

## Witness vs. Witnessing | Acts 1:1-8 | Keith Simon Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

**Icebreaker:** What was the first church you chose to attend apart from your parents taking you? What made you go?

### Discussion:

1. Have you seen or experienced any good-intentioned, but weird attempts of Christians trying to talk to others about Jesus?

### Read:

#### Acts 1:1-3

<sup>1</sup> In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

2. What does Luke summarize as what Jesus "BEGAN" to do?
3. Acts, which recounts the efforts of the apostles to plant churches across the Mediterranean, is an account of what Jesus continued to do. How does that expand our view of the church? How do we typically view the church?

#### Acts 1:4-8

<sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> 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."

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

4. In light of the question the disciples ask in v. 6, how does that show they misunderstood what Jesus was doing?
5. How might Christians today strive for the same mistaken kingdom?
6. How then is Jesus' kingdom advanced?
7. Why is it important for us to be witnesses?

## **Sharing and Prayer:**

*As we consider what it means for us to be witnesses, a place we can start is by praying for the world. Close with a prayer after allowing a time of silent prayer for each person to pray that God would help us to:*

- See the world as God does
- Care for those who don't yet believe that are around us
- Understand the utter importance of the kingdom Jesus is building