

# IGG weekend away 2020

## Worker's track

### Gospel witnesses going global

'...you will be my **witnesses** ... to the end of the earth.'

Acts 1:8 (ESVUK)

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## Talk 1: purpose (1:1–11)

Introduction: What is your life agenda?

Context: Theophilus and his certainty

Luke 1:1–4 ...you may have certainty, concerning the things that have been accomplished (fulfilled).

Key verse: 1:8

1. The disciples' question: What is Jesus' agenda? (v6)

2. Jesus' answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Application

Discussion questions:

How does this change your perspective of sharing the gospel?

How might Jesus' agenda impact your life this year?

How might it impact your decisions for 2025?

# Saturday morning devotional guide

**Read Acts 1:1–11 (5 mins)**

**Prayer (5 mins)**

Using A-C-T-S = Adoration, Confession, Thanks, Supplication=asking

**Read Acts 2:21, 37–41 think and pray (10 minutes)**

Read and consider

- How do these verses follow on from what Jesus was saying in Acts 1:8?
- How do these verses encourage you to trust the Risen Lord more?
- How do these verses passage help you to praise the Lord Jesus?

Then offer prayers of thanksgiving and prayers of supplication.

## Talk 2: authority (2:1–41)

Introduction: Does Jesus really call the shots?

How to read Acts - descriptive not prescriptive

Key verse: 2:36

1. The experience of Pentecost (v1–12)

2. The explanation of Pentecost (v13–36)

Step 1: You killed Jesus, God had to raised him (v22–32)

2 Samuel 7:12

Step 2: He ascended and is now pouring out the Spirit (v33–36)

What Pentecost means: \_\_\_\_\_

3. The effect of Pentecost (v37–41)

Application

### Discussion questions:

- Which area of your life does Jesus not rule?
- What might it look like for that area to back the gospel going global?
- How does this encourage you to be a gospel witness in your workplace?
- What practical steps can you put into practice?

## Talk 3: accomplishment (3:1–4:4, 4:32–5:11)

Introduction:

Structure of Acts 1:1-6:7

What is being accomplished?

“And the word of God continued to increase...”  
– 6:7, 12:24, 19:20

Key verse: 3:8

1:1–21 – the day of ascension of Jesus  
2:1–41 – the day of descension of his Spirit  
2:42–47 – devotion to the apostles' teaching  
**3:1-4:31 – Miracle (3:1-4:4) and**  
Jewish rejection (4:5-31)

1. The accomplishment of the lame man leaping (3:1-4:4)

*Isaiah 35*

2. The accomplishment of instant death (4:32–5:11)

*Lev 10*

*2 Samuel 7:13*

What is Jesus accomplishing? \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion questions:**

- How does this correct misunderstanding of what the gospel is accomplishing?
- How does the right understanding encourage you to be a gospel witness?
- How does this challenge any wrong priorities you might have?
- How might this shape the way you share the gospel?

# Gospel going global—what’s your role? (stewardship—films and discussion)

## Film 1—Every village in India

The gospel changes lives forever, so start living radical, sacrificial lives for the sake of making Christ known.

*“... it amazed me to see thousands and thousands of villages do not know Christ. Pepsi's there. Coca-cola reached, no Jesus... The thought that someone isn't being sent to an unreached village to plant a church for that much money. That's madness. That's crazy. That's the saddest thing I've ever heard.”*

*“... maybe one of the big gifts that I've been given, which most people don't like to talk about, this is Britain, we hate to talk about money, maybe one of the big gifts I was given was access to wealth. And then the idea was simple, it was just earn money, give it away, don't keep it.”*

### **Discussion questions:**

1. What have you been struck by in this film? Do you feel encouraged / challenged, or have any questions?
2. Compared to other charitable causes, how important is it to invest time, money and talent into the preaching of God’s word? Why?

### ***Thinking it through with...***

- a) What are the key lessons you have learnt over the years about stewarding your resources to serve God outside of paid ministry?
  
- b) There are so many competing needs in the world - how do you focus your giving?

### **Film 2: The Adventure of Faith**

Everyone has a role to play in taking the gospel to all nations. It starts with knowing God's purposes, praying for opportunities, and asking to help.

*God has given us a truth, it's his word that lasts forever. And God calls us to steward that, to share that, and to enable others to share that with the world... Even though we're right here he has a role for us to play in this global mission that's going on. And as we support, pray for, hold the other end of the rope for those who are on that front lines, we are playing a crucial role in God's kingdom work around the world.*

#### **Discussion questions:**

1. What have you been struck by in this film? Do you feel encouraged / challenged, or have any questions?
  
2. How can we "Pray knowledgeably, Give specifically, Go intentionally"?

### ***Thinking it through with...***

- a) How do you view your role at work – what do you think is God’s purpose for you at work?
  
- b) What are some of the challenges of parting with your money? What helps you to continue overcoming them?

### **Further thoughts<sup>1</sup>**

1. **Prioritise godliness over money** – God does not need your money. *“May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!”* (Acts 8:20)
  
2. **Be sober-minded about where your gifts lie** – Where has God placed you, and why has he placed you there? *“And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”* (Esther 4:14)
  
3. **Know what your gifts are for** – your talents and money are gifts for the kingdom of God. The temptation is to use them to feed your own glory, ambitions and comfort.
  
4. **It’s not the quantity of your giving that counts – what counts is whether it is sacrificial.** Don’t think *“I already give to gospel work, so I can do whatever I want with the rest of my money”*.
  
5. **Start early** – don’t think *“I will work hard to save up now and give later”* (also don’t think *“I will work hard to establish myself and then evangelise later”*). Have a clear, deliberate and conscious **resolve** about what to do with money.

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<sup>1</sup>Source: Mostly points discussed at a Gospel Patrons event held in London on Monday 25 November 2019.

6. Guard against luxurious **lifestyle choices** - it would be an astonishing witness if we lived with frugality (likely in contrast with those around us).<sup>2</sup>
7. Don't let your gospel patronage be **an extension of your pride**. Patronage is not the only aspect of your Christian service. Continue to serve in unseen, obscure ways. Remember who you are and why you are here. Ask God to give you **humility** appropriate to being a follower of Jesus Christ, the servant king.
8. God uses the former rebels, reborn, to be preachers and patrons. **Some** are called to be preachers and **many** others are called to be patrons. Pick up the cause.

### Further reading/viewing

- A short film on the gospel partnership behind Youversion (<https://www.gospelpatrons.org/films/this-book-is-alive>)
- The gospel patrons behind Jesus' ministry (<https://www.gospelpatrons.org/articles/the-gospel-patrons-behind-jesus-ministry>)
- Three ways to contribute to a great awakening (<https://www.gospelpatrons.org/articles/3-ways-to-contribute-to-a-great-awakening>)
- The gospel patron behind Paul (<https://www.gospelpatrons.org/articles/the-gospel-patron-behind-paul>)

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<sup>2</sup>A great temptation for us is to live as if earth was our home. We settle in. We build our little kingdoms. We build bigger barns so that we can eat, drink, and be merry. But when we give we remind our own hearts and proclaim to the world that we have in our possession the true and lasting treasure. Money isn't it. Silver and gold don't satisfy. We have received so much from Jesus that we can freely release the one thing the world chases after most: money. (<https://www.gospelpatrons.org/articles/3-ways-to-contribute-to-a-great-awakening>)

## Personal reflection

1. What is currently motivating you to (or keeping you from) living sacrificially for the gospel? Be specific.
2. Why invest more (or at all) in the proclamation of God's word)?
3. What are the gospel causes that you could get behind today? Or how can you find them out?
4. Make a note of any points that you'd like to discuss further with your IGG group.

## **Gospel going global—what's your role? (panel session)**

- How has the fact that Jesus is your Lord affected the way you view your work?
- How do you make gospel conversations happen?
- What have been the challenges of speaking and living for Jesus in the workplace, and how have you overcome them?
- How have you dealt with the insecurity of not doing more for your earthly master so that you can serve your heavenly master?
- How do you put the gospel first in your career planning?

# Sunday morning devotional guide

## Prayer (5 mins)

Using A-C-T-S = Adoration, Confession, Thanks, Supplication=asking

## Read Acts 5:17–6:7 think and pray (10 minutes)

Read and consider

- How does this section build on 3:1–5:11?
- How does this section encourage you to trust the Risen Lord more?
- How does this passage help you to praise the Lord Jesus more?

Then offer prayers of thanksgiving and prayers of supplication.

## Talk 4: rejection (4:4–31, 5:12–6:7)

Introduction: How should we make sense of rejection?

Key verse: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Their rejection was wilful (4:5-22)

2. Their rejection was fulfilment (4:23-31)

3. Their rejection won't stop the \_\_\_\_\_ (5:12-6:7)

...therefore we must speak (4:20, 4:31, 5:19, 5:42, 6:7, 1:8)

### Discussion questions:

- How does understanding rejection rightly give you certainty to be a witness?
- What sort of "risk" might you be encouraged to take?
- How might your upcoming week be different as a result of the talk?

## Personal meditation questions

1. What key truths have I learned from Acts over the last 3 days? (it might help to skim through your notes on previous pages).

How has what I've heard helped me to grow in certainty that the "gospel going global" is the big thing God is doing in the world right now?

*Spend some time responding to what you've learned in praise and thanksgiving to God.*

2. How have I been helped/challenged by what other ICG-ers have shared, concerning their experiences in the workplace?
3. As a result of all of this:
  - a. How do I think/feel differently about my primary purpose in the workplace?
  - b. How might this change my priorities in the workplace?
  - c. What sort of concrete decisions will I have to make to act on what I've learned?

(Please turn over)



## Appendix 1—useful resources

<https://www.gospelatwork.org.uk/> - a great resource with information about

- lunchtime talks in London
- Lost for Words - a training booklet for evangelism
- training videos for dialogue talks
- possible venues for dialogue talks
- the Questions of Life central London mission (23 March-9 April)
- City Summer School

<http://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/media-library/src/talk/10139/title/john-laing-1>

- two excellent talks about the businessman John Laing and his exemplary life and workplace ministry – very encouraging and challenging! (just type 'John Laing' in the Media Library on the St Helen's website)

Gospel Patrons

<https://www.gospelpatrons.org/>

Some free books:

1. Let the nations be glad – John Piper <https://www.desiringgod.org/books/let-the-nations-be-glad>

2. Risk is right – John Piper  
<https://www.desiringgod.org/books/risk-is-right>