

Beyond the Sermon A Sermon Application Guide Title: Testimony of Jesus

This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

# Message Theme & Prayer Focus

What Happens Next?

"God, I recognize your tender love all around me. I am so blessed to be known by a Father like you that is perfect in every way. This week I ask for wisdom and discernment as I read your Word and apply it to my life. You are worthy, you are holy, and you're all I need. Amen."

# **Key Concepts/Truths**

The good news and story of Jesus doesn't end with Christmas. We need to talk about what has been done in our lives as a result of Him and who He is.

People don't care about our perfect theology so much as they want to know that God is still alive and that He cares for them. When Jesus came, He declared what God had done. That was the testimony that He carried.

The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy, meaning that what He has done is a picture of what He wants to do again. When we testify about what God has done, it creates expectation, builds faith, and releases an anointing for something to happen.

The word testimony translates to "do again". The testimonies of what God has done, that we find in scripture and all around us in life, belong to us and are a picture of what God wants to do again.

Our expectation of God is what determines our level of faith. When we share what God has done in our lives, it can also build faith and expectation for what God wants to do in other people's lives.

After testimony comes meditation. John 1 talks about meditating on what God says so we can have good success. This means not just hearing the word but giving our full attention to it. When we hear the word it gets planted. Meditating on it–pondering it, muttering it, speaking it over and

again-is how we can water it. Mary meditated on what the angel of the Lord had told her about giving birth to Jesus and it built her expectancy and faith in all that was going to take place.

After meditation comes worship. Many magi came to visit Jesus, giving their gifts and worshiping Him. When we worship God for all He has done and will do, we put on a garment of praise that forces any depression and darkness to go. Our praise and worship shuts the devil up and switches our mindset and focus to the God who heals, delivers, and keeps his promises.

# Key Verses:

Luke 2:15-20 • Proverbs 4:20-23 • Acts 16:25

# **Daily Application**

The Bible tells us in Mark 4:24 that the degree in which we consider and apply Godly wisdom, will be the same measure that it will be given back to us–and even more. It is also learned from scripture that things are automatically produced from what we put in our heart. It's so important to meditate on what God has said, to water the right seeds that are planted. What comes out of our hearts and what flows from our mouths is directly related to what we are putting in and focusing on. So how can we make sure that the right things are growing?

Three practical steps we can take this week to make sure right things are growing in our hearts and that we are considering Godly wisdom are:

- 1. Tell people what you've seen God do  $\rightarrow$  share testimonies from this holiday season.
- 2. Meditate on the word of God → speak out loud and repeat the things that God has spoken to you in your spirit and in His word.
- 3. Worship → praise God for keeping His promises, for what He has been doing in your life and growing in your heart.

# This Week's Declarations

"God, I choose to focus on the great and beautiful things that you have done in the past and I look forward to you doing them again. I am so thankful for what you've done in the Bible and in other lives that you want to do again in my life. I stand on your truth with expectancy. I will meditate on your words and choose a posture of worship. I will see more and more testimonies being created because of your goodness, mercy, and provision in Jesus' name."

# What's Next?

Now it's time to write down anything that the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.

# Scripture References Testimony of Jesus

#### Luke 2:15-20 NKJV

So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

#### Acts 2:11 NKJV

"...we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

#### Joshua 2:1-13 NKJV

Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. "Go, look over the land," he said, "especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there. The king of Jericho was told, "Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land." But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them." (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut. Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof and said to them, "I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below."Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them-and that you will save us from death."

#### **Revelation 19:10 NKJV**

"For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

#### Psalm 78:41 NKJV

Yes, again and again they tempted God, And limited the Holy One of Israel.

#### Psalm 78:42-47 NKJV

They did not remember His power: The day when He redeemed them from the enemy, When He worked His signs in Egypt, And His wonders in the field of Zoan; Turned their rivers into blood, And their streams, that they could not drink. He sent swarms of flies among them, which devoured them, And frogs, which destroyed them. He also gave their crops to the caterpillar, And their labor to the locust. He destroyed their vines with hail, And their sycamore trees with frost.

# PSALM 119:111 NASB

I have inherited Your testimonies forever, For they are the joy of my heart.

#### Joshua 4:1-7 NKJV

And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying: "Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, and command them, saying, 'Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.' " Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; and Joshua said to them: "Cross over before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones *mean* to you?' Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever."

#### Psalm 78:5 NKJV

...That they should make them known to their children.

#### Psalm 78:9-11 NKJV

The children of Ephraim, being armed and carrying bows, Turned back in the day of battle. They did not keep the covenant of God; They refused to walk in His law, And forgot His works And His wonders that He had shown them.

#### Joshua 1:8 KJV

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

# Proverbs 4:20-23 NKJV

My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from

your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

# Psalm 119:99 NKJV

I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation.

# 1 Corinthians 3:6 NKJV

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

# MARK 4:24 AMP

Then He said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear. By your own standard of measurement [that is, to the extent that you study spiritual truth and apply godly wisdom] it will be measured to you [and you will be given even greater ability to respond]—and more will be given to you besides.

# Mark 4: 26-29 NKJV

And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.

# Psalm 39:3 NKJV

My heart was hot within me; While I was musing, the fire burned. Then I spoke with my tongue:

#### Mark 11:23 NKJV

For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart...

#### Philippians 4:8 NKJV

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

#### Isaiah 26:3 NKJV

You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

#### Matthew 2:9-11 NKJV

When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

# Acts 15:16 KJV

'After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up;

# 2 Chronicles 20:21-22 NKJV

And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever." Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

# Acts 16:25 NKJV

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

# Isaiah 61:3 NKJV

... The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;

# Isaiah 14:12-15 NKJV

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol...

# 1 Corinthians 10:20 NKJV

...the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

#### Matthew 21:16 NKJV

and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise'?"

# Psalm 8:2 NKJV

Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.