Mount Vernon Baptist Church

Midweek **Study**

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Becoming His Witnesses

Acts 1:8 – But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

1) God is at work calling all people to Himself.
   - Salvation belongs to our God. Rev. 7:10
   - Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now and I am working." John 5:17
   - No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. John 6:44
   - He (Holy Spirit) will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgement. John 16:8

It's not our job to convince people.
It's not our job to convict people.
It's not our job to convert people.
It's not our job to save people.
It's our job to tell people.
The convincing, convicting, and saving is the work of the Holy Spirit.

2) We can join God in being His witnesses by prayer for those who are far from God.
   - Praying that we would be Christlike and have a heart for the lost.
     Colossians 3:12-14 – Put on…compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, bearing with one another…forgiveness…and love
   - Praying that God would help us to be sensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit in others.
   - Praying scripture for a lost person or the lost in your community
     - **H**earts – Pray for receptive hearts – Luke 8:5-15
     - **E**yes and Ears – Pray for their spiritual eyes and ears to be open.
       Matthew 13:15, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
     - **A**ttitude – Pray for unbelievers to have and understand God's attitude toward sin. John 16:8
     - **R**eleased – Pray for the lost to be released from barriers and strongholds that hinder faith. 2 Timothy 2:25-26
     - **T**ransforming – Pray for unbelievers to experience a transforming life in Christ.
       Romans 12:1-2
     - **S**ent – Pray for Christian workers to be sent to share Christ with the lost.
       Matthew. 9:35-38

- Identifying a person or two who are not believers or are not actively involved in a church and praying regularly for them using the "Who's Your One?" prayer booklet.
- Pray immediately for the needs of others as they tell you about their concerns.

3) We can join God in being His witnesses by developing relationships that can lead people to make steps toward God

   Five Thresholds of Postmodern Conversion[1]
   - Moving from distrust to trust
   - Moving from being indifferent to curious
   - Being closed to change to being open to change in their life
   - Meandering to seeking
   - Crossing the threshold to the Kingdom of God

4) We can join God in being His witnesses by learning more about another religion or worldview and being prepared to share with people who believe in them.
   - A Chrisitan Guide to World Religions - NAMB - Mount Vernon evangelism resource link
   - Barriers and Bridges – NAMB – Mount Vernon evangelism resource link
   - Life on Mission App

     

   - Gospel Coach
   - Two apologetics questions
     - What do you mean by that?
     - How did you come to that conclusion?

5) We can join God in being his witnesses by sharing God's word with others.
   - Share appropriate scriptures or Bible portions
   - Tracts and books
   - Videos

6) We can join God in being his witnesses by inviting people to Mount Vernon
   - Services
   - Events

7) MVBC online resources - mountvernon.church/evangelismresources/



Applications
1) By the power and the direction of the Holy Spirit, each of us can be a witness.
2) We need to be intentional in praying and sensing the Holy Spirit's guidance.
3) As we grow in our understanding of the worldview of the lost person, we can use many different approaches to sharing our testimonies and the gospel with others.

[1] Everts, Don and Doug Schaupp, I Once Was Lost, InterVarsity Press, 2008, pages 23-24.