

# Bearing Witness in Word, Deed, and Community

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

Central Peninsula Church



### Opening Exercise: Getting Started Experience

Take turns reflecting on your experience practicing intentional presence as a form of witness. What social gathering did you choose to be intentionally present at? What did you notice about others when you were fully present with them? Did any opportunities arise to share your faith perspective? If so, how did that feel? If not, what barriers might have been present? What surprised you most about practicing intentional presence as witness?

**Group Connection:** After individual sharing, identify any common themes or insights that emerged across different experiences.

### Study and Discussion

#### Opening Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be attentive to share your reasons for hope in your connections with others.

#### 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 1 Peter 3:15-16 together as a group.

- ◆ What do you think it means to "always be prepared to give an answer"?
- ◆ How does Peter instruct us to share our hope? Why are gentleness and respect important?

#### → Read Acts 4:32-37 together as a group.

- ◆ How did the early church bear witness through their life together?
- ◆ What aspects of this community life do you find most compelling or challenging?

#### → Read Colossians 3:12-17 together as a group.

- ◆ Which of these qualities do you think would make the greatest difference in our witness today?
- ◆ How does verse 17 ("whatever you do...") relate to bearing witness in everyday life?

#### Additional Discussion Questions:

- ◇ When have you seen someone's words and actions align to create a powerful witness?
- ◇ What one aspect of your daily life do you feel convicted could become a more intentional witness?

■ **Key Teaching Points:**

1. Our witness is most powerful when what we say aligns authentically with how we live.
2. The church community embodies aspects of God's kingdom that individual witness alone cannot demonstrate.
3. We bear witness not through our own eloquence, but through the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us.
4. We offer others a glimpse of God's kingdom while respecting their freedom to respond.
5. When rooted in genuine relationship and hospitality, bearing witness becomes a natural expression of care rather than an obligation.

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## Take-Home Practice: Next Steps

**Faith and Life Connections:** In the next two weeks, intentionally make connections between your faith and daily life in conversations with others, focusing on how your faith influences your response to a current situation or challenge.

### Implementation Plan:

- Identify a current situation in your life where your faith is shaping your response or perspective
- When in conversation with someone you've been practicing presence with, demonstrate curiosity as you engage with them, asking them questions about what you observe and learn as you spend time with them. Invite the Holy Spirit to help you listen well, to guide your conversations, and to give you the wisdom and discernment in identifying natural openings to share your faith.
- Share briefly how your faith gives you a different lens, hope, or approach
- Focus on personal experience rather than abstract theology

### Next Steps Reflections:

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