

# empowered

October 16, 2022

WITNESS | Acts 1:1-11

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## S U M M A R Y

We stand on the shoulders of those who have come before us. God's people have been witnesses throughout the earth, taking the good news of the kingdom everywhere they go. We come into this story as well - being people who bear witness to the ascended Jesus. In the ascension, the king has entered his throne room, and we get to bear witness to the good news that the king is on the throne, and everything has changed. Jesus will send us his Spirit to empower our witness.

## R E A D

Acts 1:1-11 | Hebrews 1:1-4 | Hebrews 4:14-16 | Hebrews 8:1-2 | Ephesians 2:6-10

*Pause. Take time to prayerfully consider what has been read.*

## D I S C U S S

- 1) What is sticking out to you from the readings?
- 2) What comes to mind when you hear the phrase the kingdom of heaven?
- 3) Have you ever experienced the empowering of the Holy Spirit to witness to Jesus and his kingdom?
- 4) What importance has the Ascension been given in your past church experience?
- 5) What does it mean that Jesus is our ascended high priest and king?

Read Ephesians 2:6-10

- 6) What does it mean that you are seated with Christ in the heavenly realms?
- 7) How are you experiencing the kindness of Jesus? Take a few minutes to share with one another about the grace of the kindness he shows you.

## R E S P O N D

Take time to reflect on the way that leaves blow and fall around us. They are carried wherever the wind wants to take them. If the Spirit is like the wind blowing where he wants, how can you be light and nimble like a fall leaf to be led by him? What is a way that you can remember to practice this? For example, you could agree to daily praying "Spirit help me to embrace your mystery" at 11 am OR as you put your shoes on before leaving the house pray "Spirit, interrupt me with whatever you have for me today".

*Share how the Spirit is inviting you to respond today and the week to come - to **be with** Jesus, to **become like** Jesus, or to **do what** Jesus does.*

## P R A Y

*Take some time to wait and pray together. What is Jesus praying for? Come into agreement with His prayers.*

Who is it that the Holy Spirit might be asking you to be a witness to? Pray for one another for the Spirit's boldness, wisdom, creativity, and power to share with them.

