

Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

Last week we looked at how disciples live towards fellow disciples – fellowshiping. In this study we'll focus on our 'horizontal relationships' with people who are not yet disciples. We are called to witness, and to be a witness, to those who do not yet know Christ.

What is a Witness?

In your own words, write a brief definition of what a witness is.

What is "the witness" (or "the testimony") according to 1 John 5.11-12?

What did Jesus call his disciples in Acts 1.8?

What did Peter and the other disciples witness about in the following verses:

Acts 2.36 –

Acts 3.15 –

Acts 4.33 –

Acts 5.31-32 –

Acts 10.39-41 –

Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

Witnessing with Our Words

Take a look at Luke 24.46-48.

- What message were Jesus' disciples to proclaim? (v. 47)
- Where were they to proclaim it? (v.47)
- What did this make them? (v. 48)

Witnessing with Our Deeds

Look at Matthew 5.16. How are our deeds supposed to influence people?

Read Philippians 1.27. What does this verse say to you about being a witness?

Take a look at Colossians 4.5-6. What is the connection between being a witness by our actions and witnessing with our words?

Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

Jesus has called us to be his witnesses. Witnessing plays a key part in our contribution to the Kingdom of God. A witness must first have a genuine encounter with Jesus Christ before he can tell others about him. One can only testify about what he has seen and heard!

- If I went to your workplace and talked with people you work with, would they identify you with Jesus Christ? Why, or why not?
- Are there any changes you need to make in your lifestyle in order to be a more faithful witness? What are they?
- Do you make an intentional effort to tell others about Christ? What would make you more bold or effective as a witness with your words? People in the Bible didn't have it all together, but they did act on what they believed in (read 2 Corinthians 4.13).

Jesus gave us authority in Matthew 28.18-20 to continue making disciples. Making disciples starts with witnessing about Jesus so that others can decide if they want to follow him. Are we being faithful as disciples to witness for Jesus Christ?