

The Journey Uniting Church – Bible Reading Plan – September 2011

God's Witness Protection Program

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

Week 1 Sunday 4th September – Father's Day

1 Tim 2:1-10	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
4 th Sept	Colossians 3	1 John 2	1 John 3	John 15	Isaiah 63:7-19

Week 2 Sunday 11 September – Finding Jesus in the Local Church

Acts 2:42-3:16	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
11 th Sept	Acts 1:1-11	Exodus 19:1-9	Matthew 16	Acts 4:23 – 5:16	Acts 6:1 – 15, Acts 7:44- 8:3

Week 3 Sunday 18th September Getting to know your local Jesus

Acts 9:10-19	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
18 th Sept	Mark 3:1-35	Acts 10	Acts 11:1-18	Acts 12:1-24	1 Peter 3:1-16

Week 4 Sunday 25th September Jesus and the bogans

Acts 15:12-19	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
25 th Sept	John 12:1-36	Acts 8:4-40	Acts 13:1-15, 42-52	Acts 14:1-26	Acts 15:1-41

Week 5 Sunday 2nd October God's Word going global

Romans 1:1-16	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
2 nd October	Acts 16:1-15	Acts 17:16-34	Acts 18:1-17	1 Corinth 2:1-16	Isaiah 66:12-24

Over the page is some teaching on how the Holy Spirit makes us witnesses of Jesus Christ. This month we are preaching through these themes to inspire and help us participate in the Father's amazing plan.

The invitation is simply this: **Would you and your small group/ spiritual friendship group pray together for 1-2 people you love who don't know Christ.**

Ask God to lead you in intentional ways to contact, connect and invite them to one of our Journey UC events where they can hear the Gospel and consider starting a relationship with Jesus. Over the page are some ideas but I'm sure you have plenty more!

God's Witness Protection Program at the Journey UC

In Acts 1:8 Jesus gave 4 key areas his disciples would be his witnesses and participate in his mission. "...the Holy Spirit will come upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 This is a promise – the Holy Spirit will do the witnessing through us. Its not something we have to 'conjure up'

Currently we are supporting projects in Sudan, China and East Timor with other offerings going to various places of need across the world. We are a local church who after much prayer, fasting and discernment believes these three areas are the key areas we are called to focus on. This is our GO area!

- Sharing Christ with Pedare Christian College
- Sharing Christ with 1-2 people you know and love who don't know Christ
- Sharing Christ in the transformation of Elizabeth Downs

Jerusalem – the local church

The world-wide Christian church is the front foot of the kingdom of God and has one primary expression – the local church. Jerusalem is symbolic of our local church in a local area in a particular place and time. Our first witness is as the body of Christ here and now. Acts 2-3 is the story of God's word and power doing miraculous things in the local church and people coming to Christ – Bring it ON!

Judea – people just like us

This represents the family, friends, community and work place that share our values and culture. It's the place where people are much like us. It is an important place of witness. It is where we have a lot of common ground with people and can share the Gospel without thinking too much about the cultural context. It is also where we need to listen and obey the Holy Spirit more than social expectations. it is likely that 1-2 people God wants to bring to himself through you live in this space.

Samaria – people just beyond us

This represents people and generally geographical areas with whom and where we would not choose to go. They are similar but have significantly different outlooks, socio-economic levels, values, world view and social class. Like Philip in Acts 9 we are called to "go down into Samaria" which was a radical thing for a Jew to do. It's like Port Power supporters helping at a Crows benefit function! And that is the sort of witness to which Jesus calls us. In many ways this is the most challenging area in which to minister. It is also an area where the Holy Spirit does many signs and wonders. God has led us to cross social boundaries by ministering at Elizabeth Downs – this is our Samaria. Can you give time to support this ministry financially? Personally?

The ends of the earth – people different to us

This is cultural and / or geographical. It is to people who are of vastly different nationalities, culture, background, world view and need. It includes multi-cultural ministry in Australia and certainly includes ministry to the globe. The future is going to be very multicultural for the Journey UC in both world mission and local mission.

A mature church has all four of these mission areas and attends to them as a matter of priority. Mature Christians have all four of these areas in their heart and participate at some level in all of them. It is what the Christian church does to make disciples. **That is why we exist as a church.**

The way it happens in all 4 areas could be described by 3 C's. Would you and your small group/ spiritual friends consider praying and acting on this?

1. CONTACT

Pray asking God to give 1-2 people for whom you can pray for and with whom you can make intentional contact

2. CONNECT regularly

Continue praying for them and be pro-active in connecting with them regularly. Make a conversation at work become a coffee at lunchtime.

3. COMMUNICATE

Continue praying and ask God to open their heart and mind to the Gospel. Invite them to church or events where the Gospel will be shared. Ask God to prepare your heart to simply share what Jesus means to you when given opportunity.

The Journey UC weekend services are committed to being appropriate for you to bring 1-2 people you love who don't know Christ. Other events in September/ October are:

- Father's Day Sept 4
- Quiz Night Saturday Sept 10
- September 11 Baptisms
- Grand final day at someone's house
- A bbq on the October long weekend
- Sunday October 2 with a brilliant testimony
- School Holiday catch up
- Your inspiring idea...