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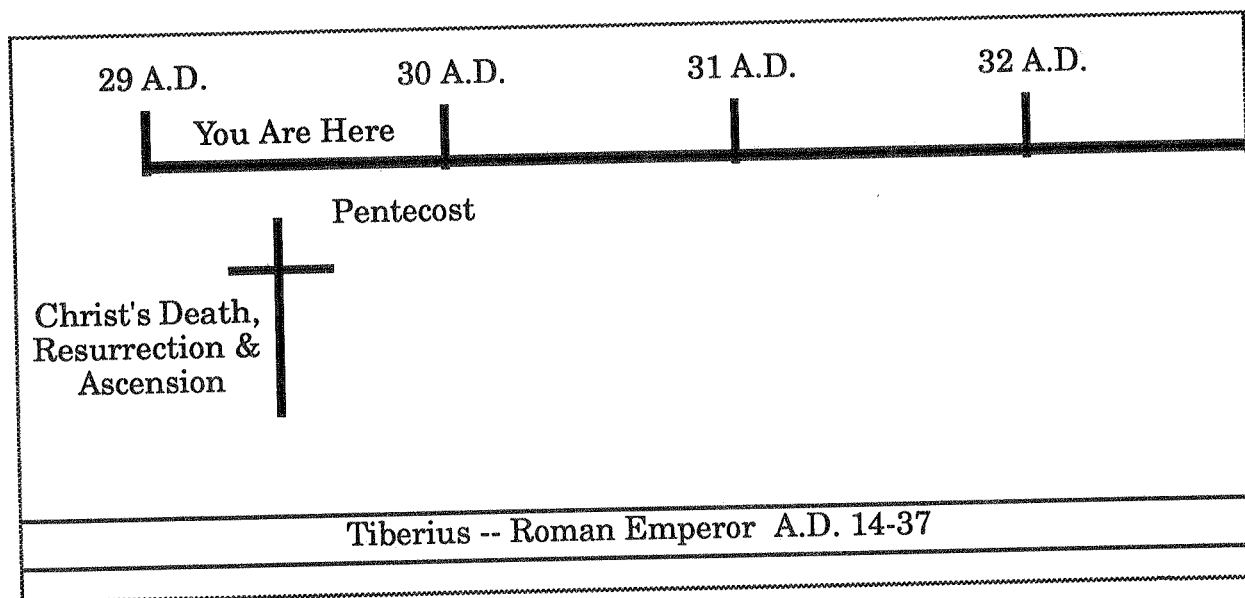
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# Go into All the World

## Lesson #1



Lesson Goal: To understand the significance of our witness for Christ Jesus.

Background Text: Acts 1:1-11

Memory Verse: But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8

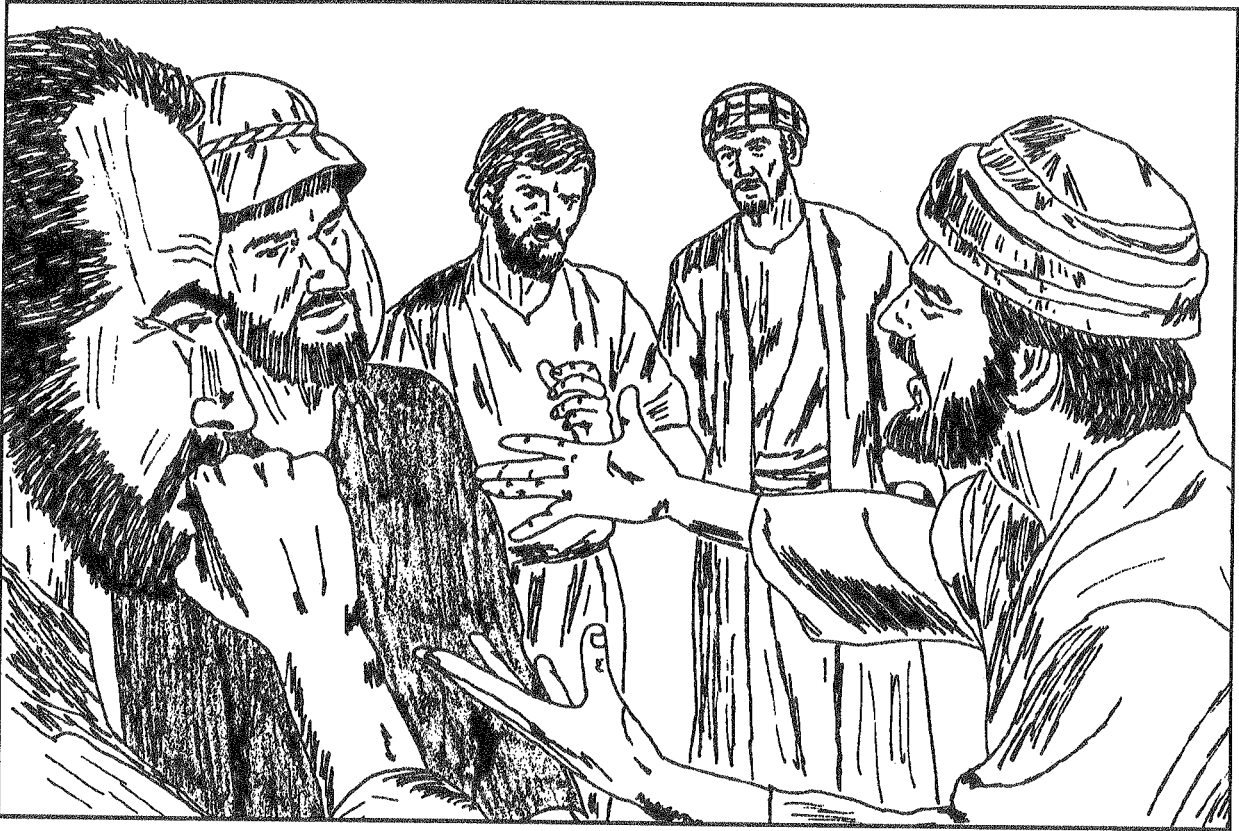
It is fitting for us to begin our study with the words spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ before His Ascension into heaven. Upon the Mount of Olives, the Savior gave His final instructions to the disciples. Christ told them to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the remotest part of the earth. This became the believers' blueprint for their Christian witness and missionary activity.

In order for the church to grow and prosper, Christians of all ages must be witnesses. Imagine what would happen if every believer stopped witnessing! Within a generation or two, after the existing believers died, the size of the church would be reduced to a mere handful of Christians. This is one reason why believers are commanded to be witnesses. We all share in the responsibility of the future of the church.

At the time of Christ's Ascension, the disciples were staying in Jerusalem, the geographic center of Jewish culture. The region surrounding Jerusalem was called Judea, and the region of Samaria was to the north. The disciples were to begin their witness for the Lord in Jerusalem and branch out from there. They were not to avoid Jerusalem and go directly to Judea or Samaria; nor were they to

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spend all their time and effort in Jerusalem, thereby neglecting the rest of the world. Christ was telling His disciples to begin their witness in Jerusalem, but to also move on to other places.



Believers today must witness in a similar way. Our ministry begins in our own neighborhoods, to the people with whom we come in contact, and then must branch out from there. Too often, Christians go to extremes by either focusing all their attention upon the pagan people in foreign countries and neglecting the witness they have to their own neighbors. Or, they give no support to foreign missionaries and think only of the unsaved in their own community. A balance must be maintained in order to be an effectual witness for our Lord Jesus Christ. We need to prioritize our time and finances so as to minister to both home and foreign missions.

The Church has the social responsibility to convey the message of the Gospel so that men's hearts and minds are brought into conformity with the message of God's Word. You may not have the opportunity to serve the Lord in a foreign country, but you can certainly support missionaries from your church who are in other lands. Choose one missionary family and pray for them every day. Write to them and support them with your offerings. This will give you the opportunity to be an encouragement to them, while learning about missionary work in general.

Is your life a reflection of the love and example of our Lord Jesus Christ? Being a witness does not always mean that you give your testimony in church or go door-to-door witnessing once a week. Being a witness means that your life is a living

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example of the Lord Jesus. When you visit a sick person in the hospital, welcome a new individual to your community, donate your time or money to a charitable organization, or explain God's plan of salvation to a neighbor, you are living the life of a witness for the Lord Jesus. By doing this, you follow and obey Christ's final earthly command to His disciples.

Questions: Please indicate your answer with either True or False.

1. \_\_\_\_ Jesus commanded His Apostles through the Heavenly Father. (Acts 1:2)
2. \_\_\_\_ Jesus spent forty days with His disciples after He rose from the dead. (Acts 1:3)
3. \_\_\_\_ Even after Jesus rose from the dead, He spoke of things pertaining to the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3)
4. \_\_\_\_ The disciples were commanded to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit was sent to them. (Acts 1:4)
5. \_\_\_\_ John baptized with the Holy Ghost. (Acts 1:5)
6. \_\_\_\_ The disciples knew when the kingdom would be restored to Israel. (Acts 1:6-7)
7. \_\_\_\_ The Holy Spirit was to give the disciples power. (Acts 1:8)
8. \_\_\_\_ The disciples were to be Christ's witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the remotest part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)
9. \_\_\_\_ The disciples were alone as Jesus ascended into heaven. (Acts 1:10)
10. \_\_\_\_ Jesus will come back in the same way that He ascended into heaven. (Acts 1:11)

Thought Questions:

1. How can you be a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Think of one missionary family that you can support. List three things that you will do for that family over the next school year. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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