

From Sunday, October 25th

## Visible Evidence of God's Grace: Sharing

### READY

Describe a memorable show and tell experience you had in school or a time when you needed to use demonstration to explain something to others.

**SET & GO**     **Primary Text:** Acts 1:6–8     **Secondary Text:** 1 Corinthians 15:3–8

**Set 1** **Read Acts 1:6–8 aloud.** Answer the following questions:

What were the disciples thinking Jesus was going to do “not many days from now” (v 5–6)?

What does Jesus tell them about the ‘end times’ (v 7)?

What does He tell them to focus on instead (v 8)?

What four ‘places’ does Jesus say should be on their missionary itinerary (v 8)?

**Set 2** **Briefly discuss:** In verse 8 Jesus redirects the disciples’ focus onto a mission. They are to go into the world and be **His** witnesses. Jesus says, “you will be **My** witnesses.” The job is to testify about Jesus: who **He** is, what **He’s** done. Note that being a witness implies experiential knowledge.

Go 2a What are some of the things that can distract you from making your testimony about Jesus?

Go 2b What are some subjects that can shift a discussion away from Jesus and derail an opportunity to share the gospel? How can you avoid these things or redirect the conversation?

Go 2c Your experience is important, but it’s not about you. How can you use your story to spotlight Jesus?

**Set 3** **Briefly discuss:** Witnesses testify to facts. Notice the importance of firsthand knowledge when the disciples replaced Judas (cf. 1:21–22). Note Paul’s similar concern in 1 Corinthians 15:3–8. Sharing your testimony is good but is not enough. The facts of the gospel **MUST** be shared in order for someone to come to a saving faith.

Go 3a Read 1 Corinthians 15:3–8. What are the key truths Paul says are of first importance?

Go 3b Discuss ways that you can naturally incorporate these truths into gospel conversations.

**Set 4** **Briefly discuss:** Jesus says that your power to testify comes from the Holy Spirit. He will embolden you to speak, enable you to speak, and bring change to your life that validates the truth of what you say.

Go 4a What kind of things are we tempted to believe will make evangelism (or church growth) effective? How have these things shaped church practices?

Go 4b How does a person’s life affect the credibility of the message they speak?

Go 4c Discuss ways that you can learn to rely upon the power of the Holy Spirit for change and for sharing?

**Set 5** **Briefly discuss:** The ‘places’ Jesus mentions in verse 8 indicate that our mission is both local and global, but it also indicates that the kinds of people we must reach will include those who are like us and those who may be very different from us.

Go 5a Who in your current circle of relationships has not yet believed the gospel? How can you open the door to share with them?

Go 5b How do you typically respond to people who are very different from you? How should the gospel shape how you work to bridge the gaps between you?

### FINISH

1. When was the last time you shared the gospel with an unbeliever? What needs to change for evangelism to become a regular part of your Christian experience?

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# **Declaring and Displaying the Gospel Together**

Visible Evidence of God's Grace: Sharing  
Acts 1:6-8

A growing desire and willingness to share Jesus with everyone is visible evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in your life.

1. Jesus will be your message
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  
2. The Holy Spirit will be your power
  - a.
  - b.
  
3. Everyone will be your audience
  - a.
  - b.