

# Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of April 21, 2019

## Can I Get A Witness?

Pastor Temple 7am, 9:30am, 11am Pastor Hall 8am

### Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about personal events in the past week? About follow-ups from last Sunday's meeting on "Wilderness Without Wanting?"
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener Question: In cases of legal disputes why are the roles of witnesses so significant? How many do you think are needed to make a convincing case?

### Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Acts 10:34-43. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

**<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. <sup>36</sup> You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.**

**<sup>39</sup> "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. <sup>41</sup> He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."**

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- How would you describe the "good news" that is described in verses 36-37?

- Marturio is the Greek word for Witness which we get the word martyr from. How do the messages of verses 39, 41, and 42 each contribute to the significance of “witnesses” to the resurrection of Jesus Christ? .
- How is it that even the prophets who came before Jesus could also be witnesses of forgiveness of sins through his name (verse 43)?
- Do you agree with Pastor Temple that the story of Easter is more demanding of a personal response (of a yes or a no) than the story of Christmas? Why or why not?
- How do verses 34-35 and verse 43 describe an Easter message of God’s grace being made available to both Jew and non-Jew?
- What is required from the people and how do witnesses factor into this experience?
- How do you respond to the following quote from Chuck Coleson
  - “...12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years never once denying it. Everyone was beaten tortured stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren’t true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world and they could not keep a lie for three weeks. You are telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible.”

### **Other Related Scriptures (10 min)**

- Would a volunteer please read out loud Acts 1:8. For what purpose is the power of the Holy Spirit given in this verse?
- As ones who did not live in Israel in the first century, how is it that knowledge of Christ and his resurrection has come to us today?
- How is Acts 1:8 still being fulfilled in our lives today?
- Would a volunteer please read 1 Peter 3:15. If someone asked for a reason for the hope that you have would your response involve the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Why or why not?
- What reasons do you believe are more compelling- intellectual arguments for Christ’s resurrection or personal testimonies of experiences with the risen Christ through the Holy Spirit? Why?

### **Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)**

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional reading above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- In what ways do you sense that Jesus has been alive and making a difference in you this past week?

### **Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)**

- In the week ahead, if someone asks you for a reason for the hope that you have in Jesus Christ, what will you say?
- Does it depend on who is asking? Why or why not?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.