**![C:\Documents and Settings\Dan\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\AS4WMIWL\MCj04339030000[1].png]()** Gospel Sharing study 1 Made for Mission

**![C:\Documents and Settings\Dan\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\AS4WMIWL\MCj02925940000[1].wmf]()Key verse:** Acts 1:8.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” **Big Idea:** Mission is the central purpose of the church in the world.

Kick Off

Share an event in your life that happened this week. It doesn’t matter what the event is just share the story with the group.

Now list all the things you can think of that you needed to be able to share your story? Eg, a story, a voice, an audience… what else?

Over the next 4 weeks we’re going to think about sharing the gospel. For many of us we feel this is the greatest story never told. So let’s consider how we can change that tragic situation and look at the how and why of Mission.

STUDY
Read Acts 1:6-11.

1. These are the words Jesus days to his disciples just before he ascends into heaven leaving them behind on earth. Why did Jesus leave them on earth?

2. Where does mission begin and end and what is the purpose of the Holy Spirit according to v8?

3. Emil Brunner wrote, ***“The Church exists by mission as a fire exists by burning.”*** If the Holy Spirit is the fire what does that make us? How then should our lives be lived?

4. Sometimes we can get so burdened to ‘do witnessing’ that we forget that we ‘are witnesses’. The big question really is, not ‘are we witnessing’ but rather’ what kind of witness are we’. Discuss, is witnessing ‘a state for being’ or ‘an act of doing’ or a combination of both?

5. A big question we need to answer is, what exactly are we to be a witness to? A witness gives testimony to an event. Should the event we focus, be on our personal conversion story or be God’s universal salvation story, or a combination of both?

What pointers on witnessing can we get from Jesus’ words to the liberated, formerly demon possessed man Jesus left behind in the region of the Gerasenes… Luke 8:37-39?

What further pointers can we get from 1 Peter 3:13-16 on witnessing?

Who initiates gospel conversations?

What does it mean to, ‘set apart Christ in our hearts’ and how can we do that?

6. “It is better to take gospel initiatives that fail than fail to take gospel initiatives”. Read Ezekiel 33:7-9 and explain what this statement is true.

THINK AND APPLY

a. A big part of ‘setting apart Christ in our hearts’ is being prepared to share our story when our behaviour sparks the interest of non-Christians. For homework this week spend time writing out your story of how Jesus has been good to you. It must be under 3 minutes in length, honest and free from all weird religionese and clear and simple to follow. The model to use is ‘before’… ‘Jesus’… ‘now’… some suggestions to get you started.

Selfish … Jesus… Thankful and serving.

Guilty … Jesus… now forgiven.

Uncertain … Jesus… now secure and confident.

b. Reflect on who is taking notice and who is impressed when our witnessing produces converts. Luke 15:7,10, 32.

PRAYER

**For next week**

**Read**

**1 Peter 3:13-18**

**What can you pray about arising from this study?**