

STUDY 11

Witness, Baby, Witness

*Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work. You know the saying, 'Four months between planting and harvest.' But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest."
(John 4:34-35, NLT)*

In the message, "Witness, Baby, Witness" we were encouraged about the strength of our testimonies and challenged with the urgent need to see people come to Jesus. We were reminded that it is harvest time and so the best time to witness is right now. God has called us out to commission us to go in!

From Colossians 4:5-6 he encouraged us to:

- **Live wisely**
- **Make the most of every opportunity**
- **Let our conversation be gracious and attractive**

CONNECTION AND ACTION Use these questions to promote conversation and connection.

Q: Read Colossians 4:5-6. Discuss what the three qualities outlined above could look like in your life.

Q: Read John 4:34-35. What do you believe being a witness for Christ means?

Q: What are some of our reasons for not witnessing? (e.g. laziness, don't have a powerful story, fear etc.) Share your major excuses and discuss whether or not they are valid.

Q: Read 1 Peter 2:9-12. What do you learn from this passage about who you are? What do you learn about how you are to behave in the world?

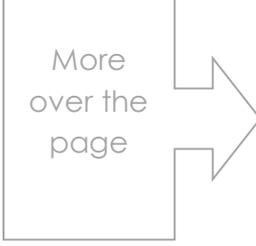
Q: Read Acts 1:8. What does the Holy Spirit empower us to do? Discuss how you can become more sensitive to the leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Pray for each other that you will look for opportunities to witness.

HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- Friday (Brisbane) & Sunday Night Live (Sydney)- During the month of August we present the Gospel in new and innovative ways! What a great opportunity to bring friends and family to Church!!
- Hot August Nights @ Newcastle & Melbourne – These will be special Sunday Night Services! Who can you and your group bring along!

More
over the
page



Glorious Ruins

Witnessing

'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.'

(Acts 1:8 NIV)

- **There are people in your immediate world you can witness to (Jerusalem)**

Who is in your immediate world that doesn't yet know Jesus? (e.g. family, neighbors, friends, work colleagues etc.)

Write down the name of one person that you can pray for and look for an opportunity to have a conversation with them that includes Jesus.

- **There are people you are acquainted with you can witness to (Judea)**

Who do you see quite regularly without actually knowing them as friends? (e.g. the waitress in your local café; the checkout person that you regularly go to at the supermarket etc.)

Write down one person that you can pray for and look for an opportunity to share your faith.

- **There are people who you think are too far away to witness to (Samaria)**

Who do you personally think is too difficult to witness to? (E.g. the homeless person, the irritating person etc.)

Write down one person you have encountered that you can at least begin to pray for.

- **There are people you don't know who you can witness to (the ends of the earth)**

Pray for workers to go out into the harvest field (Matthew 9:37,38) and be prepared to be the answer to your prayer!

Note: In the next connect study we will be focusing on how to tell our stories to others.

PASTORAL CARE

- We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside people in your group who may be going through a tough time
- Please contact the church office Sydney 02 8853 5353, Melbourne 03 9720 2099, Brisbane 07 3422 8500 or Newcastle 02 4927 1888 to let us know of anybody in your group (with their permission) who have sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, surgeries.

NATION BUILDERS – ON MISSION

One of the best ways you can be 'On Mission' is to regularly PRAY for the Nation Builders causes we support and inspire your group to receive a Nation Builders offering. Your giving makes a massive difference in helping us achieve our mission of 'reaching and influencing the world'.

SPORTS CHAPLAINCY

George Dansey is a graduate of our College. He is from our Hills Campus in Sydney and for the last 8 years been serving as a Sports Chaplain. George is based with an NRL club in Sydney (please pray for them) but reaches athletes from a range of sporting codes.

"We are continuously reaching out to those going through loss, comforting those in times of need and bringing the message of Jesus in relevant ways that athletes understand. In Sports Chaplaincy this year, athletes have found Jesus, been involved in small groups and found a spiritual home in our Church. Sport is such a high profile industry here in Australia and the need for Sports Chaplaincy is higher than ever before" George Dansey

It's exciting to hear that we can reach and influence the world of sport! Thank you for your prayers and giving which makes this possible.