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## These facilitator notes are for Lesson 5: Why did God Give the Holy Spirit?

1. Canon Ashy says there are many reasons why God gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit, but there is "one particular purpose." What is it?

### **Matthew 10:19-20 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)**

<sup>19</sup> When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; <sup>20</sup> **for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.**

### **Mark 13:11 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)**

<sup>11</sup> When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, **for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. (NOTES: Must be important if Mark and Matthew record it.)**

### **John 15:26-27 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)**

<sup>26</sup> **'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. <sup>27</sup> You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.**

### **Luke 24:45-49 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)**

<sup>45</sup> Then **he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,** <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> **And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'**

### **Acts 1:8 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)**

<sup>8</sup> **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'** (NOTES: Most Christians agree we are to witness about Jesus, but what about the 'power', how is that manifested in our witness?)

**Witness (NOTES: We are witnesses of what the Lord Jesus has done and is doing in our lives, and we must witness to it. The word is a noun and a verb. Jesus has also charged us to be witnesses of His Gospel and to give the witness to others. Why are we so reluctant to do so? Are we afraid to talk about Jesus to others? Do we think our lives speak better than our words and adopt the silent witness approach?)**

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/witness>

**noun**

wit·ness | \ 'wit-nəs \

**Definition of *witness***

**(Entry 1 of 2)**

**1:** attestation of a fact or event : [TESTIMONY](#)

**2:** one that gives evidence *specifically*: one who testifies in a cause or before a judicial tribunal

**3:** one asked to be present at a transaction so as to be able to testify to its having taken place

**4:** one who has personal knowledge of something

**5a:** something serving as evidence or proof : [SIGN](#)

**b:** public affirmation by word or example of usually religious faith or conviction the heroic *witness* to divine life— *Pilot*

**witness**

**verb**

**witnessed; witnessing; witnesses**

**Definition of *witness* (Entry 2 of 2)**

**transitive verb**

**1:** to testify to : [ATTEST](#)

**2:** to act as legal witness of

**3:** to furnish proof of : [BETOKEN](#)

**4a:** to have personal or direct cognizance of: see for oneself *witnessed* the historic event

**b:** to take note of our grammar— *witness* our verb system—is a marvel of flexibility, variety, and exactitude—  
Charlton Laird

**5:** to constitute the scene or time of structures ... which this striking Dorset hilltop once *witnessed*— *The Times Literary Supplement* (London)

**intransitive verb**

**1:** to bear witness : [TESTIFY](#)

**2:** to bear witness to one's religious convictions opportunity to *witness* for Christ— Billy Graham

2. The disciples had been with Jesus for three years, why did Jesus tell them to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit?
3. Describe a time when you had to rely on the Holy Spirit to give a witness of Christ.
4. Have you shared the Gospel with someone and found you were able to recall scripture you had not intentionally memorized?

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**Optional: *I Believe in the Holy Spirit*, Michael Green**

(Page 71) **“Why did God send us his Holy Spirit?”** “But there can be no doubt from a candid examination of the New Testament accounts that the prime purpose of the coming of the Spirit of God upon the disciples was **to equip them for mission.**”

**The Beginning of the End** (Page 76) “However, the first installment of the kingdom would soon be sent them by the ascended King himself. Until God’s final day when he will bring in the kingdom, two characteristics would mark the age of the Church: The Holy Spirit, and witness to Jesus. The spirit, who had inspired Jesus to teach and heal and proclaim the good news of God’s kingly rule among men, would come upon them, marked with all Jesus’ character. The mission on which Jesus had been engaged would devolve on to their shoulders. **‘You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be my witnesses’** (Acts 1:8). Precisely as in Mark, we find the Spirit and mission being the two notable marks of the Church in the age stretching between the advents. The Spirit, mediated in evangelism, is the mode of the kingdom’s presence among men until the return of the King.”

**The Spirit uses Testimony – The meaning of ‘witness.’** (Pages 83-84) “The word ‘witness’ is significant. Its root figures over thirty times in the Acts, in one form or another.” “The witness attests his own experience: he does not necessarily preach. The Acts gives us many examples of Christian people bearing witness to Jesus, in particular his death and resurrection, to soldiers and governors, princelings and mediums, crowds and individuals. **Witness in the New Testament is neither the silent churchgoing that passes for witness among many Christians, nor the sickening self-advertisement that often results when a believer ‘gives his testimony’; but to the historical Jesus, his death and resurrection, his gift of the Spirit, and his present availability and power.**”

5. Describe some of the actions recorded in the New Testament that evidenced the ‘power’ of the Holy Spirit.
6. In Acts, the disciples often witnessed to the death and resurrection of Jesus and called for repentance and faith in Christ. Please comment on that model of witnessing in your own experience.