

# The Gospel and Hospitality as Witness

## 2025 Habit Series: Bear Witness (Session 1 of 2)

Central Peninsula Church



### Opening Exercise: Gospel Hospitality Experience

Have each person briefly share a time when someone's witness about faith impacted them positively. What made this witness effective or meaningful? How did the person's approach invite your sense of curiosity rather than pressure?

#### Quick Debrief:

- What qualities made these experiences feel authentic?
- How did relationship or hospitality play a role in making you receptive?

### Study and Discussion

#### Opening Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you grasp the reality of the Kingdom of God as Good News for all.

#### Discussion Questions

As you move into the study portion of this discussion, take ample time to read and even re-read the passages below, slowly and aloud. As you do, ask yourselves three key questions: Why this? Why here? Why now? These questions will help you to discern the context of Jesus' words.

#### → Read Mark 1:14-15 together as a group.

- ◆ What do you think Jesus means when he says "the kingdom of God has come near"?
- ◆ Why do you think Jesus would connect this announcement with "repent and believe the good news" (Gospel)?

#### → Read Acts 1:8 together as a group.

- ◆ What do you think it means to be a "witness" in this context?
- ◆ How do you think the Holy Spirit's power relates to our witness?

#### → Read Matthew 22:37-39 together as a group.

- ◆ How might loving God and loving our neighbor create the foundation for bearing witness?
- ◆ In what ways might love be missing from how Christians sometimes share their faith?

#### Additional Discussion Questions:

- ◇ How have you experienced the gospel as "the availability of the kingdom of God" in your own life?
- ◇ What makes you hesitant about sharing your faith with others?

**Key Teaching Points:**

1. The gospel is about the availability of the Kingdom of God
2. Jesus calls followers to be witnesses through love
3. Hospitality creates the context for authentic witness

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## Take-Home Practice: Getting Started

**Presence with Purpose:** Choose one regular social gathering you'll attend in the next two weeks (work lunch, neighborhood event, family gathering) and commit to being intentionally present as you bear witness through your attentiveness and care.

### Implementation Plan:

- Identify one upcoming social gathering
- Before attending, pray for God to help you see people as He sees them
- Practice being fully present – putting away devices, listening well, and asking thoughtful questions
- Open yourself up to natural opportunities to share how your faith shapes your perspective
- Afterwards, reflect below on how this intentional presence felt different

## Getting Started Reflections:

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