

Follow Me — and I Will Make You Fishers

(A Journey Through the Gospel of Luke)

“You Are Witnesses of These Things”

Luke 24:36-49

April 12, 2026

Pastor David Bardowell

Big Idea

An encounter with the risen Jesus transforms fearful followers into bold witnesses.

Disciple-Making Focus

Encounter with the risen Christ produces witnesses.

I. A _____ with Jesus Changes Everything

(vv. 36-43)

“Jesus himself stood among them...” (v.36)

“Startled and frightened... thinking they saw a ghost.” (v.37)

“Touch me and see...” (v.39)

Key Truth:

You cannot become a witness of Jesus until you have personally encountered the risen Jesus.

II. A _____ Clarifies the Mission (vv. 44-47)

He told them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” (Luke 24:44, CSB)

“He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.” (v.45)

“Repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed... to all nations.” (v.47)

Key Truth:

When Jesus opens your eyes, you don’t just see Him clearly—you see your purpose clearly.

III. A _____ Leads to a Spirit-Empowered Witness

(vv. 48-49)

“You are witnesses of these things.” (v.48)

“Stay... until you are clothed with power from on high.” (v.49)

Key Truth:

Followers of Jesus don’t strive to be witnesses—they become witnesses through the power of the Spirit.

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Small Group Questions — Week 8

Series: Follow Me — and I Will Make You Fishers

Week 8 Title: You Are Witnesses of These Things

Text: Luke 24:36–49

Start Here — Reflective Question

When was a time something became real to you—not just something you knew about, but something you truly experienced?

(Allow a few people to share.)

Read the Passage

Have someone read **Luke 24:36–49** aloud before discussion.

Discussion Questions

1. The disciples were fearful and unsure even after hearing about the resurrection (Luke 24:36–38).

Why do you think they struggled to believe, even after everything they had seen?

Where do you relate to their fear, doubt, or hesitation in your own faith?

2. Jesus meets the disciples in their doubt and reveals Himself to them (Luke 24:39–43).

What stands out to you about how Jesus responds to their fear and uncertainty?

How does this shape the way you think about bringing your own doubts or struggles to Him?

3. Jesus “opened their minds to understand the Scriptures” (Luke 24:45).

Why is it important that understanding comes from Jesus, not just information?

Can you think of a time when something about Jesus or your faith became clearer or more personal to you?

4. Jesus says, “You are witnesses of these things” (Luke 24:48).

What do you think it means to be a witness in everyday life—not just in a formal or church setting?

What fears or obstacles tend to hold you back from sharing your faith with others?

5. Jesus tells them to wait for the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49).

Why is it important that witnessing is Spirit-empowered and not just based on effort?

What might it look like for you to rely more on God’s power rather than your own strength this week?

Disciple-Making Connection

The sermon emphasized that **an encounter with the risen Jesus produces witnesses**.

Think about your everyday life:

Where has Jesus changed you in a real, personal way?

Who in your life might need to hear or see that story right now?

Close Together

Pray together that God would deepen your personal encounter with Jesus.

Ask Him to:

- Strengthen your confidence in who He is
- Open doors to share your story
- Fill you with His Spirit so you can live as faithful witnesses