



Worship Guide for *October 28, 2018*

Sermon Notes

You Will Be My Witnesses

Overview of Acts

The old cliché says, “those who don’t learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” When it comes to the history of the beginnings of the church, which we have in the book of Acts, it could be said “learning from this history will help us repeat it”.

Acts is the only biblical book that chronicles the history of the church immediately after Jesus’s ascension. Historically known as The Acts of the Apostles, a more accurate title could be The Acts of the Holy Spirit. While the focus in the Gospels is on Jesus, the focus in the book of Acts is the Holy Spirit as He comes filling, empowering, and transforming a small group of frightened believers into bold witnesses for Christ that literally changed the world.

Michael Green writes, “Three crucial decades in world history. That is all it took. In the years between AD 33 and 64, a new movement was born. In those thirty years, it got sufficient growth and credibility to become the largest religion the world has ever seen and to change the lives of hundreds of millions of people. It has spread into every corner of the globe and has more than two billion adherents. It has had an indelible impact on civilization, on culture, on education, on medicine, on freedom, and of course, on the lives of countless people worldwide. And the seedbed for all this, the time when it took decisive root, was in these three decades. It all began with a dozen men and a handful of women: and then the Spirit came.” (Michael Green, *Thirty Years That Changed the World*)

In Acts 1:8 Jesus says, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and *you will be my witnesses* in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” “You will be my witnesses” is the recurring theme in Acts. The people we will see in Acts have an evangelistic zeal that comes to light in virtually every chapter. Clearly their faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus produced a noticeable change in their hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit wants to change our hearts in the same way. Today we will get a brief overview of Acts focusing on the different ways those early believers spoke the gospel into the brokenness of their community. One gospel conversation at a time they turned the world upside down. Can it happen again today? Can it happen here?

The Mission – to be a personal witness to the Lord Jesus Christ

The Message – the good news of God’s redemptive story

The Means – through lives empowered by the Holy Spirit

Life Group Guide

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

What obstacles or fears might you have to overcome in order to break through with someone in sharing the gospel with them? Or even having a spiritual conversations?

Do you view evangelism as a part of a lifestyle? Why or why not? Do you think we need to view it in this way?

What have you found effective in sharing Jesus with others in the past?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor

Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor

Jim Fulp: Counseling Pastor

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Upcoming Events

October 28 - Fall Family Festival

November 2 - Person vs. N. Guilford

November 3 - Men's Fellowship Breakfast

November 9 - A Night for the Family

November 11 - Shoebox Dedication Service

November 16 & 17 - Membership Class

November 20 - Thanksgiving Dinner & Service