

# SENT Sermon Study Guide

## You Will Be My Witnesses: Acts 1-2

**Scripture Reading:** Acts 1:1-14, 2:42-47

### **Sermon Notes:**

Part 1 – Gospel of Luke – the life and teachings, suffering and resurrection of Jesus

Part 2 – Acts of the Apostles – follows the story of the disciples – his followers

*Apostles* = “the sent out ones”

### 3 Meanings of Witness – (“*martus*” in latin from which we get “Martyr”)

- Witness of something – to see or hear (passive)
- Witness to – relate personal experience of (active - need strength)
- Witness unto – to share news of and meaning of (transforming – need God)

Acts 1:8 - you will be my witnesses – to and unto

We are SENT – commissioned by Jesus, in the name of Jesus, in the power of Spirit!!!

- In Jerusalem – to what is known, familiar
- Judea and Samaria – what we know about - but different/apart from us
- to the ends of the earth... - what is unknown - unfamiliar

### Prepared for Mission:

1. Getting unstuck – get moving...

- Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Acts 1:11

2. Prayer – Constant Prayer

- Gathered in upper room to await the spirit - devoted themselves to prayer

- The power to carry out the mission of the church begins with prayer!!!

3. Discerning Leadership

- Matthias is chosen to replace Judas – someone who was there from the beginning  
- maturity matters for leadership – more prayer

4. Wait on God’s Leading

- Holy Spirit came upon Jesus at his baptism – now it comes upon the disciples

- Resurrection is the inauguration of the universal reign of Jesus – God’s kingdom

- these followers are the visible sign of the Kingdom of God

A New Community is formed – Acts 2:42 - devoted to 4 things

1. Learning together - the apostles teaching - formation

2. Fellowship – “*koinonia*” = “*common union*” – togetherness – unity

3. Breaking bread – communion/thanksgiving - reflecting on God’s mercy in Jesus

4. Prayer – corporate prayer – worship

- as a result of devotion to these four things – shift from individuals to a shared life

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. In Acts 1:8, Jesus commissions his followers to carry on with the task of proclaiming the coming of God's kingdom. In what way have you personally experienced a sense of Jesus' calling to serve with your own life?
2. In your experience of the Gospel message of salvation and new "kingdom life," what are a few of the significant faith experiences that you have been witness to?
3. Scripture says that we are to be prepared to give an answer to those who ask about our faith. In a few sentences, how would you give witness "unto" the gospel (what it is and what it means)?
4. Are you prepared for the mission we have been called to? What is something in your life that is keeping you stuck?
5. As the disciples waited for the gift of the Holy Spirit to come, it says that they were in constant prayer. In 1 Thessalonians 5:16 it says that we are to "pray without ceasing." What would this kind of prayer look like in our personal context? What about in our church context?
6. When the Holy Spirit empowers our ministry and life it is a transformational force that brings tremendous change. Share an experience of this kind of Spirit movement that you have witnessed. Do you also have an experience to share of when you moved ahead without waiting for the Spirit's leading?
7. In Acts 2:42-27, we read that a new community was being formed as these believers gave witness unto the Gospel. This new "church" was characterized by devotion to faith formation, fellowship in unity, breaking bread (reflecting on Jesus sacrifice), and prayer, prayer prayer. In what ways does our church reflect these priorities well? Which of these should we pay more attention to? What are some ways that we could move toward greater devotion to these four things in our ministries and congregational life?

### **Taking Action:**

In the coming week, take the opportunity to have a faith/spiritual conversation with someone in your "Jerusalem."

... I think I will share about my faith this week with \_\_\_\_\_