**Theme Verse for the Gathering and this message**

Acts 1:8 - Just before Jesus was taken up into heaven, He told His disciples; ***“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other.” (NIRV)***

1. Brief review of the three lessons for the Gathering.
   1. Day 1 - The power and work of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1-2).
      1. The Holy Spirit gave them the ability to communicate with everyone in Jerusalem regardless of their language.
      2. The Holy Spirit gave Peter the courage and the Word to share with the crowds.
      3. The Holy Spirit changed hearts and gave understanding to those who listened.
      4. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, 3,000 were added to the Church on the day of Pentecost.
   2. Day 2 - The Holy Spirit is our source of courage through the story of Paul and Ananias (Acts 9:1-27).
      1. No one accepts the Good News of Jesus apart from the Holy Spirit.
      2. Saul (later Paul) did not believe Jesus was the Son of God, even though He believed in God. He thought Jesus was a rebel and blasphemer.
      3. He thought all of Jesus’ followers should be arrested. He went to the high priest and got letters to the synagogues in Damascus to arrest all of Jesus’ followers.
      4. Jesus appeared to him on the way to Damascus and asked why he was persecuting Him. Jesus blinded him and told him to go to Damascus.
      5. The Lord spoke to a man in Damascus named Ananias in a vision and told him to go to Saul and lay his hands on him and heal him.
      6. Ananias was afraid because Saul was arresting Jesus’ followers, but God gave him the courage to go to Saul.
      7. Saul was healed and received the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit quickly empowered Saul to preach about Jesus.
      8. The Holy Spirit also gave the other disciples the courage to work with Saul and help him escape when Jews in Damascus wanted to kill him.
   3. Day 3 - The Holy Spirit gave Paul and Silas the power to witness to their jailer and his family (Acts 16:16-34).
      1. Paul and Silas were thrown in prison because they cast out a demon from a slave girl. The demon gave her the ability to tell fortunes.
      2. The slave girl was making a lot of money for her masters and they were angry with Paul and Silas. Paul and Silas were thrown in prison.
      3. The jailer fastened their feet in stocks that were both painful and made sure they couldn’t get away.
      4. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God. The other prisoners were listening to them.
      5. Suddenly there was a powerful earthquake that shook the prison. The prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose.
      6. The jailer grabbed his sword and was about to kill himself, because he thought the prisoners had escaped.
      7. Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all still here!” The jailer rushed in and on the ground in front of Paul and Silas. He asked them, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”
      8. Paul and Silas replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and everyone living in your house will be saved.”
      9. Paul and Silas were empowered by the Holy Spirit to praise God while beaten and in prison. They also witnessed to the jailer about Jesus.
      10. They went even further and told the jailer if he believed, everyone living in his house will be saved.~~”~~ Everyone in his house was baptized.
2. Our theme verse for these three days was spoken by Jesus just before He was taken up into heaven. In Acts 1:8, He told His disciples; ***“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other.”*** (NIRV)
   1. He told them, ***“You must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.” Matthew 28:19-20*** (NIRV)
   2. Jesus wanted His disciples to witness to people all over the world and help them to grow closer to Him. To help them, He promised to be with them the entire time through the Holy Spirit.
   3. The Holy Spirit promised by Jesus came 10 days later. This was the Day of Pentecost.
      1. It was the Holy Spirit who gave Jesus’ disciples the power and the ability to speak with the people in Jerusalem and 3,000 people became believers that day.
      2. The Holy Spirit gave Saul (later Paul) the understanding and courage to believe in Jesus. He gave Ananias and the other disciples in Damascus the courage to help Saul get started serving Jesus.
      3. He gave Paul and Silas the strength to worship God while in prison which was a powerful way to witness to the other prisoners.
      4. It was the Holy Spirit who gave them wisdom not to run away when the doors of the prison flew open. They stayed to witness about the love of Jesus to the jailer and his family.
   4. We have the same Holy Spirit living in us! He also gives us the power and ability to witness to people about Jesus.
      1. Jesus spelled out His mission when he spoke to Zacchaeus in Luke 19:10. He first told Zacchaeus, ***“Today salvation has come to your house.”*** Then Jesus told him why He was born into the world, ***“The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them.”*** (NIRV)
      2. Jesus wants all of us to share in His mission. To do this He gave us the same helper He gave His disciples; the same Holy Spirit now lives in us!
      3. The Holy Spirit will help us,

* invite our friends and roommates to church or Friendship group,
* pray for friends who don’t know Jesus,
* forgive people who hurt us,
* be kind to people who aren’t kind to us,
* help people who need our help,
* to love God,
* and to love others as we would want them to love us.

4. As we get ready to leave this Gathering, let’s be silent for a moment to think about someone you can share Jesus’ love with and how you will do it. Remember, the Holy Spirit will be with you.

5. Let’s Pray!