

How Do I Live Intentionally as a Witness?
Message 1 of 3 in the series: "You Will Be My Witnesses"

"For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." 2 Timothy 4:6-8 (NIV)

1. Make sure you never mistake visibility for value on the journey for making Jesus known.

- a. God is looking for availability, not necessarily visibility.

"Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments. Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message... The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Greet Priscilla and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus. Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus. Do your best to get here before winter. Eubulus greets you, and so do Pudens, Linus, Claudia and all the brothers and sisters. The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you all." 2 Timothy 4:9-15, 18-22 (NIV)

- b. God wants us to know that everybody has a role in the story.

2. We must eliminate the secular and the spiritual divide.

"It is not what a man does that determines whether his work is sacred or secular; it is why he does it. The motive is everything. Let a man sanctify the Lord God in his heart and he can thereafter do no common act". Tozer

3. Don't lose sight of the ultimate because of the immediate.

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- a. Past failure does not disqualify you from future roles in God's story.
- b. The reward of heaven is worth the price of life.

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." Philippians 1:21 (NIV)

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Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss the following seven "rhythms" in our lives (things we already spend time doing) that we can use to build relationships and influence others for Jesus:

Worship - Worship builds our relationship with God. It connects us to Him and transforms us into the people He wants us to be. Apart from God, we can do nothing. Every moment of each day becomes an opportunity to worship God individually or with others.

"Worship changes the worshiper into the image of the One worshiped." – Jack Hayford

Groups - Discipleship happens in the context of relationships. God has designed it so we need each other to grow in spiritual maturity and to represent Him fully to the world. Maturing as a disciple and making more disciples doesn't happen by accident. Discipleship must be a priority.

“Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Conversations - Conversations build relationships and trust. Asking questions, listening to others, and making small talk are simple, ordinary ways we can intentionally engage others.

“...we change our minds about life not simply because of correct information, but because we trust our conversation partners.” – Jim Henderson

Eating - Sharing a meal together builds relationships. Invite people to eat with you, and you will discover many opportunities to invest in their lives. Everyone needs to eat, so grab a meal or a cup of coffee with someone.

“Eating together results in people being drawn together.” – Margaret Minnicks

Serve - Serving is simply putting the needs of others before our own. Serving builds relationships because it allows us to demonstrate how much we care through words, gifts, and simple acts of kindness.

“We can do no great things, only small things with great love.” – Mother Theresa

Celebrate - People love to be invited to a party. Parties or “get-togethers” provide us the opportunity to gather with others in a relaxed and fun environment to celebrate the people and events that we are thankful for in our lives and communities.

“That is precisely the point of our celebrations- that people would both see the heart of our God and feel invited to the party.” – Caesar Kalinowski

Recreate - People need to relax and recharge. Hobbies, interests, and activities allow people to build relationships around common pursuits as they do them together. Refresh yourself by doing the things you enjoy and intentionally invite others along.

“Yes, people do enjoy life, recreation, and fun, but they usually do so to escape instead of sharing them with the people they are learning to love.” – Hugh Halter

2. Which of these rhythms feels most natural to you as a means of building relationships and influencing others for Jesus? Which feels most uncomfortable? Why?
3. Are you available for God to use you in His story? If not, how can you create margin in your life to get engaged?
4. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:8. What does it mean to share our lives as well as the gospel with others?