



How Do You Share the Good News?

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
(Acts 1:8, NIV)

How do you think you would react if you had attended a friend’s funeral and three days later, he appeared in your bedroom and said, “Hi”? Would you believe he was real or would you act like the disciples did when Jesus appeared to them? Not only were they afraid; they doubted. “Is he a ghost or is he real?” Can you imagine the fear, awe and wonder of actually seeing, hearing and touching someone who was dead but is now alive? The thought is overwhelming. Perhaps that is why Jesus stuck around for forty days, appearing to his disciples and others (500 at one appearance) and showing them in many ways that he was truly alive. After he explained how the Old Testament Scriptures prophesied about his death and resurrection, they finally believed, “He is the Messiah, the Son of God. He is alive!” They were witnesses!

A witness reports

What does a witness do? In a courtroom, a witness simply reports on an event, tells what he saw and what happened to him. In other words, he tells his story. Jesus’ final instruction to his disciples, shortly before he went back to heaven, was that they were to be witnesses. They had witnessed the most exciting events in the history of the world – the life, death and resurrection of God himself! Jesus knew they were excited and wanted to tell everyone. However, before they told their story, he warned them to go to Jerusalem and wait for God’s promised gift of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus. He would give them the power to share the Good News – the same power that resurrected Jesus!

The command to be a witness is for every believer, not just for the early disciples, preachers and missionaries. You have a personal story of how Jesus saved you and brought you into his family. No one else has your story or can tell it as you can. If you do not tell it, probably no one will. Did you know that you might be the only Christian someone knows? You may think because you are young there is plenty of time, but young people die. Recently, in one high school three teenagers died in car accidents in one week. One of them could have been one of your unsaved friends! To obey and introduce someone to Jesus, lead him/her to receive Christ and come into God’s family is an awesome privilege!

A witness goes

To tell your story is your mission, which means, “sending.” Jesus saves you and then sends you to go for him. You are to continue what he started. Jesus commanded all believers to *“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.”* (Matthew 28:19-20, NLT) When Jesus called fishermen Simon and Andrew to follow him, he said, “Come, follow me and I will make you fishers (not hunters) of men.” (Mark 1:17) Who do you know that is not a Christian? Your greatest opportunity to share may come from your changed life. Your parents may ask what has happened to you when you begin making up your bed! Your friend may notice you quit cursing using God’s name. These are God’s opportunities to share. Read John 4 and see how Jesus talked to the woman at the well. In your normal encounters with your friends, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you how to “fish.”

A witness prepares

Whether you tell your story to your best friend, your parents or neighbors, or to someone of another culture, it helps to be prepared. Wouldn’t you prepare if you had to testify in court? Peter said, *“And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But you must do this in a gentle and respectful way.”* (1 Peter 3:15a–16, NLT)

What should you say in your testimony? Just tell your story about how **Jesus saved you and brought you into his family**. People love stories. In your story, you might answer the following questions:

- What was your life like before you met Jesus?
- How did you realize you needed Jesus?
- How did you commit your life to Jesus?
- How has Jesus made your life different?¹

If you write out your testimony and memorize the main points, it will be much easier to be prepared to share. Now that you are prepared, make out a list of people who do not know Jesus and begin praying for God to prepare their hearts to hear your story. Pray for them every day. Watch for God’s opportunities to share. Remember, you share; Jesus saves! Beware that Satan will try to make you fearful and fill your mind with many excuses to keep you from sharing. He does not want anyone rescued from his kingdom. Rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to say the right words!

A witness leads others to Christ

After you share your story, how do you lead someone to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior if he/she is willing? Begin by telling them how much God loves them and wants them in his family. Explain how sin separates them from a loving God. Share the wonderful news that Jesus made a way for the forgiveness of sins by going to the cross in their place and

taking their punishment and guilt. Instruct them how to pray and receive Jesus Christ. (See the devotional, “How Can You Be Sure You Are Saved?” for help.)

Introducing others to Jesus is the most rewarding thing you can do in life. When Andrew met Jesus, the first thing he did was to find his brother Simon and tell him that he had found the Messiah. Then he brought him to meet Jesus. When Jesus found Philip and asked him to follow him, Philip immediately found his friend Nathanael and told him that he had found the one whom the prophets had foretold. (John 1:40-45) Whom will you tell? Who will you help rescue from Satan’s kingdom and eternal separation from God? Who will be in heaven with you for eternity because you shared your story? Can you imagine how thankful and joyful he or she will be that you were a witness? What a celebration it will be!

Attitude Check:

- How excited and eager are you to share your story and tell others about Jesus?

Explore:

- Read “God’s Spirit Will Empower Your Witness,” (Acts 1:8)
- Read and think about the following verses: John 3:16, Romans 3:23, Hebrews 9:22, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, John 1:12, Hebrews 13:5b, and 1 John 1:9. Memorize John 3:16 and John 1:12. List in your journal the people with whom you want to share.

Talking with God:

- Father, may your Holy Spirit fill me with power to share my story with others as you lead.

¹ *The Purpose-Driven Life*, Richard Warren, Zondervan 2002, p. 291