



## **Sermon Discussion Guide: go global**

**Series:** *here, there, everywhere: following the Spirit's lead*

**Date:** 05/17/2026

**Scripture:** Acts 1:1-8 (New Revised Standard Version updated edition)

**1** In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach **2** until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. **3** After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. **4** While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; **5** for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

**6** So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" **7** He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. **8** 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."

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## **Opening Prayer**

God of every people and place, open our hearts to the wideness of Your world. As we reflect on Your Word, help us grow in humility, curiosity, and courage. Teach us to bear witness to the way of Jesus with grace, wherever we go. In Christ's name, Amen.

## **Introduction & Context**

Over the past several weeks, we have reflected on Jesus' words in Acts 1:8 by moving through the widening circles of Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria. This week, we arrive at "the ends of the earth." Jesus reminds the disciples that the kingdom of God is bigger than their region, their comfort zone, or even their imagination. They are called to bear witness not just "here" or "there," but everywhere.

This message also explored the purpose of witnessing. Jesus does not give the disciples quotas, metrics, or outcomes to manage. Instead, he calls them to be witnesses—people whose lives, words, and posture point toward the love of God and neighbor. In that sense, witnessing is not only about what happens in others. It is also about what the Spirit is shaping in us.





## Discussion Questions

### It's a Small World

1. The sermon began with the idea that, even in a world of eight billion people, we often live in only “our version” of the world. What does your version of the world tend to include? Who or what tends to sit outside your usual field of attention?
2. What helps you remember that the world is both bigger and more connected than your immediate routine?

### From Here to Everywhere

3. In Acts 1:8, Jesus names Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. Why do you think Jesus keeps widening the circle? What does this reveal about the scope of God’s kingdom?
4. How does “the ends of the earth” challenge the tendency to keep faith local, private, or comfortable?

### What’s the Purpose of Witnessing?

5. The sermon asked why Jesus sends the disciples as witnesses. What stands out to you about what Jesus does **not** say in Acts 1:8? Why might that matter?
6. The message suggested that Jesus’ goal was not to make the disciples managers, but witnesses. What is the difference between managing outcomes and bearing witness?

### Witnessing as a Way of Life

7. The sermon noted that wherever we go, we bear witness to a way of life, a posture, and a set of beliefs. In what ways do people communicate a “witness” without ever saying a word?
8. When have you seen someone’s humility, curiosity, hospitality, or attentiveness make the way of Jesus more compelling?



### **Crossing Boundaries with Grace**

**9.** The message emphasized that Jesus crossed boundaries and borders to engage people who looked, thought, and acted differently. What kinds of boundaries are hardest for you to cross—cultural, political, social, economic, linguistic, or something else?

**10.** What helps a Christian cross those boundaries with grace rather than fear, superiority, or defensiveness?

### **Global Faith, Personal Formation**

**11.** The sermon reflected on how experiences in other places can shape faith, enlarge perspective, and deepen dependence on God. Have you had an experience—through travel, conversation, mission, friendship, or ministry—that stretched your view of God’s work in the world? What did you learn?

**12.** How might engaging people from different cultures or backgrounds deepen your faith rather than threaten it?

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### **P.A.R.**

**Pray:** For humility, curiosity, and courage to cross boundaries with grace. Pray for a deeper awareness of the people, places, and perspectives that stretch your sense of the world.

**Act:** Take one “ends of the earth” step this week: learn from, pray for, encourage, support, or build a relationship with someone whose background, culture, or experience is different from your own. Let your posture, words, and actions bear witness to the way of Jesus.

**Reflect:** How did I bear witness to the way of Jesus this week? Where did I notice openness, discomfort, curiosity, or growth in myself as I crossed a boundary? What might the Spirit be inviting me to practice next?



### **Closing Prayer**

God of every nation and neighbor, thank You for calling us into a faith that is wider than our comfort and bigger than our borders. Form us into faithful witnesses who reflect the way of Jesus in all we think, do, and say. Send us with humility, compassion, and courage. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **Key Takeaway**

Jesus calls us to bear witness not only here and there, but everywhere. The Spirit forms us into people whose lives point toward the love of God and neighbor across every boundary and border.

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