

Living the Whole Gospel (Part 2)

Ice Breaker: Why do you think the ‘verbal witness’ (talking, teaching, preaching) of Christians has lost some of its potency in our culture?

BIG IDEA: Whenever the Kingdom of God begins to radically transform a community – it almost always involves both a *proclamation* and a *demonstration* of the gospel of Jesus.

Digging Deeper:

- 1) Read Isaiah 58:1-12. What are the things God says He is looking for from His people? What does this tell us about God’s heart for the poor and marginalized? What does God say He will do – if His people will serve the needy?
- 2) Read Luke 4:14-21. How does the way Jesus inaugurated his public ministry give us an insight into the purpose of his coming to earth? Does Jesus’ first sermon shed any light on the way you understand the significance of Isaiah 58?
- 3) Read Luke 9:1. Out of the four tasks Jesus commanded his followers to do, how many of them had to do with talking or teaching or preaching? What does this tell us about the nature of advancing the Kingdom of God? Why do you think the American church today errs so far on the *proclamation* side of the gospel over and against the *demonstration* side of the gospel?
- 4) What’s one thing you and/or your life group could be doing to provide our community with a “demonstration” of the gospel of Jesus? Spend some time sharing with each other and brainstorming about what God might have your group do.
- 5) Continue to pray for our “Be the Church” Sunday (October 3) – that as our church family serves the needs of our Valley – “God’s light would rise in the darkness” (Isaiah 58:10) – and many people in our community would eventually surrender their lives to Him.