**Tips for Leading the Discussion:**

- The goal of this discussion guide is to get your group, wherever they are at in terms of their maturity in God, experience with the supernatural, and boldness in being a witness, to grapple with two key elements of the Viral Church – the Power of God and Proclamation of the Gospel. Both are found in the theme verse of Acts, Acts 1:8 – *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*  The purpose of the power of the Holy Spirit is to be able to preach the gospel and bring others to Christ. This is what causes the message of the gospel and the growth of the church to ‘go viral’.

**WARM UP**

We recommend only using 1 or at most 2 of the discussion questions. Think of your group and which questions might be most engaging for them. Use 2 questions if you feel it is helpful, just don’t spend so much time on the warm up that you can’t get to the application and prayer. Question #3 is one you can use any week when none of the warm up questions seem like they'd be effective for your group.

**WORD**

It’s a long passage so be sure to take that into account. If you are short on time, just read vs.1-11 and then say something like, “after this amazing event, a large crowd gathered, marveling at the miraculous healing. Upon seeing the crowd, Peter began to preach the Gospel just like he did in chapter 2 on the Day of Pentecost.”

**DISCUSSION**

#1 - Power & Proclamation work together and are produced by the Holy Spirit. In this chapter, the miracle caught people’s attention, allowing Peter to share the gospel with them. In the previous chapter, the miraculous baptism in the Holy Spirit created an opportunity to share the gospel and 3000 became followers of Jesus. You might refer back to Acts 1:8 and make a connection between the Holy Spirit, power, and being a witness. In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus said that even he ministered by the anointing of the Holy Spirit to preach good news (the gospel), heal people, and set them free. So both the power to help people and the ability to proclaim the gospel come to us through the Spirit of God.

#2 – Both proclaiming and receiving the Gospel are only possible by the power of the Spirit, so if they are born again, they’ve experienced the power of God. Great time to get to hear the ways God has worked in the lives of your group members. This is a great opportunity for you or others in the group to share their salvation testimonies. Especially if there are unbelievers present.

#3 – The name ‘Jesus’ means to save, rescue or deliver. To believe in his name is to believe that Jesus is the savior, the Son of God, who was crucified for our sins, conquered death, hell, and sin on our behalf so he could save us from death, hell, and sin. Also means to trust Jesus to be true to his promises.

#4 – It seems like verses 9-12 indicate that Peter didn’t heal the man to draw a crowd so that he could preach, rather he saw an opportunity when the crowd began to respond to the miracle. We should be on the lookout for opportunities to share the Gospel.

#5 – No right or wrong answer. Both Jesus and the disciples did miracles and then used the demonstrations of power to point people to God. But they also both did miracles without any record of any motive outside helping people. Jesus’ first miracle was to turn water into wine at a wedding party where they had run out of wine and there is no record of him making any statements. Jesus did, however, say that the purpose of the power of the Holy Spirit was to be able to preach the Gospel.

**APPLICATION**

As always, look for tangible ways to apply the scripture. Things like concrete steps, clear assignments/actions, and putting down dates and timelines really help.

**PRAYER**

As always, be sure to include a time to pray for each other’s needs.

**APPLICATION**

#1 – Offering to pray for someone is one of the best ways to introduce people to the power of God. It is simple – just ask God to help them – and is nearly universally accepted.

#2 – Don’t worry if you yourself aren’t an evangelist or if you are inexperienced at teaching others to share the gospel. This is a great opportunity to survey the group to see if there is someone who is an evangelist or capable of showing the rest of the group how to be a witness.

#3 – You never know what kind of experience or training members of your group might have. Be sure to give an opportunity for people to share. This may be a moment to schedule someone in to train your group to use the God Test or do some other forms of evangelism training. You might also reach out to your Discipleship Director or Pastor to see if they can help you arrange training to use the gifts of the Spirit.

**PRAYER**

As always, be sure to include a time to pray for each other’s needs.