

**1. Tracing the theme of being Witnesses in the Book of Acts**

a) Election of apostle to replace Judas

*“One of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection” Acts 1:22*

- i) Expression of understanding
- ii) Determination to obey Jesus’ command
- iii) Commencement of deeper understanding of the task of Witnessing
- iv) Good indication of spiritual comprehension and maturity
- v) Organising the Church to bear witness corporately
- vi) Commitment to fulfil the command to bear witness as leaders

b) Peter’s First Message to the multitudes in Jerusalem

*“This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.” Acts 2:32*

- i) Declaration of truth/faith
- ii) Exposition of understanding concerning the Holy Spirit
- iii) First attempt at bearing witness
- iv) Tremendous courage to bear witness
- v) Depth of knowledge of the Scriptures
- vi) Preparedness to suffer any adverse consequences
- vii) Tremendous response to Peter’s Message (Acts 2:40-47)
- viii) Vindication of Christ’s command to bear witness
- ix) Empowered Witnessing will be blessed tremendously by the Lord
- x) A call to return to the Core Task given to the Church!

c) Peter and John

*“And killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.” Acts 3:15*

- i) Leading by example (Peter and John)
- ii) The example of the two leading apostles of the Jerusalem Church

- iii) Tending to the growing flock
- iv) Bearing Witness bravely amidst hostility
- v) Bearing Witness consistently
- vi) Bearing Witness committedly
- vii) Bearing Witness with great skill (from experience)
- viii) A Call to all Church Leaders to master the skill of bearing witness
- ix) Only when the leaders set the pace and example will witnessing take wings
- x) Praying for leaders (present and future) to become witnesses!

d) The Apostles

*“And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus” Acts 4:33*

- i) Praying amidst affliction
- ii) Praying with one accord Acts 4:24
- iii) Praying for boldness to witness Acts 4:29
- iv) Praying for courage to proclaim God’s word Acts 4:29
- v) Instant answer to prayer Acts 4:29
- vi) Prayer for boldness granted Acts 4:29
- vii) Filling of the Holy Spirit
- viii) The Apostles continue to lead by courageous example

## **2. Tremendous Challenges to the Church today**

a) Leading of the Church - by Example

b) Learning through Experience

*“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus” Acts 4:13*

c) Empowering of the Holy Spirit

- i) Promised Presence John 14-16

ii) Promised Power    Acts 1:8

iii) Power experienced        Acts 2

iv) Power utilised        Acts 2

v) Power sought                Acts 4:24-31

d) Responding to the Challenge of Bearing witness effectively

i) As a Church

ii) As individuals