**Fellowship CommUnity Group**

 **Discussion Guide for Leaders**

*Witnesses: Study of Acts*

*Sermon: You Are My Witnesses!*

 *2-9-20*

1. **Getting To Know Each Other** Opening Question:Today we talked about power in witness. Go around the room and have everyone share who their favorite super hero is and why.

*(***Opening Prayer**. (Either leader, host home or someone who is willing to pray out loud)

*(Notes from message for reference only – use only as needed)*

**\*\***Use Sermon notes bulletin insert

**I. God’s Timeline**

**II. Christ’s Mandate to His Followers**

**Jesus Makes Two Promises**

1) You will receive power 2) You will be my witnesses

**When will that happen?** When the Spirit indwells you, that is why you must wait.

**Where are we to be your witness?** In Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the end of the earth.

**III. “My Witnesses”**

**Implications of My Witnesses**

1) True witnesses of Christ realize they belong to Christ.

2) True witnesses of Christ realize that they bear witness to the person of Jesus Christ.

**IV. True witnesses of Christ require supernatural Holy Spirit power.**

**What is the power?** > The power is the supernatural ability to be Christ’s true witness in the Back Mountain, Wyoming Valley and the world.

**V. Jesus ascends to heaven before their eyes**

**What does the ascension tell us?**

1)It tells us that a bodily resurrection required a bodily ascension.

2) It explains the disappearance of Christ’s body.

3) It confirms the Father’s promise of Christ’s exaltation.

4) It validates Christ’s present lordship in glory.

5) It assures us of Christ’s return.

**Into The Text** (Leaders: This time is not meant to be application yet, this is time in the Word, before we seek to apply truth, we need to understand the truth. The section after this one will focus on application.)

1. Ask someone to read Acts 1:6-7. *Ask: Why did the disciples ask about ‘restoring the kingdom to Israel’? What were they expecting? What did Jesus mean by what he said in v7? What kind of authority is Jesus referring to in v7?*
2. Ask someone to read Acts 1:8*. Ask: When will the disciples receive power? What is the power being supplied to us? What are we supposed to do with this power? Who are we supposed to bear witness to? Why did Jesus say ‘my witnesses’? What did Jesus mean by that? Why did Jesus specifically mention Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria? How might have the disciples responded to ‘to the ends of the earth’?*
3. Ask someone to read Acts 1:9-11.  *Ask: Describe as best you can what the disciples saw when Jesus ascended. What does the ascension tell us about Jesus? How does the ascension assure us that Jesus will return to earth?*

**Application**

1. Say: **Let’s move to discussion and application**. Ask: *Does the Father know precisely when Jesus will return? Is he fully aware of all that will take place on earth until Jesus does return? Should we trust him with all that is happening in our world until Jesus returns?*
2. Ask: *In your life right now, what do you understand as the best way for you to be a witness to Christ? What is the difference between a powerful witness to Christ and a weak witness to Christ? Will our witness offend some people? What should we do about that? In what ways does hypocrisy among Christ followers damage the witness of Christ?*
3. *Ask: Are you supposed to be a witness in your own power? What happens to witnesses who try to go in their own power? What happens to witnesses who go in the Spirit’s power? Do you already have the power needed for gospel witness?*
4. *Ask: Share a time you have tried to do gospel ministry in your own power. Share what happened and how you responded.*
5. Ask: *How often do you think about Christ’s return? How does that help you to be a witness? Why hasn’t Christ returned yet? Ask someone to read Revelation 22:20-21. Then go to prayer.*

**Closing Prayer Time**: **(Leader Say:**) Let’s close with a time of prayer. Let’s ask the Lord to help us be the witnesses he has called us to until he returns for us. Ask the Lord to help us depend completely on his power for witness. *(Ask someone to open, let people pray as they feel led, and then leader closes.)*