

## LG 5: The Spirit and the Mission Acts 1:1-11

**Objectives:** We want to see the mission Christ gave His followers and introduce the Power with which we are to carry out His mission.

### Getting to Know You (15 minutes)

What was the coolest event you have ever witnessed?

### Launch

We are starting an overview of the Book of Acts seeking to learn what Jesus continued to do and teach after he went to heaven. Tonight we are going to look at the last words of Jesus to His followers. Still pass around info sheet.

### Explore

Read Acts 1:1-11

**Context:** At this point in history, Jesus has died and risen again. This is the end of the 40 days he spent on earth before going to heaven. These are the last recorded words of Jesus.

At the end of his other book, the Gospel of Luke, Luke records a similar statement of Jesus. Read Luke 24:45-49. Now read Acts 1:4-8.

**What do these 2 passages have in common?** (*Gospel preached to all nations starting in Jerusalem, they ARE witnesses, they need to wait until they have power*).

Jesus essentially says the same things twice right before heading up to heaven. **What does that communicate to us?**

Let's take a closer look at Acts 1:4-8  
**When Christians say "witness" what do they normally mean?**

**What do you think Jesus means when he says "will be my witnesses"?** (*a witness speaks from personal knowledge of facts and their significance, Acts 4:20*)

**Is this something we do or something we are? Or both?**  
**What is the difference between a witness and a salesman?**

**Today, who could be called "his witnesses"?**  
**What is one thing about Jesus that you want others to know?**

**Where are his followers to "be witnesses"?**

**What was the significance of "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth" to his disciples?**

**What would make it hard for them to expand beyond Jerusalem?**

**How do those places translate to us? Do we need to go to Jerusalem to start our "witness"?**

This is the last command of Jesus to His followers. **Why do so few of His followers live this out? (For AG-why are so few going to the ends of the earth?)**

- **What keeps you from living this out?**

God wants all of us to take a step of faith in living out this command. **What is one step of faith that God is asking you to take in this area of being "His witness"?** (allow people a chance to think about it before answering)

**Where does the power come from?**

In both passages Jesus told His followers to wait until they received power. **What does that communicate to us?** (we cannot and should not go forth without the power, He is not expecting us to "sell" Him to people, rather he wants us to go forth in the POWER of the Spirit as witnesses, sharing what we have seen and heard)

Next week we will focus on the power and how it can consistently be a part of our lives.

### Apply

- **Who is one person you would like to tell "what you have seen and heard" about Jesus?**
- **Have people share faith steps and pray in groups of 2-3.**
- **Have one person close in prayer**

### Announcements (5 minutes)

- **Fall Retreat October 10:9-11. Have someone explain why it would be good to go. Bring computer to sign up!**