Sermon Title: This is Us!
by: Pastor Rock Dillaman

Scriptures: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses…” [Acts 1:8a]

But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem let this be known to you and give heed to my words.....let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ – this Jesus whom you crucified...... Be saved from this perverse generation!” [Acts 2:14, 36, 40c]

1. The Holy Spirit was given to make us bold witnesses for Jesus!

2. A “witness” is an object, an event or a person that affirms truth.

3. No one comes to Jesus on the basis of silent witness alone.

4. Bearing witness isn’t an option for some of God’s people; it’s a mandate for all God’s people!

5. Witness and power are inseparable. Where witness is neglected or disparaged power decreases.


7. Spiritual boldness is the confidence to speak God’s truth based on the conviction God is with us as we speak.

8. When boldness is divorced from the Holy Spirit it becomes ugly!

9. Boldness isn’t the absence of fear; it’s the presence of the Spirit overpowering fear.

10. Bold witness comes with the Spirit; maturity comes with time. And the first need not wait for the second.

11. A Spirit-empowered church will engage in bold witness.
Growth Group Questions
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KICK-OFF
1. What are you most looking forward to in 2017 and why?
2. Will you watch the Super Bowl this weekend? Why or why not? Do you watch for the game, commercials, or half-time show?

THE GAME PLAN
1. What are your greatest fears in witnessing? How does today’s message help you to overcome those fears?
2. On a scale of 1-10 rate your *spiritual boldness* as it relates to sharing the gospel or witnessing to others. What are some ways we can increase our *spiritual boldness*?
3. Describe your best and worst experiences sharing the gospel with someone else.
4. What points from today’s sermon challenged you, impacted you, or caught your attention and why?

OVERTIME
1. How can we encourage and challenge one another on a regular basis to make witnessing more of a kingdom priority in our lives?
2. In what ways does bearing witness for the kingdom relate to our Expanded Influence initiatives for 2017?
3. In what ways can prayer play a vital role in sharing the gospel and your own personal “Jesus story” with others?