

Martin Luther was born into a poor German home; his father worked hard as a miner, to send Martin to school; he wanted Martin to be a lawyer. Sometimes they were so poor that Martin sang for people to earn a coin to buy food and he was often teased and bullied at school. His parents were very strict and religious, and to young Luther, pleasing God seemed to be a very difficult thing.

Life was easier when he went to university; he was a dedicated student with good memory, reasoning and understanding skills and did well. One day in the library, he found a Latin Bible; he had never known such a book existed! The priests had parts of the New Testament to read in church and he thought that was all there was.

He had always worried about sin and as he read he felt overwhelmed by his sinful state. He decided to join a monastery, and found a Bible chained to a wall and so in his spare time he read, even giving up sleep and food. The monks in this monastery spent their time fasting, begging for food and doing many other things that were painful to both their bodies and their pride in the hope of removing guilt. But despite doing everything required, Luther felt worse. Then God sent Johann von Staupitz, the priest in charge of the university, to Luther. Staupitz told Luther to stop torturing himself and to turn to Jesus for forgiveness. This was not easy, but Luther was finally able to gain the peace of forgiveness from God.

Luther moved to the University of Wittenberg; he continued to study the scriptures and at Staupitz' urging, began preaching about them.














Luther was delighted when he was able to travel to Rome, the centre of the Church. He walked, staying at monasteries on the way; in Italy, he was surprised to find that some monasteries were like luxury resorts – a total contrast to the monastery where he had lived.














Another surprise awaited him in Rome itself. The language of the people, especially the priests was anything but pure - often filled with swearing, even in church! And opportunities for all types of sin were found everywhere. Still he joined the crowds of people climbing Pilots staircase on their knees at the promise of forgiveness from sin; but half way up, a thundering voice seemed to say to him, "The just shall live by faith." – He sprang to this feet and left in shame, promising that from now on he would follow only the word of God.

# The Witnesses

## Sabbath


Matthew 5:16<sup>NLT</sup> says to let people see you doing good things so that...

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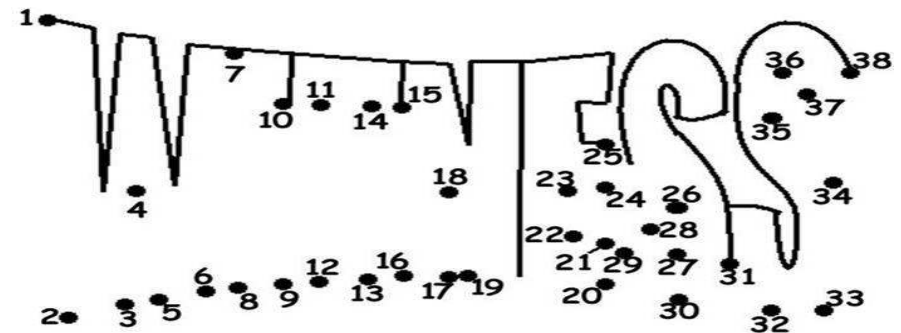
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What do we call this?



Fit the missing words in the grid.

## Thursday

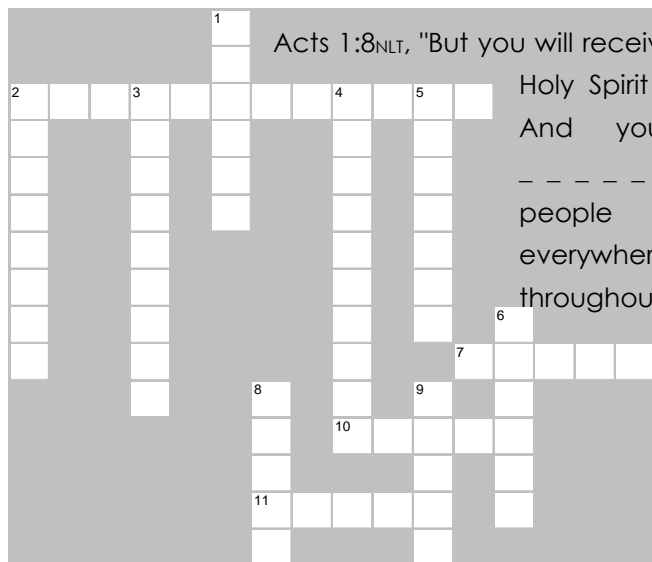
Read the introduction that Luke wrote in the beginning of his gospel in Luke 1:1-3

Who did his information originally come from? \_\_\_\_\_ e s (2a)

John 5:39-40<sup>ESV</sup>, "You search the \_\_\_\_\_ (4d) because you think that in them you have \_\_\_\_\_ (5d) life; and it is they that bear witness about me," Some Bibles use the word testify instead of witness – testify means tells about, a witness testifies about what they have seen or know. The NIV Bible says "The Scriptures point to me!"

Jesus calls His followers to be witnesses:

Matthew 5:14-16<sup>NLT</sup>, "You are the \_\_\_\_\_ (7a) of the \_\_\_\_\_ (8d) —like a city on a hilltop that cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ (6d). No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a \_\_\_\_\_ (10a), where it gives \_\_\_\_\_ (7a) to \_\_\_\_\_ (2d) in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly \_\_\_\_\_ (1d)."



Acts 1:8<sup>NLT</sup>, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my \_\_\_\_\_ (3d), telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the \_\_\_\_\_ (9d)."

## Monday

One day the men from the school of prophets came to Elisha and said "Our building is too small and so we are going down to the Jordan River to cut trees to build a bigger place. Will you come with us?"

One of the boys had borrowed an axe and as he was chopping, the head suddenly flew off its handle and disappeared in the muddy water. "Oh no" he cried! "It was a borrowed axe!" "Where did it fall in?" Elisha asked. The boy showed him; Elisha took a stick and threw it into the water, and they watched as the axe head floated to the surface!

Elisha would often tell the king of Israel what his enemy were doing and the king of Aram thought he had a traitor. When he found out about Elisha, he sent his army to capture him and they surrounded the city where he was. When the young man working for Elisha saw the army, he was terrified. But Elisha said "Don't be afraid! - There are more on our side than on theirs." Suddenly the young man could see the hillside was filled with horses and chariots of fire - God's army.

Elisha asked God to blind the enemy and he went out and led them to the city of Samaria then prayed for their sight to return. He ordered the king of Israel to feed and send them home!

Another time the king of Aram surrounded Samaria. Food became so scarce that a cup of dove's dung cost five pieces of silver!

Then Elisha received a message from God: "Tomorrow, a single piece of silver will buy five whole quarts of flour, or ten whole quarts of barley." The king's officer listening, said, "That is impossible - even if God opened the windows of heaven." So Elisha replied, "You will see that God is right, but you won't be able to enjoy it."

That evening, four men with leprosy sat outside the city gates; "We are going to starve if we stay here, let's go see the enemy? Maybe they will kill us; but maybe they will feed us." And so they went to the camp.

Now God had sent the noise of a great army to scare the enemy, and they had fled, leaving their camp deserted. The lepers ate and drank until they were full, and took gold and silver and new clothing for themselves.

## Tuesday

After eating they had eaten and drank, they hurried back and told the gate-keeper who woke the palace. When the people heard the good news they rushed out to help themselves. The king appointed his officer to guard the gate, but in the rush of people he was trampled; so he heard the good news, but didn't get to enjoy it himself, just as Elisha had predicted.

Why wasn't Elisha scared? Use the code to see what he said in 2 Kings 6:16

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Find the underlined words from Sunday and Monday.

↶☒🏠①    ^☒☒    U L O U S M W I  
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 S W O G R E A T N D E R F  
 U L P O W D L E P R O S Y

## Wednesday

What sort of witness was the young maid?\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think that?\_\_\_\_\_

What sort of witness was Gehazi?\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think that?\_\_\_\_\_

What sort of witness was Elisha?\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think that?\_\_\_\_\_

If you saw someone whom you knew **lied**, would you **believe** what they told you? What if you knew that they **cheated**; **would you** believe them? Or if they were **greedy**, or **jealous**, or **rude**, would you believe them? You **probably** **wouldn't** believe them; they wouldn't be a **good witness**. But if you knew that they always **told the truth**, then you would believe them; they **would** be a good witness.

Find the words in **bold**

P R O B A B L Y Q W E R T Y  
 U I A E S D F L K J H Z D X  
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 H S D I F G J P O W I U Q W  
 E C H E A T E D T O R Q W E  
 R T Y V U I A A S U D W F L  
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 B R N M A W O U L D N T L K  
 J U H S D F U G P O I N U Q  
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 R H Q I W E R T Y U U S I O  
 A S D E F L G O O D K S J U  
 H Z D D X C V B N E M A L K