

The Practice of Witness



THE  RIVER

Acknowledgment

This Practice Guide is adopted from Practicing the Way by John Mark Comer

WELCOME

Good news is meant to be shared. Think about it – we naturally love sharing good news. If we get the job we wanted, if we have a new baby, get engaged, or discover an incredible restaurant, we love to share it with others – especially those closest to us. But for many of us, we don't have quite the same feelings with our own faith. Why is that?

Often it is because our surrounding culture bombards us with signals to “keep our beliefs to ourselves.” There is a pronounced resistance – sometimes even hostility – in our culture toward any claims of capital T “truth.” It is okay to believe a particular way of life is best for you, but it's a problem to suggest that way of life is best for everyone. As John Mark Comer says,

This can lead to a very private way of following Jesus that, in belief, is “good news for all people,” but in practice, just becomes “good news for me.”

Despite this cultural dynamic, Jesus' invitation to witness to Him has not expired – it remains just as relevant to us as it was to its original hearers. Every generation of followers of Jesus must ask the question: How do we witness to the good news of Jesus in our particular moment?

Over the next several weeks, we will explore how Jesus himself entered into witness – and passed this same practice on to His disciples. We will look at His motivation and the basic method He used that is relevant across all cultures. Our goal is to grow in compassion for the lost, to extend relationship around our tables, and to learn to find words and a way of life that witness to the gospel.

Yes, it will take a little risk and some practice. But those who say “yes” will experience the deep life in Jesus that can only truly be discovered when we generously share it with others.

Welcome to the practice of witness.

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01 Lead with love

WEEK 1

Overview

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses...[even] as far as the ends of the earth.” - Acts 1:8

A witness is simply someone who testifies to what they have seen and experienced. The reason the gospel has gone viral and spread to over 2 billion people around the world is because of the practice of witness. The reason you are a follower of Jesus is because somebody decided to tell you about the good news of Jesus.

Check out this short video on the meaning of the word “witness”

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/martus-witness/>

The practice of witness is an integral part of following Jesus - as we open up our lives to others in love, testifying to the good news of Jesus through our words and way of life in community.

However, many of us feel uncomfortable or even resistant to the idea of “evangelism.” Often this is because we associate it with pressure, awkwardness, or methods that don’t feel natural or loving.

But what if our witness to the person of Jesus could be more ordinary and less forced than what we may initially imagine? And what if the starting place for this practice was not pressure, fear, or obligation, but love?

This week, we begin not with words, but with love.

Before we speak, we learn to see.

Before we share, we learn to care.

Before we go, we allow God to shape our heart.

WEEK 1

Opening Questions

1. What are you hoping to see God do in your life through this practice?
2. When you hear the word "evangelism" or "witness," what comes to mind?
3. What's your primary feeling about growing as a witness of the life you have found in Jesus? Excitement? Fear? Inadequacy?
4. Who was someone that influenced your faith in Jesus? What stood out about their life

WEEK 1

TEACHING

If you missed the sermon, please watch it on Youtube or our mobile app. The title is “Can I Get A Witness ? - Lead with Love” from April 26, 2026.

Summary of teaching

- The message of Jesus has spread throughout history through ordinary people telling others about Him.
- Jesus not only proclaimed the kingdom—He invited His followers to do the same (Luke 8:1; Luke 9; Luke 10; Acts 1:8).
- Witness is not about pressure or performance; it is about living and sharing the reality of Jesus in our everyday lives.
- Many people feel resistant to evangelism, often due to cultural pressures or unhealthy models of witness.
- Everyone is “preaching a gospel” with their life—the question is: what gospel are we pointing to?
- The kingdom of God spreads relationally, like a seed growing over time—not through force or pressure.
- 5 Thresholds to cross on the journey to faith: 1) Trusting a Christian, 2) Becoming Curious, 3) Open to Change, 4) Seeking after God, and 5) Entering the Kingdom
- The primary motivation for witness is love—love for God and love for people (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

WEEK 1

Group Discussion Questions

- 01 What was one insight from the teaching you want to carry with you this coming week?
- 02 What fears or concerns do you have about sharing your faith in our culture?
- 03 Of the five thresholds Western people typically cross to become followers of Jesus (see Teaching Summary), which most stands out to you, and why?
- 04 The teaching suggested that everyone is sharing a “gospel” with their life. What do you think your life is currently pointing people toward?

WEEK 1

EXERCISE

Identify three to five people you care about who are not followers of Jesus and begin praying for them daily.

STEP 01 Write down the names of 3 to 5 people who are not currently following Jesus that you want to pray for daily during this Practice.

Person 01:

Person 02:

Person 03:

Person 04:

Person 05:

STEP 02 Place each of those three to five people in the below category that you think best represents where they are in their spiritual journey.

Trusting a Christian

Becoming curious

Opening up to change

Seeking after God

Living in the Kingdom

STEP 03 Set aside some time now to ask God to speak to you, in your mind and heart, about what they need to experience next, and what part you play in it. What do you sense needs to happen next in their spiritual journey to move toward God?

Spend the next 10-15 minutes in prayer:

1. Take a few slow, deep breaths, becoming aware of God's loving presence in and around you.
2. Bring one of the individuals to your mind, and invite God to speak to you about them. Ask God to reveal where they are at and what they might need to experience next. Listen and note any words or impressions that come to mind.
3. Then ask God to show you how you might participate in what he is already doing in their lives. If nothing specific comes to your mind or heart in this step or the one previous, don't worry. Just ask that God would give you more of his compassion for this person, and eyes to see how you can join him in their life.

NOTES:

WEEK 1

REFLECTION

We do not learn from experience; we learn from reflection upon experience.

- Trevor Hudson

01 Where did I feel resistance?

02 Where did I feel joy?

03 Where did I most experience God's nearness?