



WITNESS Sermon Study Guide

Week 2: We Are Witnesses Allan Demond

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In our journey as followers of Jesus, we are called to be witnesses to the profound reality of God's love and purpose for the world. This calling is not unlike being a witness in a legal or personal matter, but it is infinitely more significant. We are bearing witness to a new reality: the life, death, and resurrection power of Jesus.

Read Luke 24:36-49

Here we find the disciples grappling with the reality of the risen Christ. They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost! They were full of joy and amazement, thinking this is too good to be true! They could not understand what was happening before their eyes. They needed Jesus' help.

1. What stands out to you about the disciples' reaction to Jesus' appearance?
2. What does Jesus do to help them understand the reality of His resurrection?
3. Reflect on a time when God was doing something in your life that you struggled to understand. What helped you?

Verse 45 says that Jesus opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures. Perhaps this has happened to you when suddenly a passage of scripture you have read a hundred times before speaks in new and wonderful ways. When Jesus opens your mind it is not merely an intellectual transformation, but a profound understanding of God's purpose and love at work in the world.

1. Have you ever had an experience of Jesus opening your mind to understand scripture in a new or different way, or perhaps had him show you something through prayer that went beyond simple human understanding?
2. Why is the experience of having Jesus open our minds so important for bearing witness?



Read Acts 1:1-8

The disciples had their minds opened by Jesus and now they have incredible resurrection news to share. And yet, in Luke 24:49, Jesus instructs them to stay in the city and wait. Again in Acts 1:4, Jesus tells his disciples to hang on. A gift is coming, a gift they cannot be witnesses without.

1. Why is it so important for the disciples to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit before beginning their journey as witnesses to the world?
2. Reflect on Luke 24:49. What stands out to you as you think about the image of being clothed with power?
3. How can you actively seek the Holy Spirit's empowerment in your daily life as you bear witness to Christ?

As we continue reading through the book of Acts, we find powerful examples of what it means to be a witness in the lives of Peter and Paul. Peter was there in the room when the risen Jesus appeared. Once timid and uncertain, he becomes a bold leader, preaching and performing miracles, but always willing to submit his own understanding and allow Jesus to open his mind (Acts 10:9-23). Similarly, Paul, once a persecutor of Christians, is transformed into a passionate apostle, spreading the gospel across regions and enduring hardships for the sake of Christ (Acts 9:1-19).

1. What can we learn from the lives of Peter and Paul about the nature of being a witness for Christ?
2. Encountering the risen Christ changed everything for Peter and Paul. How have you experienced this, and how can you use your testimony to encourage and witness to others?
3. Consider the week coming up. Where are there opportunities to reflect God's love and hope in your interactions with others this week?