# The Leading of the Spirit

## 1.Inspiration to speak appropriately Acts 2:14-36 & 17:16-34

# How does the Spirit lead?

## These scriptures teach us that the leading of the Spirit inspires us to say the right words

### There’s not a formula to remember

### It’s about engaging with people

## In Acts 2 Peter is speaking to people who believed in God

### People who believed the OT was inspired by God and given to them by God

### People whose faith was rooted in Judaism and was acted out

## In Acts 17 Paul is speaking to Epicureans & Stoics

### They didn’t accept OT history or a personal relationship with God

# The Holy Spirit inspired Peter

### An explanation of Pentecost to Jews who believed in the OT

## ‘This.. is that…’

### Brought about through Jesus

#### A man you put to death

#### But God… raised Him from the dead

### God is fulfilling His promise

#### Jesus is the Messiah!

## Peter let God do the rest

## Peter followed up when they asked

### He said ‘Change direction’ and ‘Be baptised’

## They asked about tongues…

### He gave evidence about God/Jesus

# The Holy Spirit inspired Paul

## He used This… is that!

### This ‘unknown God’ is that which we know

## He starts from where they are

### He never mentions the scriptures but quotes two Greek poets

## He appeals to their pride in thinking by mentioning their ignorance

## He gives them a chance to recover by calling for repentance

## He gives evidence that God is behind this thinking by speaking of resurrection

## They asked about his babblings…

### Paul gave evidence about God and doesn’t mention the name of Jesus yet

## Paul let God do the rest

# When the Spirit of God leads you to speak

### Will He not give you the words to say? (Luke 12:12)

## Let the Holy Spirit inspire you to give evidence about God/Jesus

## Don’t do it all – let God do the rest

## Pray about it afterwards

### That your evidence might be used by God to move people closer to God

### Don’t beat yourself up

## This.. is that… which God has done

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Inspirational talks

## What talks have you heard that inspired you?

### What do you remember of the talk?

### What difference did they make?

## “A good speech engages with people where they are”

### To what extent do you agree with this?

### To what extent does this imply that some hearers may not think it good?

# Conversations that make a difference

## What conversations changed your direction?

### What do you remember of the conversations?

### What difference did they make?

# The inspiration of the Spirit to speak

## What questions about your faith have been asked of you?

## How did you answer them?

### With hindsight, how should you have answered them?

#### This is not to impose guilt, but to inspire learning!

## How do you think Peter and Paul felt before speaking?

### How would you have felt?

#### Should feelings prevent speaking? Do they?

# Peter and Paul being used by God

## Compare and contrast the approaches of Peter and Paul

### Where do they start?

### Where do they end?

### How do they follow up?

## How can what they do inform our evangelistic efforts?

### In what ways do both Peter and Paul answer the initial and the follow-up questions?