

INTRO

- You could easily be the Chief Evangelist Officer for ____ (brand, product, cause, activity)

READ

Acts 1:1-11

REFLECT & RESPOND

Acts is the continuation of the life and mission of Jesus now through His Spirit and His Church. Luke sets up the overall theme for Acts in verse 8—The Spirit’s power empowers and drives our witness to Jesus throughout the world. On either side of this verse are 2 critical keys to understanding what our witness means.

REDEMPTION & RENEWAL (v6)

Jesus spent 40 days after his resurrection teaching his disciples about the kingdom of God:

- God’s **rescue** from Sin’s power;
- God’s **rule** over the world bringing justice & peace;
- God’s **presence** on earth as it is in heaven.
- Since the garden of Eden, this was God’s plan all along culminating in Jesus: to redeem and renew all things by reversing the curse of sin & death.

This is the gospel (literally good news) that Jesus “began to do and teach”. Clearly, this remains the focus of his mission on earth until he returns.

Unfortunately for many Christians, the good news is reduced to being forgiven and going to heaven. For many in our culture, that no longer makes sense or sounds like good news. Through Jesus and His Spirit, a new creation, humanity, and beginning has come into being. And we’re invited into it.

Qu: how would you witness to or describe the kingdom of God to a non Christian?

ASCENSION (v9)

The ascension of Jesus often gets overlooked compared to his incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection. But it signifies 2 important things:

- **Enthronement** and commencement of his worldwide reign from heaven (1 Pt 3:22)
- **Sending of His Spirit** (Jn 16:7)

Whilst on earth, Jesus was limited like you and I are by space and time. Through His Spirit, his presence and ministry is unlimited around the world.

Qu: For some, the Holy Spirit is the least understood or appreciated of the Trinity. Is that you? Why or why not?

So now we come back to being empowered to witness. How are we to bear witness to this very good news of Jesus and what he’s begun?

BEARING WITNESS

We bear witness in our lives **to the good news of Jesus in word, deed and power.**

Witnessing should be a natural sharing with others of the good news of Jesus that makes sense and is, well, good news to them! This requires both speaking (word) and demonstrating (deed). In both, we need to rely on, trust in, and pray for the Spirit’s leading and power. The power is not in your personality or your gospel presentation but in Him.

Qu: As a group, brainstorm ways you can bring good news to others in word and deed even within a lockdown.

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for a deeper understanding and experience of the good news for yourself
- Pray for opportunities to “bear witness” to others.