

## Unpacking the Preach

Date: 17th July 2022  
Sermon Title: I am sending you...to be my witnesses  
Bible Passage: Acts 1: 1 - 9

### **Introduction**

Take time to read the passage from a couple of different translations.

- What stands out to you from this passage?
- How do you think they felt when they saw Jesus ascending into heaven?

### **Recapping the Preach**

Stu began by saying that the 'training wheels' were off for the disciples: Jesus has ascended, He had left them with a task to be witnesses to the ends of the earth but with explicit instructions they were to wait for the promised Holy Spirit. He then made the point that 'being witnesses' was not a new concept and came with a measure of baggage - Israel's failure to be witnesses in their history.

- Have you ever been left with a task that felt overwhelming?
- How do you think the disciples felt when they understood the task Jesus has set them?
- What do you think it means to be a witness - write these down and then watch the below video, then note any new insights into what it means to be a witness.
- Watch the Bible Project Word Study of 'Witness' - <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/martus-witness/>

Read the courtroom drama in Isaiah 43: 8-13 which describes the Lord summoning the nations and His witnesses to testify. Then read Isaiah 42:18-20 which describes the state of God's witness Israel.

- What was Israel a witness of (43:10)?
- What did it mean that Israel were the Lord's servant (43:10)?

In light of the nations failure Stu made the point that the disciples may have been wondering 'what makes us any different, will we succeed where our forefathers failed?' and that perhaps we sometimes feel the same. However, the book of Acts is intended to infuse us with God-confidence and so we can have confidence: in God's Story (the Bible), in our own God story of how we came to faith and in the power of the Spirit to equip us.

- Why do you think the Bible can be trusted?
- What would you say to a non-Christian friend who argued that the Bible is just an outdated rule book?
- Write down the different ways in which you have witnessed God (ie. ways you have 'seen' God, experienced the presence of God and heard God) - share these with one another
- Why do you think it was important for the disciples to wait for the empowering of the Spirit?
- What difference is it making in your life to walk in step with the Holy Spirit?

### **Response**

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- Who can you witness to this week?

**Prayer pointers**

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Pray that God would give you one opportunity to witness to someone.

**Additional resources:**

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://bibleproject.com> (videos)
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>