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# TALK IT OVER

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## Winsome Witness in a Warring World

Ed Stetzer

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Open your group in prayer, and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the message notes, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions towards the end of the document.

### Message Notes

Winsome: “an attractive personality, an attractive engagement. A winsome person is somebody who has wisely engaged, sometimes a culture, sometimes an individual, but wisely engaged the world around her or him.” Dr. Ed Stetzer

**Question 1:** Pastor Rick tells us that the Bible says we are to live in such a way that makes the gospel of Christ attractive by being winsome witnesses. He asks the question, when you walk into a room, are people glad, sad or mad you’re there? Why is it important to be aware of how we are perceived or how we impact others around us?

*“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’”* John 20:19-21 (NIV)

### 1. FEAR SILENCES A WINSOME WITNESS

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*“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders . . .”* John 20:19a (NIV)

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”* Phil. 4:6 (ESV)

**Question 2:** We are told that fear is the opposite of faith. In John 20:19, we learn that the disciples locked themselves indoors frozen in fear, until “Jesus came and stood among them and

said, 'Peace be with you!'" Is there anything going on in the world today that is causing you to be silent about your faith because of fear?

## 2. PEACE STRENGTHENS A WINSOME WITNESS

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*"Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'"* John 20:19b (NIV)

*"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* Phil. 4:7 (NIV)

*"You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."* Isaiah 26:3 (ESV)

**Question 3:** What brings you peace, is it the absence of problems or the presence of Jesus? How does the peace of Jesus make us different? How do we demonstrate his peace in trying times?

## 3. THE CROSS SPURS A WINSOME WITNESS

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*"After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord."* John 20:20 (NIV)

*"If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."* Romans 14:8 (NIV)

**Question 4:** In John 20:20 it says that Jesus showed the disciples his hands and side as evidence that he was crucified, yet it was not the end of *his* story. Today we may experience sickness, discouragement, depression or anxiety; however, God is in control and this is not the end of *our* story, because Romans 14:8 tells us that "whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord." What can you take from the knowledge of the cross to encourage you to act and go into the world to be God's witness?

## 4. JESUS SENDS A WINSOME WITNESS

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*"Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.'"* John 20:21 (NIV)

*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"* Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

**Question 5:** Instead of running from the problems we face today, how can we respond to God's call and run toward them with our actions of service to be a witness of hope in Jesus?

### Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message!

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*