

## Power to be Jesus' witnesses

Acts 1:1-11

Intro: *Following the launch of our Vision 2030 at the recent congregational meeting, and prior to a 3 week focus on the 3 main goals of Loving God, Loving the community, and Loving the church, we first looked at the **cost** of following Jesus (Reuben's sermon) and now the **confidence** we can have as we undertake his mission. Please read our passage.*

1. A non-Christian friend questions you about your faith and says: "I can't believe you would believe that stuff about Jesus (that he lived, died, rose, rules in heaven and will return). If you believe that and then you believe in the tooth fairy". What would you say? (see Lk 1:1-4 and Acts 1:3).
2. Please read Acts 1:4 and then the following passages to see how the Holy Spirit really was the "game changer": a) in the life of Peter (Matt 27:75 and Acts 2:38-41); b) for the 11 apostles (John 20:19 and Acts 4:18-20); c) and for the growth of Christianity (Acts 1:12-15 and the estimated number of Christians in the world today). How much of a game changer do you see the Holy Spirit as in your life and witness?
3. Acts 1:6 reminds us that the apostles' thinking about God's Kingdom was confused and far too narrow. They wanted the kingdom to come to Israel but Jesus is going to take it to the world. We, too, can get our thinking about the Kingdom confused. What is the Kingdom of God? Where do we find it? Why is it so important? (Phil 2:8-11)
4. Jesus' plan for the spread of the gospel was surprisingly simple: be his witnesses (Acts 1:8) and it is not just the apostles but "ordinary" Christians like you and me who were part of that plan (Acts 4:31, see vss 23-31). One implication is that we are not just to be gospel hearers but also gospel sharers. How does this make you feel? What can help us? (see 1 Jn 4:18 and Acts 1:9-11).
5. How has the sermon encouraged you in your task as Jesus' witness, or challenged you in your understanding of it?