

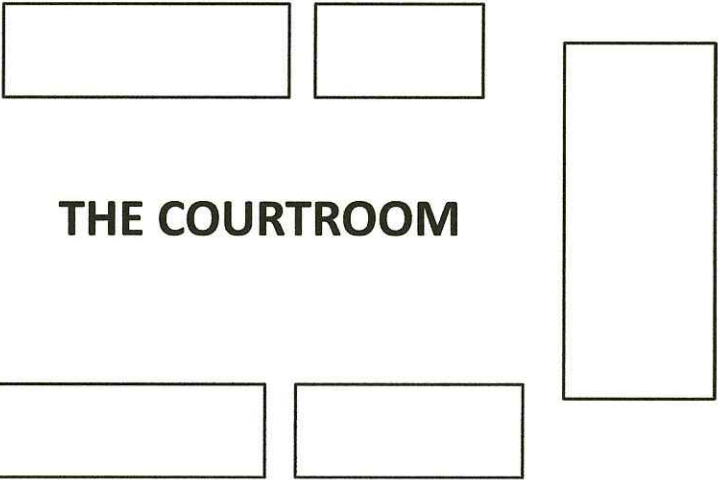
to be SENT: People

Acts 1:1-11

Some important points from the last few weeks:

- ⇒ Approximately **95%** of us came to Christ primarily through the influence of someone we know.
- ⇒ **OIKOS**: “household, sphere of influence”
- ⇒ God has given ME anywhere from 8 to 15 people whom He has **supernaturally** and **strategically** placed in MY relational world. God wants to demonstrate His love and grace to them all through ME.
- ⇒ Jesus didn’t ask me to change the world. He only asked me to **change my world**, the world I’m already in.
- ⇒ Although things like worship and fellowship and discipleship are important functions of the church, they are **NOT** the purpose of the church.
- ⇒ The church is here to help **you** fulfill **your purpose**.

1. The Bible is essentially a divine _____.



2. It is the _____ responsibility to convince the jury about Jesus.

3. We have _____ but to be witnesses.

4. We must be _____ to witness.

5. How to Build Your Testimony

PART 1: Your prior _____

PART 2: Your conversion _____

PART 3: The benefits of your _____

6. The ABCs of Salvation

- _____ to God you’re a sinner and repent.
- _____ that God raised Jesus from the dead.
- _____ your faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

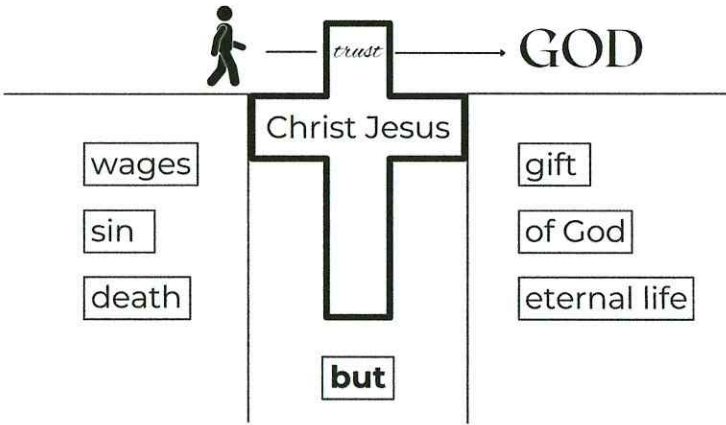
Scripture References (In order of use): John 9:25; Ephesians 4:12; Romans 10:9
Reference Works: 8 to 15: The World is Smaller Than You Think (Tom Mercer); Common Sense is the New Brilliance (Tom Mercer); Concentric Circles of Concern (W. Oscar Thompson); Lifeway Vacation Bible School songs and materials

Discussion Questions

1. When you hear the word "witness," what is your gut reaction? Does it feel exciting, intimidating, or somewhere in between? Why do you think that is?
2. Read **Acts 1:1-11**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. Patrick made the point that it is the Holy Spirit's responsibility to convince your OIKOS that Jesus is who He says He is — not yours. How does that reality change the way you think about sharing your faith? Does it relieve pressure, or does it raise new questions for you?
4. One of the satan's strategies is to make us believe we are responsible for convincing people so that the weight of that burden keeps us silent. Have you ever experienced that kind of pressure? How did it affect your willingness to speak about your faith?
5. Acts 1:11 records the angels redirecting the disciples from staring into heaven back to their mission on earth. Where in your own life might you be spiritually distracted in a way that keeps you from engaging the mission in front of you?
6. Pastors are potential bottlenecks for Kingdom growth when church members feel they cannot lead someone to Christ. Have you ever felt that way? What would it take for you to feel equipped to walk someone through the ABCs of faith on your own?
7. Let’s take some time and work on our testimony. It should never take more than about 2 or 3 minutes. Look in the sermon outline at number 5. Use this simple outline to construct your testimony.
8. The ABCs of faith are presented not only as an evangelism tool but as something every believer should be able to share without needing to call a pastor. How prepared do you feel to walk someone in your oikos through what it means to begin a relationship with Jesus.
9. What would help you grow in that readiness?

One-Verse Evangelism

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. -Romans 6:23



One-Verse Evangelism is a simple, interactive way to share Christ’s love conversationally and visually. It is based on asking questions and sharing truth simply. It’s easy to learn because it uses just one verse. One-Verse Evangelism can be shared in just 10 or 15 minutes, but can have impact for a lifetime.

Here’s a brief look at how it works. Let’s say God is leading you to share the gospel with your neighbor. Write out Romans 6:23 on a piece of paper or a napkin. All you need is contained in this single verse. Ask if he would like to see a simple diagram based on this verse that will explain God’s relationship with mankind (us).

Wages

Circle the word “wages” and ask, “How would you feel if your boss refused to pay you the wages that were due to you?” The answer, of course, is that he would want justice—in this case, the wages he had worked for. Deep down, we all know that it is only right that we get what we deserve. Similarly, we earn “wages” from God for how we have lived our lives.

Sin

Draw a circle around “sin,” asking what he thinks when he hears this word. You might explain that sin is more an attitude than an action. It can be either actively fighting God or as simple as excluding Him from our lives. You can ask, “Has God ever seemed far away?” If he says “Yes,” you can explain that’s one of the things sin does—it makes God seem far away.

Now draw two opposing cliffs with a gap in between.

Death

Circle this word and ask what thoughts come to mind. Explain that death in the Bible always means some kind of separation—in its most basic sense, separation from life. Because God is the author of life, a spiritual death simply means separation from Him.

BUT

While circling this word, mention that it is important because it means that a sharp contrast in ideas is coming. What we have just looked at is the bad news; what comes next is the good news.

Gift

Draw a circle around this word. Ask, “If wages are what a person earns, then what is a gift?” Remind him that though every gift is free for the person receiving it, someone still has to purchase it.

of God

Circle this and explain that the gift you are talking about is free. It is from God Himself. It’s so special that no one else can give it. Ask, “How do you feel when someone gives you a special gift?”

Eternal Life

Circle these two words next, and then ask, “How would you define these words?” Contrast one side of the cliff, death, with the other side, eternal life. Ask, “What is the opposite of separation from God?”

Christ Jesus

Write these words so they create a bridge between the two cliffs. Help your friend to consider that just as every gift has a unique giver, only Jesus Christ can give the gift of eternal life.

Trust

Write this word over the bridge you just drew. Explain that a true friend is a friend you can trust, and tell him that Jesus is offering to be a true friend to him. All he has to do is admit that he is responsible for his sin—either of fighting against God or excluding Him from his life. Trusting Jesus means believing that He has power to forgive us for rejecting God and that He will wash us clean from all that we have done wrong in life. At this point, you can ask him if he wants to start a relationship with God that will last forever. If he says “Yes,” invite him to pray a short prayer in his own words, asking Jesus to forgive him and make him new.

Close by reminding him that this simple illustration shows what God is like: Someone who really cares about people—especially him. Invite him to read all about it in the Bible—the Gospel of John is a great place to start.



Message Notes

TODAY’S MESSAGE
to be SENT: People

Acts 1:1-11

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026