

## The Kerygma - The Heart of the Gospel

**The Kerygma** (Greek for “proclamation”) refers to the essential proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the heart of the Gospel message proclaimed by the Apostles and entrusted to the Church (cf. CCC 425, 905). It is both a message and a living encounter with the Person of Christ. When shared through word and witness, it includes these essential truths:

1. **God loves us and has a plan for our lives that is good.** (Plan = Union with God forever)  
God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness, created us in his image and likeness, and calls us into communion with himself to share in his own blessed life (cf. 1 Jn 4:8; Eph 1:3-6; CCC 1-3).
2. **Humanity turns away from God through sin, which ruptures our relationship with God and brings death into the world** (cf. Gn 3; Gn 4:7; Rom 3:23; Rom 6:23).
3. **Jesus is the solution.** Jesus’ incarnation, life, death, and resurrection reveal God’s love for us, conquer sin and death, and open for us the way to reconciliation and eternal life (cf. **Jn 3:16**).
4. **All people are called to repent, believe in the Gospel, and entrust their lives to Christ** (cf. Mk 1:15; Acts 2:38).
5. **Through faith in God and the ministry of His Church, all people can be united with God forever.**  
Through faith, baptism, and life in the Church, we receive the Holy Spirit, are strengthened by the sacraments, and are drawn into communion with God and His people, with the promise of eternal life (cf. Acts 2:42; CCC 1213, 1267).

### Meditate on John 3:16 (Kerygmatic proclamation from Jesus)

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life.”*

- Reflect: What does this verse reveal about God’s love and your experience of it?
- Read: The Prologue of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 1-3. (CCC 1-3)

## Kerygmatic Proclamations in the Book of Acts

Read **Acts 2:14–36**, Peter’s sermon at Pentecost.

Write a brief summary: What did Peter proclaim about Jesus? How did he invite people to respond?

### Further examples of kerygmatic proclamations:

- **Acts 2:14-36 — Peter to the crowds gathered on Pentecost**
- Acts 3:12-26 — Peter to the crowds amazed at the healing of the paralyzed man
- Acts 4:8-12 — Peter to the Jewish leaders at the healing of the paralyzed man
- Acts 5:29-32 — Peter to the Jewish leaders who order the Apostles to be silent
- Acts 10:34-43 — Peter to the household of Cornelius
- Acts 13:16-41 — Paul to the Synagogue in Pisidian Antioch
- Acts 14:15-17 — Paul to the crowds in Derbe
- Acts 17:22-31 — Paul at the Areopagus

## Practice Sharing Your Testimony

Share a brief (2-minute or less) testimony with another mentor using this structure, rooted in your experience and encounters with the Kerygma:

- **A. Before** – What was happening in your life before this encounter?
- **B. Encounter** – Share the encounter you had with God (rooted in the Kerygma)?
- **C. After** – How has this encounter changed your life? How are you growing in faith through His Church?

Reflect on whether the Kerygma is clear? Is it genuine, gentle, and respectful?

Focus on what Jesus has done for you—not just what you’ve done.

*“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence.” — 1 Peter 3:15-16*