



# What Do You Have to Say?

By Shari Miller

Leader's notes and Bible passages available online at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).

## Opening Prayer

*Dear heavenly Father, we praise and worship You. Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus, through whom we are forgiven of all our sins and receive the promise of eternal life in heaven. Empower us through the Holy Spirit to be Your witnesses and share the message of salvation in Jesus with people we meet every day. Bless our study of Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

## What is a Witness?

The word "witness" is one that can be defined as both a noun and a verb. As a group, work together to define the word "witness" as a:

noun \_\_\_\_\_

verb \_\_\_\_\_

The Greek word for "witness" is *martus* or *martur* (noun). Thus, in English a "martyr" is one who bears witness (*martureo* – verb) by his death.

[W.E. Vines M.A., Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, 1940. Public domain.]

For this passage, identify what God's children are witnessing directly and what they have witnessed in the past.

### Exodus 19:1–8; 16–19

For the remaining passages in this section, identify the witness(es) and what was witnessed.

Judges 7:19–22 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Kings 2:1, 11–12 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 2:8–16 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 8:22–25; John 20:19–20 \_\_\_\_\_

John 19:26–27 \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 9:2–8 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 7:58; 9:3–5 \_\_\_\_\_

According to **John 5:36** and **39**, what two things bear witness to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

In **John 8:18**, who bears witness to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

Who else witnesses to Jesus in **John 15:26–27** and **John 20:21–22**? \_\_\_\_\_

By the power of the Holy Spirit, who are Jesus' witnesses today? See **Acts 1:8a**. \_\_\_\_\_

## Faith Talk

Summarize in your own words what you have discovered through these passages.

What situation have you been in recently where you have witnessed the love and care of the Lord? Share with a partner or in a small group.

## If Time Permits

How many disciples were martyred for their witness about Jesus Christ? (Discuss the information provided in the Leader's notes.)

*Describe a time in your life when you have been involved in an extraordinary event. Perhaps it was at the scene of an accident or at a joyous occasion such as a wedding or a baptism. Share with a partner or your small group.*

*During this study of God's Word, consider what a witness is; look at Biblical examples of witnesses; and discover your role as a witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

## Witnesses Bear Witness

Witnesses of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior become witnesses to others. Jesus' story becomes our story. What do we have to witness about? See **Romans 5:8–11**; **1 Corinthians 1:4**; **Colossians 1:11–14**.

How does the Holy Spirit engender and nurture our faith and witness?

**John 20:30–31**

**1 Corinthians 11:23–26**

**Galatians 3:25–27**

Name the witnesses in the following passages who in turn bore witness to Jesus Christ. What was their witness?

**Luke 2:18, 20**

**Matthew 16:15–16**

**Acts 4:13; 18–20**

**Acts 7:55–56**

**Acts 9:20–22**

**John 20:28**

**Acts 17:6**

What is the [geographical] “blueprint” for witness given in **Acts 1:8**?

How important is verbal witness? Why or why not? (Reread **Acts 4:20**.) What about actions?

Read the LWML Pledge by Rev. Harry Fricke [side bar]. What phrases indicate witness both with words and with actions?

How is every Christian's witness the same?

How is it different?

## Faith Talk

What do you have to say? What is *your* story? Who needs to hear your witness? Share with a partner or in a small group.

## Faith Walk

1. Consider what Jesus has done for you. Write down your faith story. Thank Him for the gifts of salvation and eternal life.
2. Rejoice daily that you are a baptized child of God.
3. Thank the Holy Spirit for giving and nurturing your faith in Jesus and the ability to share that faith.
4. Pray for opportunities to share your faith story. Watch for those opportunities and take advantage of them.

## Closing

Leader: In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption,

**Group: *We dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have;***

Leader: And in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields,

**Group: *We pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us.***

Leader: We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands,

**Group: *Our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love,***

Leader: Our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom,

**Group: *Our will to do His will,***

**All: *And every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.***<sup>®</sup>

Sing together “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying” (*LSB* #826; *LW* #318; *TLH* #496), or “Listen, God is Calling” (*LSB* #833).

# The LWML Pledge

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption, we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.<sup>®</sup>

Shari Miller, wife of Rev. Larry and mother of Joshua and Johanna, is LWML Planner on the Executive Committee and the past District President of the Montana District LWML. She lives in Helena, Montana, and has written various articles and studies for the LWML.