

Witnesses-Part 1
Text: Acts 1:1-5
November 26, 2022

Big Idea: B/c Jesus has entrusted us with His mission, we must live as His witnesses.

Context is key!

Question #1 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

Question #2 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) Does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

Question #3 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What are the principles, commands or promises given?

- a) What is the overall theme of the text?
- b) Does the passage include any promise from God? If so, what?

Question #4 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is the application?

- a) What is one specific way I can live by these truths, or trust in these promises today?
- b) What is the next step that I need to take to see this happen?

Question #5

- a) What is the main theme of the book of Acts? Why is this crucial for Hope Ottawa today?
- b) What are you most looking forward to in this series? Why?
- c) What question(s) do you have about the book?
- d) How do you want to grow in your relationship with Christ through this series?
- e) Spend time praying personally and as a group asking the Lord to prepare your hearts for this series.

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Point 1: REMEMBER our CONFIDENCE: JESUS LIVES! (vv. 1-3)

Question: Jesus is alive and that changes everything today. Is your confidence in Him?

Question #6

- a) **Rd v. 3:** Why was it so important for Jesus to present Himself to His disciples through proofs?
- b) “Jesus is alive and that changes everything today.” How should this truth give us confidence in our witness to others?
- c) What are some fruits that result from us living from the truth that Jesus is alive?
- d) What are some fruits that result from us not living from the truth that Jesus is alive?
- e) What situations do you struggle in the most to live from this truth? Why these ones?
- f) What steps can you take this week to grow in this area? Pray with one another for these areas.

Question #7

- a) **Rd v. 3 again:** What was the focus of Jesus' teaching to His disciples during the 40 days? Why focus them on that?
- b) What things are the greatest distractions for you that turn your focus from God's kingdom?
- c) What happens when our focus shifts from God's kingdom to other things?
- d) What has God given us to realign our hearts and minds towards His kingdom and our mission?

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Point 2: **RELY** on His **PROMISE: HOLY SPIRIT!** (vv. 4-5)

Question: We can do nothing without the Holy Spirit. Will you depend on Him?

Question #8

- a) **Rd. vv. 4-5:** What was the promise Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for?
- b) Who is the Holy Spirit? Find Scriptures and share them with the group.

Question #9

- a) Why was it essential for them to wait for the Holy Spirit?
- b) What would happen if they tried to fulfill their mission without the Holy Spirit?
- c) How can we practically keep in step with the Holy Spirit as we live on mission?
- d) Where/When are you most tempted to not wait on the Holy Spirit? Why those things?
- e) What is one step you can take this week to grow in keeping in step with the Spirit?

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group or in accountability praying out of Acts 1:1-5. Some prompts are below.

- a) **ADORATION:** Lord, I praise You because You are...
- b) **CONFESSION:** Jesus, I confess...i) My dependence is not on you when... ii) My confidence has not been in you when...
- c) **THANKSGIVING:** Jesus, I thank you for giving the Holy Spirit who...
- d) **SUPPLICATION:** Holy Spirit, I ask You for...

Memory Verse:

"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."-Acts 1:8