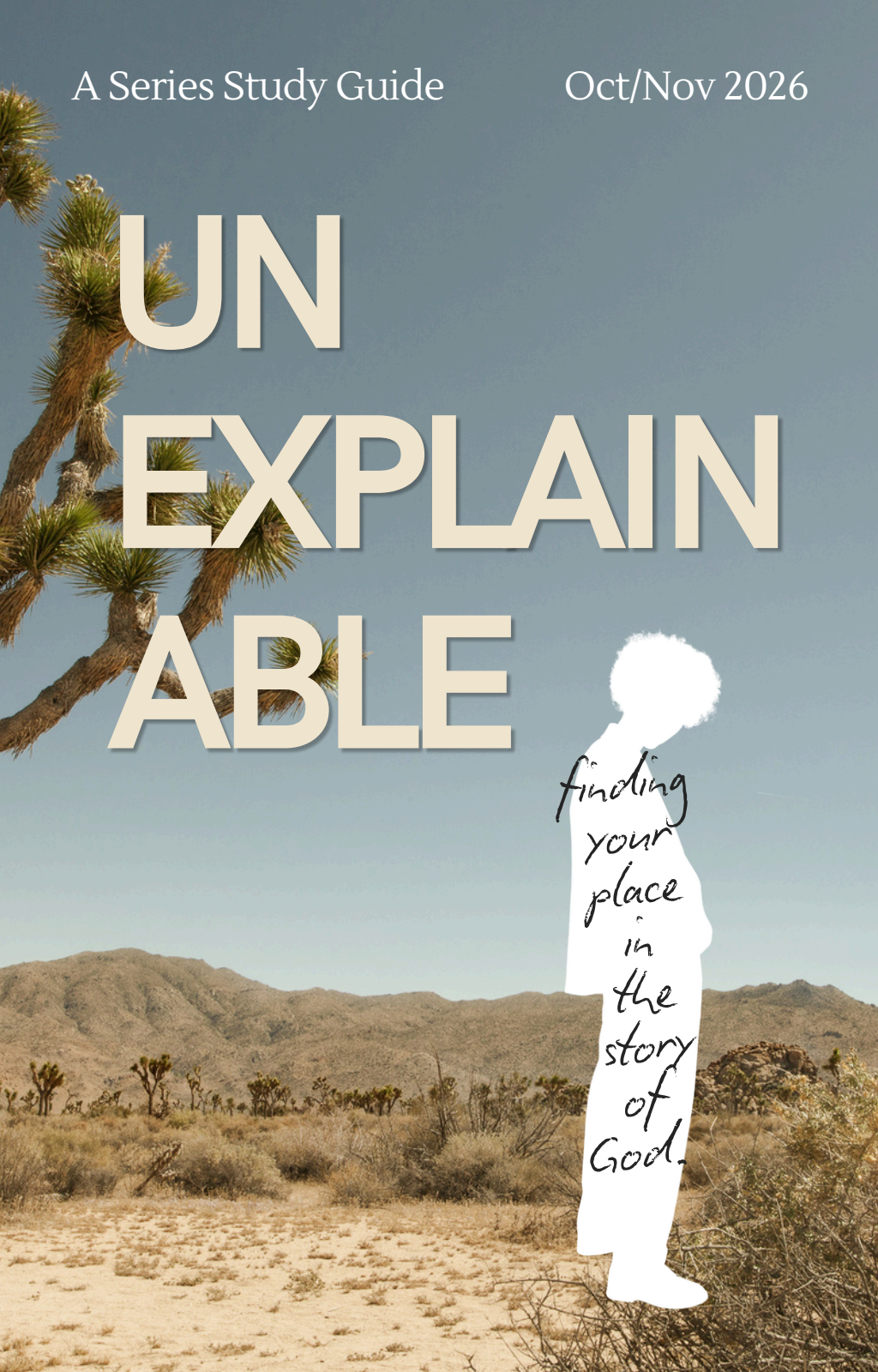
A Series Study Guide

Oct/Nov 2026

UNEXPLAINABLE

finding your place in the story of God.



WHAT'S IN THIS BOOK?

SERIES INTRODUCTON

Week 1 –
A People Sent
Acts 1.1-12

Week 2 –
A People Filled
Acts 2.1-13

Week 3 –
A People Who Speak
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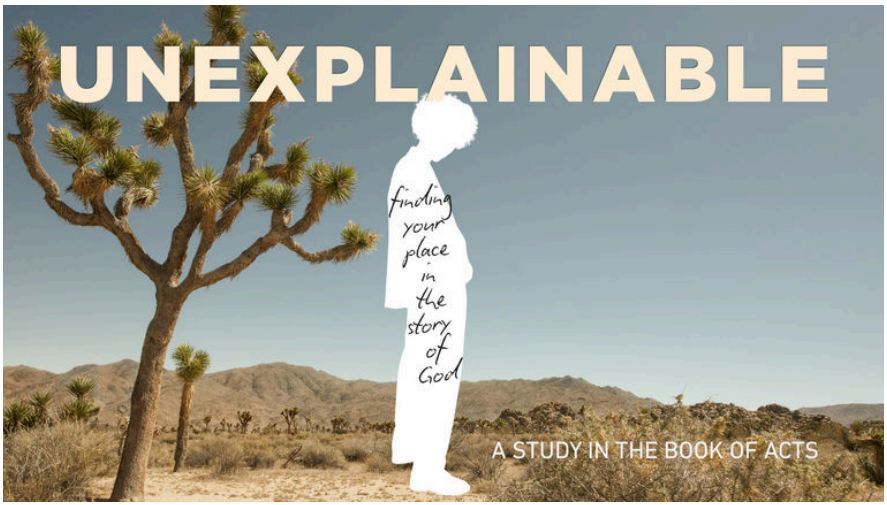
NEXT STEPS

A SERIES INTRODUCTION



Ordinary people. Extraordinary God.

Something extraordinary happens in the opening chapters of Acts.

Fear gives way to courage. Doubt becomes confidence. Strangers become family. A small group of uncertain disciples becomes a Spirit-filled community, living with a boldness and conviction that begins to turn the world upside down.

It's remarkable. And more than a little difficult to explain.

These weren't extraordinary people with theological credentials, unlimited resources, or a carefully crafted strategy. They had doubts, fears, weaknesses, and limitations. Yet somehow, they found themselves caught up in something far bigger than themselves.

How do you explain something like that? The book of Acts gives us the answer: **Jesus is still at work**.

What started in Galilee doesn't end at the empty tomb or even at the ascension. The risen Jesus pours out His Spirit, fills His followers with His presence and power, and sends them into the world as witnesses. What follows is a story no human strategy could have produced and no human strength could have sustained. **God is doing what only God can do**.

That's what we mean by *Unexplainable*. The best explanation for what happens in Acts is the presence and power of God. And perhaps the most surprising part is that God chooses to display His presence and power through people very much like you and me. Their confidence grows as they learn to trust Jesus, listen to His Spirit, and follow where He leads.

But don't miss it: **There's a place for you in this story**.

Acts isn't simply a record of what God once did. The same risen Jesus is alive today. His Spirit is still at work, and His mission is still unfolding. We are invited to participate, beginning with hearts that are open to His presence and responsive to His leading.

What might happen if we approached God with a greater hunger for His presence? If we learned to listen more closely, trust more deeply, and surrender more freely? What if we began each day with the expectation that the risen Jesus is at work, and a willingness to follow wherever His Spirit leads?

That's the invitation of *Unexplainable*: **To find our place in the story God is writing**.

Over the coming weeks, we'll walk through the opening chapters of Acts. Our prayer is that we'll come away with more than a better understanding of the early church; we want to grow in confidence that the Spirit who worked through them is the same Spirit at work in us. And as we become more attentive and responsive to His presence, we

might find ourselves caught up in something only God could do.

Jesus is alive. His Spirit is at work. And God is doing what only God can do.

How to Use This Guide
This guide is designed to help us move from reading about God's work to participating in it. Each week, we'll explore a passage from Acts through three simple questions:

PARADIGM — What do we need to see differently?
Discover how Acts reshapes our understanding of God, His mission, and our place in His story.

PRACTICE — What can we actually do this week?
Take a simple step of obedience. Pay attention to where God is working and respond to His leading.

PRAYER — What are we asking God to do?
Learn to depend on the Spirit, asking Him to accomplish what we cannot do on our own.

Use this guide personally, with your family, or alongside your House Church. Bring your questions, your hunger, and a willingness to respond. There's a place for you in this story.

Additional Resources

Acts for Everyone, Part 1-2, N.T. Wright

Spiritual Gifts are for Today: A Biblical Case for the Continuing Work of the Spirit, Craig Keener

The Familiar Stranger, Tyler Staton

Beautiful Resistance: The Joy of Conviction in a Culture of Compromise, Jon Tyson

Unexplainable Week 1

Date:

Speaker:

Main Scripture: Acts 1v1-12

SERMON TITLE

A People Sent

Main Points | Verses Used	Notes

REFLECTIONS

Reflect on how to apply today's sermon to your life

Quotes:

“The Spirit inside of us is greater than even Jesus beside us.”
- J.D. Greear

“What Christ does in the world today, he does through people like you, regardless of who you once were, how weak you may feel, and where you’re tempted to fall.”
- Marshall Segal

Week 1: Reflect and Discuss

1. Luke describes his Gospel as what Jesus "began to do and to teach" (v1). What does this suggest about the story Acts is about to tell? What might it mean for us today?

2. Why does Jesus tell His disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit (v4–5)? What does this reveal about the way God works through His people?

3. In Acts 1v8, Jesus promises power to be His witnesses. How does that challenge or expand your understanding of the Holy Spirit's work?

4. Where is there a gap between what you believe about the Holy Spirit and what you actually expect Him to do in your everyday life?

5. If the Holy Spirit were genuinely leading and empowering your life, what might look different?

6. How is God calling you to respond to this passage? Try writing an “I will” statement (“I will _____”) that captures your response. Then, go and do!

7. Who can you tell about how God has met you in His Word? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

Practice: Waiting with God

“Do not leave Jerusalem,
but wait for the gift my Father promised...”
- Acts 1v4

Imagine being one of the disciples. You've witnessed the resurrection. You've spent forty days with Jesus, hearing Him speak about the Kingdom of God. And now, just before He ascends, He tells you that you will be His witnesses to the ends of the earth.

But first, He gives an unexpected instruction: **Wait.** “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised” (Acts 1v4).

The disciples had a mission to fulfill, but they couldn't accomplish it through their own strength, enthusiasm, or determination. They needed the Holy Spirit. And so, before the preaching, miracles, and remarkable growth of the early church, we find a small group of disciples gathered together, waiting and praying.

Waiting was their first act of obedience.

We aren't waiting for the Holy Spirit to be given as they were at Pentecost. The Spirit has already been poured out. But we still need to learn the posture of dependence that marked those first disciples.

We live in a world that rewards initiative, productivity, and having a plan. Waiting can feel like wasting time. But perhaps one of the most important things we can learn is to make room for God before rushing ahead with our own ideas.

God's calling requires God's power.

Practice: Make Room to Wait
This week, set aside 5–10 minutes each day to wait on the

Lord. No agenda to accomplish. No problem to solve. Simply make yourself available to His presence.

1. Be still. Find a quiet place, put your phone away, and settle into silence. Remember that the risen Jesus is present with you through His Spirit.

2. Surrender your agenda. Consider where you feel pressure to make something happen, figure out what's next, or carry responsibility in your own strength. Open your hands and release it to God.

3. Wait with expectation. Pray slowly: “Holy Spirit, I need You. I don't want to run ahead of You. Teach me to recognize Your leading and depend on Your power.”

Sit quietly for a few minutes. You don't have to hear something or feel anything extraordinary. The invitation is simply to cultivate a heart that is attentive, surrendered, and ready to respond.

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At the end of the week, take a few minutes to reflect on your experience of waiting. What did you notice about yourself, your expectations, and your dependence on God? Consider these three questions:

PARADIGM — What do I need to see differently?
What assumptions about God, His timing, or my own abilities might the Holy Spirit be inviting me to reconsider?

PRACTICE — What can I actually do?
What would it look like to make waiting, listening, and depending on the Spirit a more regular part of my life?

PRAYER — What am I asking God to do?
Where do I need the Spirit's presence, direction, or power to accomplish what I cannot do on my own?

Unexplainable Week 2

Date:

Speaker:

Main Scripture: Acts 2v1-13

SERMON TITLE

A People Filled

Main Points | Verses Used	Notes

REFLECTIONS

Reflect on how to apply today's sermon to your life

Quotes:

“We need to be filled again and again and again with the Holy Spirit.” - R.A. Torrey

“If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference.” - A.W. Tozer

Week 2: Reflect and Discuss

1. What stands out to you about the way the Holy Spirit comes and fills the disciples in Acts 2v1-4? What does this reveal about God?

2. Why is it significant that the Spirit fills each person and enables people from different nations to hear the wonders of God in their own languages (v4-11)?

3. What has shaped your understanding and expectations of the Holy Spirit? How does this passage challenge or expand that understanding?

4. Where is there a gap between what you believe about the Holy Spirit and how much you actually depend on Him?

5. What might greater openness to the Holy Spirit look like in your life right now? Where are you hungry for more of His presence and power?

6. How is God calling you to respond to this passage? Try writing an “I will” statement (“I will _____”) that captures your response. Then, go and do!

7. Who can you tell about how God has met you in His Word? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

Practice: Getting to Know the Spirit

Imagine being among the disciples on the day of Pentecost. They've been waiting and praying, just as Jesus instructed. Suddenly, a sound like a violent wind fills the house. What appear to be tongues of fire rest on each of them. Luke tells us, “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2v4).

Something extraordinary is happening. **God is filling His people with His own presence.**

Throughout Scripture, God's presence had been associated with places like the tabernacle and temple. Now, through the Holy Spirit, God is making His home within His people. And immediately, they begin declaring the wonders of God.

It's tempting to focus on the wind, fire, and miraculous languages. But don't miss the greater wonder: God has come near. The Holy Spirit isn't just a power to experience or a resource for accomplishing God's work. **He is God Himself, present with us and inviting us into relationship.**

The Bible describes the Spirit both dwelling within believers and filling them. When we belong to Jesus, the Spirit makes His home in us (Rom. 8v9-11). His presence is a gift, not something we earn. Yet Scripture also invites us to continually “be filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5v18). Even those filled at Pentecost experienced fresh fillings as they followed Jesus (Acts 4v31).

When we pray, “Holy Spirit, fill me,” we're welcoming His presence and influence more fully into our lives, asking Him to form the Jesus in us and empower us to join His work.

As Tyler Staton reminds us, “**The Holy Spirit is a person to know, not a force to capture**.” Like any relationship, knowing the Spirit involves time, attention, honesty, and trust.

Practice: Getting to Know the Spirit
This week, explore three dimensions of growing friendship with the Holy Spirit.

1. INTIMACY || Enjoy His presence.
Friendship grows through intentional time *and* spontaneous connection. Look for opportunities to acknowledge the Spirit throughout your day: during your commute, on a walk, or between appointments. Talk with Him. Share what's on your heart. Learn to enjoy His company.

Ask: Am I learning to enjoy God's presence, or do I only approach Him when I need something?

2. HOLINESS || Bring your whole self.
The Holy Spirit is *holy*, and His presence transforms us. Yet we often think we need to overcome our struggles before drawing near to God. Holiness begins with bringing our sin into the light through honest confession, allowing the Spirit to forgive, cleanse, and change us.

Name one area where you've been holding on to sin or compromise. Bring it honestly before God, receive His grace, and invite the Spirit to make you more like Jesus.

Ask: Where am I resisting the Spirit's work of making me holy?

3. FAITH || Trust His leading.
Friendship with the Spirit grows as we respond to Him. His leading may come through Scripture, conviction, or a gentle prompting. Learning to recognize His voice means taking steps of faith, even when we're uncomfortable.

Notice a prompting you sense might be from the Spirit. Test it against Scripture and the character of Jesus, then take a step of obedience.

Ask: Where might the Spirit be inviting me to trust Him enough to respond?

The invitation isn't to master all three, but to deepen our friendship with the Holy Spirit—knowing Him, welcoming His transforming work, and walking in step with Him.

Unexplainable Week 3

Date:

Speaker:

Main Scripture: Acts 2v14-41

SERMON TITLE

A People Who Speak

Main Points | Verses Used	Notes

REFLECTIONS

Reflect on how to apply today's sermon to your life

Quotes:

“We are to be laborers together with the Holy Spirit!”
- Charles Spurgeon

“Kairos is when the eternal God breaks into your circumstances with an event that gathers some loose ends of your life and knots them together in His hands.”
- Mike Breen

Week 3: Reflect and Discuss

1. What prompted Peter to stand and speak (v12-16)? What does his response teach us about recognizing opportunities to point people toward Jesus?

2. How does Peter use Scripture to explain what God is doing and connect it to Jesus (v16-36)? What stands out to you about his message and His audience?

3. What differences do you notice between Peter in the Gospels and Peter in Acts 2? How do you explain this transformation?

4. Where have you recently noticed God at work, in your own life or someone else's? How might you put that experience into words?

5. What might change if we approached spiritual conversations with the confidence that God is already at work, rather than feeling responsible for making something happen?

6. How is God calling you to respond to this passage? Try writing an “I will” statement (“I will _____”) that captures your response. Then, go and do!

7. Who can you tell about how God has met you in His Word? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

Practice: Witness

Something extraordinary has happened. The Holy Spirit has filled the disciples, and a crowd gathers, amazed and confused by what they've witnessed. “What does this mean?” they ask (Acts 2v12).

Peter recognizes the moment. He stands up, turns to Scripture, and helps the crowd understand what God is doing. He tells them about Jesus—His life, death, resurrection, and exaltation. As the people listen, their hearts were pierced and they begin asking how they should respond.

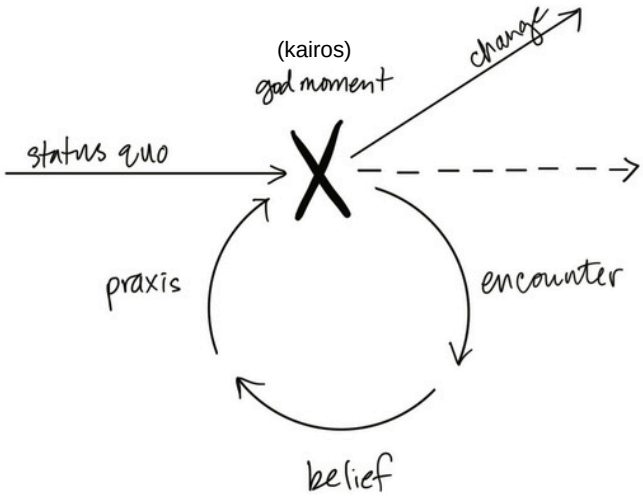
Peter didn't manufacture the moment. **God moved, Peter recognized it, and he had the courage to speak.**

Sometimes God is already getting someone's attention. A difficult season raises deeper questions. An unexpected answer to prayer stirs curiosity. A spiritual experience ignites curiosity. A conversation opens a door to something spiritual. These can become kairos moments—opportunities to recognize God's activity and respond.

And sometimes, like Peter, we're invited to help someone else recognize what God is doing.

Practice: Witness (The Kairos Circle)
This week, look for an opportunity to have a meaningful conversation with someone. Use the Kairos Circle to help them reflect on what God might be doing in their life.

1. ENCOUNTER || What is happening?
Pay attention to what someone shares. Is there a question, struggle, unexpected blessing, or experience that seems significant? Get curious. Ask, "What's been happening in your life lately?" or "What has that experience been like for you?"



2. BELIEF || How is God revealing Himself?
Help them reflect on the deeper meaning of their experience. You might ask, "What do you make of that?" or "Have you considered where God might be in all of this?" Listen carefully, without rushing to provide an answer.

3. PRAXIS || How might we respond?
This is your opportunity to give voice to what you believe God is doing. Share something you've experienced of Jesus, offer a passage of Scripture, or gently connect their story to His. Then ask, "What do you think God might be inviting you to do?" (or “If this was from God, what do you think He might be trying to tell you?”).

4. CHANGE || What might God be forming?
Encourage them to consider how this moment could shape their life. Is there a new perspective, a step of trust, or an invitation to follow Jesus? Offer to pray with them or revisit the conversation later.

You don't need to force a spiritual conversation or claim to know exactly what God is doing. Be curious, listen for the Spirit, and have the courage to point people toward Jesus.

Unexplainable Week 4

Date:

Speaker:

Main Scripture: Acts 2v42-47

SERMON TITLE

A People Devoted

Main Points | Verses Used	Notes

REFLECTIONS

Reflect on how to apply today's sermon to your life

Quotes:

“The Holy Spirit is like a symphony conductor, orchestrating our communal life of prayer and worship and praise.”
- James Bryan Smith

“As communities of the King, we should model what the Kingdom looks like when God has His way with a group of people.”
- John Wimber

“We should greatly grieve the Holy Spirit if we supposed that his might was less to-day than in the beginning.”
- Charles Spurgeon

Week 4: Reflect and Discuss

1. What stands out to you about the four things the early believers devoted themselves to (v42)? Why do you think these practices were central to their life together?

2. How does the relationship between ordinary rhythms of devotion and extraordinary works of God (vv42-47) challenge or expand your understanding of a Spirit-filled church?

4. What do you notice about the way the believers shared life together? How might their relationships reflect the Spirit's transforming work?

5. Where are you tempted to remain a spectator rather than fully participate in the life of the church? What might greater devotion look like in this season?

6. How is God calling you to respond to this passage? Try writing an “I will” statement (“I will _____”) that captures your response. Then, go and do!

7. Who can you tell about how God has met you in His Word? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

Practice: Keep Showing Up

Something remarkable happens after Pentecost. The wind and fire give way to the everyday – but no less Spirit filled – rhythms of a new community. Luke tells us that the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer.

That word “devoted” does some heavy lifting in this verse. It speaks of persistence, of a commitment to keep showing up. Their lives were consistently given to God's presence and purposes—and to one another. These weren't occasional activities, but rhythms that shaped them.

And right in the middle of these ordinary practices, something extraordinary is happening. Everyone is filled with awe. Signs and wonders accompany their life together. Generosity overflows, needs are met, and the Lord continues adding to their number.

The Spirit who filled the disciples at Pentecost is now forming an entirely new kind of community.

It's tempting to separate the ordinary from the extraordinary, as though God's power is found in dramatic moments while His people simply maintain the routines of church life. But Acts 2 gives us a different picture. The believers devoted themselves to rhythms that made room for God's presence and transforming work.

Their devotion didn't manufacture God's activity. It created space to welcome and participate in what He was doing.

What if we began approaching these ordinary practices with fresh hunger and expectation? As we gather around His Word, share life, break bread, and pray, we can expect the same Spirit who moved at Pentecost to be at work among us—forming us, changing us, and doing what only He can do.

Practice: Keep Showing Up
The early believers didn't simply admire these rhythms; they devoted themselves to them. This week, choose one of the four devotions in Acts 2v42 and make a concrete commitment to practice it, engage with consistency, attention, and expectation.

1. SCRIPTURE || Give God's Word your attention.
Move beyond casual reading. Commit to reading Scripture daily this week. Use a physical Bible if possible, put away distractions, and keep a pen or notebook nearby. Read slowly, take notes, and ask the Spirit to reveal Jesus and shape your life through His Word.

2. FELLOWSHIP || Carry one another's burdens.
Biblical fellowship is more than hanging out. It's sharing life deeply, including our struggles, suffering, and trials. Identify someone who's carrying a heavy load. Reach out, show up, listen, pray, and find a tangible way to help carry their burden.

3. BREAKING BREAD || Come prepared for Communion.
The early believers gathered regularly around the table, remembering Jesus and sharing life together. Commit to participating consistently in Communion with your church family. Begin preparing your heart the night before: slow down, examine your heart, confess what needs confessing, and come ready to remember and encounter Jesus together.

4. PRAYER || Return to God throughout the day.
For centuries, Christians have practiced fixed-hour prayer as a way of ordering their days around God's presence. Pause three times a day—morning, midday, and evening. Even just a minute or two minute can become an opportunity to stop, turn your attention to God, pray, and listen.

Choose one rhythm to practice this week. Be specific about what you'll do, when you'll do it, and how you'll make room for the Spirit to work.

This week, **I will** _____. Tell someone and ask them to check-in on your commitment.

Unexplainable Week 5

Date:

Speaker:

Main Scripture: Acts 3v1-26

SERMON TITLE

A People Who Pay Attention

Main Points | Verses Used	Notes

REFLECTIONS

Reflect on how to apply today's sermon to your life

Quotes:

“Learning to hear God's voice is the single most important task of a disciple of Jesus.”
- John Mark Comer

“Faith is spelled R-I-S-K.”
- John Wimber

“What we should focus on here is not guidance or hearing from God, but the kind of life within which guidance makes sense.”
- Dallas Willard

Week 5: Reflect and Discuss

1. Peter and John are going to pray when they encounter the man at the temple gate (v1-4). What stands out about this encounter, especially the way Peter gives him his attention?

2. It's possible Peter and John had passed this man many times before. What might it look like to approach familiar people and places with a fresh expectation that God is at work?

3. How do you recognize when the Holy Spirit might be prompting you to respond? What helps you discern His leading, and what sometimes holds you back?

4. What might change if you began each day asking, “Holy Spirit, is there someone You want me to notice today?” How might you respond if He brings someone to mind?

5. Am I living with an awareness that the Holy Spirit might actually want to do something through me today?

6. How is God calling you to respond to this passage? Try writing an “I will” statement (“I will _____”) that captures your response. Then, go and do!

7. Who can you tell about how God has met you in His Word? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

Practice: Listen and Respond

Peter and John are on their way to the temple for the regular hour of prayer. At the gate sits a man who has been unable to walk since birth. Every day, he's carried there to beg. It's very possible Peter and John have passed him many times before. But today, something different happens.

Luke tells us that Peter “looked straight at him” (Acts 3v4). The Greek word describes a fixed, intentional gaze. Peter gives this man his attention. Then, with remarkable confidence, he says, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk” (Acts 3:6).

Peter takes him by the hand, helps him up, and the man begins to walk!

Later, Peter explains what happened: “By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong” (Acts 3v16). Peter didn't have the power to heal. But he trusted Jesus, and that faith moved him to act.

John Wimber, a former professor from Fuller Seminary, famously said, “Faith is spelled R-I-S-K.”

We don't know everything Peter was discerning in that moment. But we see a disciple who pays attention, responds with faith, and trusts Jesus to do what only He can do. What if we learned to move through our days with that same posture?

We often see people without really noticing them. We're hurried, distracted, or preoccupied with our own agendas. And even when something catches our attention, uncertainty or fear can keep us from responding.

Walking with the Spirit means learning to recognize His invitations and trusting Jesus enough to act.

Practice: Listen and Respond
This week, look for one opportunity to slow down, pay attention, and take a step of faith. Practice listening in three directions:

1. LISTEN TO THE PERSON || Give your full attention.
Put away distractions. Listen beyond someone's words. Notice what they're experiencing or carrying. Resist the urge to rush toward an answer.

2. LISTEN TO THE SPIRIT || Ask what God might be doing.
Quietly pray, “Holy Spirit, what are You doing here?” Pay attention to any Scripture, a picture, compassion, or prompting that comes to mind. Hold those impressions humbly, asking God for wisdom and discernment.

3. LISTEN TO YOU || Notice what's happening within you.
Are you experiencing compassion, hesitation, fear, or an unexpected sense of courage? Bring those reactions before God. Don't let discomfort alone determine your response.

Then, **TAKE A RISK**.

If you sense the Spirit inviting you to respond, take a simple step of faith. Ask another question. Share an encouragement. Offer to pray for someone, and if they welcome it, pray with them right then. Ask Jesus to do something you cannot accomplish on your own.

Remember, our responsibility isn't to produce a miracle. We listen, discern, and respond in faith. **Jesus does what only Jesus can do.**

Prayer:
Holy Spirit, teach me to walk so closely with You that I recognize Your leading in the ordinary moments of my day. Open my eyes to what You're doing, make my heart attentive to Your voice, and give me courage to respond when You invite me to act. Help me keep in step with You. Amen.

Next Steps
As we wrap up our series, what's your next step in the direction of Jesus?

Take the Next Step: House Church
Following Jesus was never meant to happen alone. House Churches are small communities of everyday disciples learning to live and love like Jesus together.

We gather around tables, Scripture, prayer, friendship, and mission, encouraging one another to notice where God is already at work and practice saying yes in the places and relationships He has given us. If you're ready for a simple next step, find a House Church near you and join the journey.

Find your House Church: www.findcommunity.com/housechurch

Practicing the Way | 4-Week Cohort
What if following Jesus could reshape the way you experience everyday life?

Join us for a four-week journey exploring what it means to be with Jesus, become like Him, and do what He did. Through teaching, meaningful conversation, and simple spiritual practices, we'll take intentional steps toward a life shaped by Jesus.

Whether you're new to following Jesus or have walked with Him for years, there's more to discover. Come practice the Way with us!

Tuesdays, October 27–November 17 | 6:30–8:00pm
More info or to register: www.findcommunity.com/events

Seek First
What might happen if we made more room for God? Join us for Seek First, an evening of unhurried prayer, worship, and listening to the Holy Spirit. Let's seek His presence together.

1st & 3rd Mondays | 8:00pm | The Upper Room

COMMUNITY
CHURCH RANCHO