

Week Two: Witness

We all bear witness to what we love.

If you see a movie you like, you talk about it. If you see a video you like, you share it. Same is true for faith in Jesus. As God works in us, we talk about it. We do not need to be faith experts in order to talk about what God is doing in our lives. How has this past week of following Jesus been? What practical steps were you able to take this week to share the story of Jesus?

In this session we will grow as witnesses to what God is doing in our lives and in the movement we have started. We will also plan our launch party.

ACTS 1: 8

Jesus has been crucified and raised from the dead. Now he appears to his disciples one last time before ascending back into heaven.

⁸But 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. (NIV)

Last words are important. They generally emphasize what you want someone to do or remember. We typically say "I love you" as we leave, we want to remind people about what is important. Jesus' last words are important as well. He gives those who have chosen to follow him clear instructions about what they are to do. "...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"

What is Jesus communicating by his last words to the disciples? How does this apply to us?

One way a new believer is a23...and: f3* (to 5.2 1 Tf 6

wanted to share his new faith decision with his friends, so he threw a party and invited folks to meet Jesus. Let's look at the story:

MATTHEW 9:9-13

⁹As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he said to him, and ¹⁰Matthew got up and followed him. ¹⁰While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³But go and learn what this means:

Taking Another Step

Students at UC Bakersfield-Delano Campus started an InterVarsity movement on their campus. Before their launch party, two students decided to follow Jesus! These new believers and other Christians who were a part of InterVarsity wanted to see a movement of God on their campus. At their launch party, 20 of their friends and classmates heard stories of how God was moving on campus and stories of new faith.

Would you like to take the step that Matthew did in the Bible and the students at Delano did and host a party where your friends can join the movement and explore faith in Jesus?

Let's Plan the Party

1. Decide as a group who will share at the launch party. Have a student planter share about why they came to your campus. Have someone from your campus share about how God is using InterVarsity in their life. Or about a risk of faith you have taken to reach the campus in InterVarsity. Finally, if there is a new believer(s), they should share about their new faith. Those who are sharing should take time to add more detail to the story they started writing out last week. Make sure to practice with someone from this group before the party.
2. Let's brainstorm a list of your Christian and non-Christian friends whom you want to invite to the launch party.
3. Where will you have the party?
4. When will you have the party?
5. Will you have food? What will you do to have fun and bond with new people at the party?

Plan how others can get involved

After the testimonies comes the most important part of the whole event. At the party you will ask people to get involved. There are two ways people can get involved. How will you share the ways to get involved? Who will share it? Will you have a place to sign up?

1. Help lead the movement. Join a core team of students to lead Encounter groups and reach out to the campus
2. I want to explore faith/grow in my faith. I want to join an Encounter group.

After you have asked people to join you, you have to collect their responses. First, create a contact card or sign up list where students can write their name, phone, email, and if they want to help lead the movement and/or explore faith. Who will make the contact card or sign up list?

You will want to follow up with each person in 24 hours. Who will follow up?

Party Element	Notes	Time
Earlier That day	Buy or order food Gather supplies (plates, plastic ware, clean up supplies, speakers for music, etc.)	
Arrive and Set up	Think about what people will see when they first arrive. Start music. Set out food.	30-60 min
Guests Arrive and Hang Out	Have people ready to welcome.	15 min
Welcome	Have a student officially welcome and transition the group to the next thing	2 min
Fun	Host a game or ice breaker. The goal is to help new folks meet each other and InterVarsity members.	5-20 min
Transition to Testimonies	Welcome and have people get food and take seats	10 min
Testimonies	Introduce Each Testimony. - New Believer - Christian student from the new Campus - Student Planter	15 min.
Invite Guests to Respond	- Invite to Leadership Movement. - Invite to Explore and Grow by joining an Encounter Group	5 min
Collect Contact Cards or Sign Up Sheet		5 min.
Thank Everyone for Coming	Invite people to go out after the party to bond with new people.	1 min