



STAYING CLOSE TO HOME

Aim: Engage students in evangelism among all people in their Jerusalem.

Outcomes:

- ➔ Students will pray specifically for the salvation of people in their community.
- ➔ Students will invite their neighbors to place their faith in Christ.

Materials Needed:

- ✓ Bibles

Leader Preparation:

When we hear the word missions, we often think that we must pack our bags and go away for a week or more. However, we are called to be on mission right in our own hometown. We must realize that missions is simply crossing barriers with the gospel. That barrier may be social class, geography, or even cultural differences. All of these are found where we live.

In Acts 1:8, Jesus states, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Sharing Christ in our communities is reaching our Jerusalem. It is where we spend most of our time and it is the place where we will be able to build the most lasting relationships with those who do not know Jesus.

In the opening questions, your Challengers will more than likely tell you the places where they like to hang out or where they spend their free time. They may also refer to parts of town that are less desirable. The point of the questions is to get them to realize that people all over your community need Christ. Our need for Him is not based on what part of town we live in, but rather our sinful nature that needs to be redeemed.

In our focus passage, you will notice that forms of the word reconciliation appear five times in three verses. This repetition shows its importance in interpreting the verse. Through Christ, things have been made right between God and us. The message and delivery of that good news is what we proclaim when we share the gospel.

When you get to the “How Do We Act at Home?” section, you may want to have a student read the portion about Toni Branyon while the others listen. Help the Challengers see that the group mentioned understood the need to reach out to others in their Jerusalem. They committed to serve in an ongoing capacity so that relationships could lead to sharing the gospel.



CHALLENGERS LESSON EVANGELISM

Your Challengers may draw a blank when they get to the “What’s Next” portion of the lesson. Knowing this, it would be a good idea to think ahead and maybe have some ideas to spark their creativity. Think through your group’s interests and talents. Are there areas in your community where they could use their interests and talents to reach others for Christ? Do you have a special burden for an area that you might share with them? Help them remember the need for consistency over a one-time event. Where can you continually serve so that you can make the most impact? Once you have decided on an idea, develop an action plan. Be sure to follow up with those given responsibilities and encourage every Challenger to take to heart God’s call for us to represent Him to our communities.



SCRIPTURE FOCUS: 2 Corinthians 5:18-21



Where is Home?

Ask the following questions as you begin the session.

- Where in our community do you spend most of your time?
- Are there places in our community that you do not go? Why or why not?
- Of the places we just mentioned, which ones need Jesus more; the places you go or the places you don’t go? Why?

The reality is that every person in every place needs Jesus. This is true of those in your school, your neighborhood, and even in the places where you may not spend much time. Nice neighborhoods need Christ just as much as those that are not so nice. As followers of Jesus, we must understand that we represent Christ to our community.



How Do We Talk at Home?

Have your Challengers open their Bibles to 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. Have a volunteer read the passage. Ask, “What does the word “reconciliation” mean? What exactly is the message of reconciliation?”

Verse 18 is a powerful verse. Think about it: God has given to us the ministry of reconciliation! He could have chosen countless ways of letting the world know of His grace and plan of salvation, yet He chose to use us, the ones saved by His Son. We are His ambassadors, or representatives, here on this earth. The Heavenly King has a message and we are the handpicked messengers.

Ask, “Have you ever considered that God has chosen to use you to share the gospel? How does this change the way you look at telling those in our community about Christ?”



How Do We Act at Home?

When talking about reaching our home communities, we often reduce that to telling our friends about Jesus. While this is extremely important, it falls short of Christ’s command to be salt and light to a world that does not know Him (Matthew 5:13-14). We must be sure we are showing Christ’s love as well.



CHALLENGERS LESSON EVANGELISM

Toni Branyon is a North American Mission Board missionary who knows this very well. As the Director of Lifeshape Communities and Transformation, she conducts apartment ministry in the southeastern area of Atlanta, Georgia. As part of her ministry, groups of students from local churches join in ministering to the needs of those in the apartment community. One group from another part of the city dedicated their summer to work with the children in the community, telling Bible stories, playing music, and performing skits. All of this is part of a continual investment in those near to them who do not have a relationship with Christ. Toni notes, “We have to build relationships with others and that comes through consistency and investing in them.” She reminds us that we must always be asking ourselves, “What is the next step?” We cannot throw a party and leave. We must seek to continually pour into the lives of those who need Christ. Her firm conviction is, “all the money in the world cannot take the place of people spending time with and investing in others.”

Ask, “What is your response to Toni’s last statement? How has this been true in your life? Why is making a commitment to intentionally invest in our community so hard for some people? What are some examples of how this might work in our community?”



WHAT NOW?

As Christ’s ambassadors, we have the privilege of serving others and telling them about Him. Learning about it is not enough. We must take what we have learned and put it into action.

As a group, discuss how you might be able to impact your community for Christ. Consider these questions as you decide what’s next.

How can you use your gifts and interests to reach others for Him?
Is there a community where you could focus your energy?
Who might be a good contact to help you identify needs?

When you have thought through these things, develop a plan to be the ambassadors Christ has called you to be!



Lesson By: Jack Blankenship

Jack Blankenship is the student pastor at Ewing Road Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. He loves Jesus, his family, and seeing teenagers follow Jesus with all of their hearts.

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FACING YOUR FEARS

Aim: Train students in how to face their fears when witnessing to peers.

Outcomes:

- Students will be trained in Sharing Jesus Without Fear and practice its methods.
- Students will learn how to rely upon the power of the Holy Spirit in evangelism.

Materials Needed:

- ✓ Copies of the Share Jesus Without Fear Questions (end of lesson), one for each Challenger
- ✓ Highlighters
- ✓ Pens
- ✓ Roll of transparent tape

Leader Preparation:

When Jesus assembled the team of men who followed Him during His earthly ministry and today are known as the apostles, none of them was known primarily for his courage. In fact, every apostle failed a test of bravery in a crucial time. Peter acted brashly and foolishly (which is sometimes confused for bravery, but rarely actually is). All the men abandoned Jesus when the Pharisees' mob captured Him in Gethsemane's garden (Matthew 26:56). Every one of them fled and failed in the most important moment of their lives because they were filled with fear.

Yet if you fast-forward through the New Testament, you later see that God used these same apostles in key ways to advance His gospel. Historians of Christianity have recorded that virtually every one of the faithful first followers of Jesus died a martyr's death for obediently spreading the gospel in foreign lands:

- Matthew—killed by a sword wound.
- Mark—dragged by horses through the streets until dead.
- Luke—hanged for preaching to unbelievers.
- Peter—crucified upside down on an x-shaped cross.
- James (Jesus' half-brother)—thrown from a pinnacle of the temple for refusing to deny his faith in Christ, then beaten to death after surviving the fall.
- James (a son of Zebedee)—beheaded at Jerusalem.
- Bartholomew—flayed to death by a whip.
- Andrew—crucified on an x-shaped cross.
- Thomas—stabbed with a spear.
- Jude (Jesus' half-brother)—killed with arrows for refusing to deny his faith in Christ.
- Matthias (Judas' replacement)—stoned, then beheaded.



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- ➡ Barnabas—stoned to death.
- ➡ Paul—tortured and beheaded after a lengthy imprisonment.
- ➡ John—survived being boiled in oil, then sentenced to the mines on the prison island of Patmos. He was later freed and returned to Turkey. He died in old age, the only apostle to do so peacefully.

Despite this early pattern of martyrdom, most Christians in the Western world today have little to fear about sharing the gospel of Jesus with others. Yet it seems that perhaps the only thing more difficult than dying for faith in Jesus is actually living for that same faith.

Living for Jesus means sharing the gospel with others. When asked what keeps a person from telling others about Jesus, the reasons are common and familiar:

- ➡ “I’m afraid I’ll say the wrong thing.”
- ➡ “What if I don’t know the answers to their questions?”
- ➡ “What if they get angry with me?”
- ➡ “I don’t know enough about their beliefs.”

Whatever the apprehensions or fears that keep a person from obeying God’s command to share His love with others, the Bible offers no excuse or “out” for a person to keep from doing “the work of an evangelist” (2 Timothy 4:5). While God blesses some people with a gift of evangelism, every person regardless of gift is responsible for taking ownership over his own opportunities to share with other people.

In preparing for this lesson’s activities, it is vital for the Challengers leaders to remember that the primary reason for sharing the gospel is to give glory to God. Whenever a person’s story is shared about the salvation of Jesus, God is honored regardless of the outcome of the conversation. Offer these activities to help Challengers identify their fears, understand them in light of God’s power and love, and to overcome those fears to share the gospel with other people as God opens doors of opportunity.



SCRIPTURE FOCUS:

“There is no fear in love; instead, perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment. So the one who fears has not reached perfection in love” (1 John 4:18).

Fear Factor

Use any or all of the following questions as discussion starters. Give the Challengers time to respond to each question. Do not insist that each boy answer the questions. Be sensitive to Challengers who are not Christians.

- Are any of you afraid of heights? Confined spaces? Spiders or snakes? What else are you afraid of?
- Which is scarier?
 - ➔ Being left in a desert without water or left in a blizzard without a coat?
 - ➔ Having to take an unexpected essay test or having to give a speech to your school unexpectedly?
 - ➔ Telling a friend about Jesus or being persecuted for being a Christian?



Five Share Jesus Without Fear Questions Role-Play

Pair up Challengers. Tell them they are going to role-play, with one person playing the role of a non-believer, and the other a person asking the five questions that determine where God is working. Provide each of the “questioners” with a list of the five questions (found at the end of the lesson). Privately instruct each of the “questioners” to respond to the “non-believers” answers only with “umm” and “uh-huh.”

At the end of the role-playing, have a discussion with the following group questions.

- What did the questioners do to avoid arguments? (Asked questions and answered with non-argumentative answers.)
- Why is this a good response? (Because it shows listening and not arguing.)
- What do these answers reveal to you? (What the person’s spiritual beliefs are.)
- What do you hear by what the answerers do not say? (They don’t say anything about belief in God or trusting in Jesus. They may also reveal loneliness, frustration, sadness, or other negative feelings that can be corrected by hope in Jesus.)

If the group has extra time before the next activity, have the pairs reverse the roles.



Seven Share Jesus Without Fear Scriptures

Lead Challengers to open their Bibles to the inside front cover. Distribute a pen and highlighter to each student. Tell them that you are going to lead them through a simple gospel presentation and you want them to make notes to help them remember. Have them tape the five questions from the first activity onto the inside front cover of their Bible. Then have Challengers write “Romans 3:23” below the paper they taped to the cover. Lead Challengers to turn in their Bibles to Romans 3:23. Have a volunteer read the Scripture verse. Have the students highlight this verse. In the margin next to the verse, have the Challengers write “Romans 6:23.”



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Repeat this process through the following verses:

- At Romans 6:23, write “John 3:3”
- At John 3:3, write “John 14:6”
- At John 14:6, write “Romans 10:9-11”
- At Romans 10:9-11, write “2 Corinthians 5:15”
- At 2 Corinthians 5:15, write “Revelation 3:20”

Say: “You now have a gospel presentation to share with the people that God puts in your path. Remember that it is only effective if it is put into use. Sometimes, you may not get past the first of the five questions, and other times, you will see people put their faith in Jesus as Lord. You are not responsible for the results. You are only responsible to let the Holy Spirit push away your fear and obey as He leads.”



WHAT NOW?

Say: “One reason to have your Bible with you wherever you go is so that you will be ready to share whenever you get a chance. This week, make a habit of keeping your Bible with you. As God puts people in your path, write their names down on the inside cover next to your “Five Questions.” Keep notes on your progress and keep your friends in your prayers. Let perfect love drive out every fear, and when we get together next week, let’s see what doors God has opened for us to share His love with others.”



Lesson By: Bryan McAnally

Bryan McAnally is a teaching pastor at First Baptist Church in Grapevine, Texas. He leads his church’s missions and evangelism teams.

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Five Share Jesus Without Fear Questions

1. Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?
2. To you, who is Jesus?
3. Do you think there is a heaven or hell?
4. If you died right now, where would you go?
5. If what you believe were not true, would you want to know?

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PUTTING FEET TO YOUR FAITH

Aim: Mobilize students in proactive prayer initiatives that focus on lostness.

Outcomes:

- Students will learn, plan, and participate in prayerwalks in their neighborhoods and campuses.
- Students will initiate and lead at-school prayer groups.

Materials Needed:

- ✓ Maps of area school campuses, neighborhoods, and/or businesses
- ✓ Copies of the worksheet “Prayer Questions” provided at the end of the lesson

Leader Preparation:

In Jesus’ three-year ministry on Earth, our Scripture (Luke 10:1-2) notes that He organized pairs of disciples to go before Him to pray over every place that He himself would later visit. This is another example of His perfect understanding that the hardest, most important work of the gospel was taking the time and engaging in the disciplined labor of prayer. In prayer, the spiritual battles are won because it is in prayer that the profound needs of the world are brought before the Father’s throne of grace.

In sending His disciples in teams of two, Jesus acknowledged that the workers are far outnumbered by the work to be done. However, Jesus is also declaring that even two obedient servants of God can accomplish tremendous things when they go into a lost world totally trusting in the power of the living God. The Lord declares that the “harvest is abundant.” This reveals that the spiritual needs of the world are unending and opportunities to share God’s love and to minister to others in the name of Jesus await at every address.

As the pairs journeyed into their assigned fields, they were commanded by Jesus to pray. While we do not know which disciples were designated to which communities, we can understand with confidence that they went to the places that Jesus later visited. Imagine some places they may have been sent: Jerusalem teeming with the Pharisees and Sadducees, Capernaum where He would drive out demons, and Samaria where Jews and Samaritans had been in opposition for generations. Everywhere these disciples went they were certainly able to observe great spiritual needs and even greater spiritual opportunities for the Lord to do His work.

Ultimately, the work is the Lord’s to accomplish. He is the Lord of the harvest. This means He is overseer of the harvest. He knows perfectly what needs to be done to bring in the yield of the harvest. He knows which workers need to go to which locations. He knows the work they need to do, and He faithfully sends them to do it. He sends the workers out to be His hands and His feet, but they first must go out



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and through prayer discover the needs and bring them to Him in prayer. It is the Lord who works through His workers to accomplish the feats that bring glory to Himself. Just as the disciples experienced supernatural results from their commitment to obey Christ's command to venture into these communities, so too will today's workers who establish their work in prayerful intercession.

As Lord of the harvest, Jesus is also sovereign over the harvest. God will uniquely and flawlessly use every worker to save every soul He intends to save, to meet every need that must be met, and to accomplish every deed that has been ordained to be accomplished. God will use the compliant, submitted will of every worker perfectly.

In preparing for this lesson's activities, leaders should go to the area of the community they want to take the Challengers to evaluate for prayerwalking. Make certain the area is safe for your group. You may want to recruit additional leadership help to take half your group to explore the other side of the street, to allow more Challengers to be included in the conversation. For the activity "Eye Spy," acquire or create maps of school campuses, neighborhoods, or business districts (you may use any one of the many online mapping sites as a resource). Make copies of the worksheet, "Prayer Questions," following the lesson to distribute to the Challengers.



SCRIPTURE FOCUS:

"After this, the Lord appointed 70 others, and He sent them ahead of Him in pairs to every town and place where He Himself was about to go. He told them: 'The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest'" (Luke 10:1-2).



Who Is My Neighbor?

Use any or all of the following questions as discussion starters. Give the Challengers time to respond to each question. Do not insist that each boy answer the questions. Be sensitive to Challengers who are not Christians.

- What are the names of your next-door neighbors? Can you name everyone in the family?
- How many people living on your block are Christians? Do you know where they go to church?
- Do you know the names of your school's custodial staff? What is the faith of each of your teachers? What do your classmates believe about Jesus?



Eye Spy

Gather Challengers together and announce you are taking a brief field trip. If possible, go outside your church and simply walk down the block of your church campus. Stop in front of some select houses or businesses and lead teens to observe clues to the spiritual condition of the residents or owners.

- Are toys or bikes in the yard, indicating the presence of children?
- Are there any signs, posters, or flags that show the people have come from somewhere else and may be away from family or loved ones?
- Is the home or business neat and tidy or rundown and in need of repair?
- Is there any evidence of the faith of the residents?



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Discuss how prayerwalking is necessary to discover the spiritual needs of others. Share how careful observation is key to directed prayer.

Applying the Prayerwalk Principle

Return to your meeting area and distribute the school/area maps and the worksheets. Arrange the Challengers in small groups of two or three. Have them work through the worksheet together, with teens helping one another to see opportunities and discuss strategies. When the small groups have completed the worksheet, discuss the maps together as a large group. Ask any of the following questions:

- Who are some of the less-obvious people you identified that you can pray for?
- Why do you think you may not have thought to pray for some of the people?
- What difference do you think it would make to these schools, neighborhoods, and businesses if God saved more and more people who lived and worked and frequented these areas?



WHAT NOW?

As you pray for people to be saved, God will answer that prayer. Challenge the boys to start prayer groups at their schools where they pray for teachers, administrators, workers, and students by name for salvation. Lead them to schedule a regular time and place where they will gather to pray. Help teens understand they can meet quietly in the school cafeteria, library, or even hallway to humbly take these important needs to Jesus in prayer. Follow up with Challengers and hold them accountable to maintain this work, encourage them to persevere and invite others to join them.



Lesson By: Bryan McNally

Bryan McNally is a teaching pastor at First Baptist Church in Grapevine, Texas. He leads his church's missions and evangelism teams.

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CHALLENGERS LESSON EVANGELISM

Prayer Questions

- ✓ Who are some of the people who work or live here that you interact with regularly?
- ✓ Who are some of the people who work here behind the scenes?
- ✓ Who are the people who share this space with you, or come here for the same reason you do?
- ✓ What are some things you would like to know about these people that will help you pray for them?
- ✓ What are some things you can do to find out the information you want, so that you pray specific, directed prayers on their behalf?
- ✓ Where at this place can you meet with other Christians to pray for the lost who go/live here?
- ✓ What are the obstacles that are keeping you from starting an intercessory prayer group here? What needs to happen to overcome those obstacles?



GET REAL

Aim: Engage students to make lifestyle choices that affirm their commitment to Christ and create credibility that leads to evangelism.

Outcomes:

- Students will learn about sanctification and how God sets them apart for His purposes.
- Students will learn how to face peer pressures that create compromise and hurt their Christian witness.
- Students will learn the biblical teaching on stumbling blocks.

Materials Needed:

- ✓ Bible
- ✓ Tape
- ✓ Tug of War rope
- ✓ Spiral notebook for each Challenger
- ✓ Pen or pencil
- ✓ Markers or colored pencils

Leader Preparation:

All of us have to make decisions that affect our lives. Challengers have to face difficult decisions every day. This lesson helps students make lifestyle choices that will help them grow in their commitment to Christ. Negative peer pressure is one of the biggest challenges young men face. Start the lesson by playing Tug Of War.

Read 1 Kings 12:1-19. Notice the decision Rehoboam had to make. Consider how different pressures influence the boys you teach. Do they follow their peers or do they choose to follow God's ways?

Be familiar with the story about David Rainer in the "Making Choices" section of this lesson. Be ready to point out to the Challengers how he depends on God and His promises to do evangelism where he serves.

To close, have Challengers begin an individual prayer journal. Tell them the journal is a place they can write their thoughts and prayers on a daily basis. Have them complete the instructions in the Prayer Journal activity.

Close the meeting with prayer for the Challengers and their peers. Pray they will be able to be the witness they are called to be.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS: 1 Kings 12:1-19

Get Real Questions:

Start by asking Challengers the following questions:

- What are some ways your friends or peers get you to do things that go against God's purpose for your life?
- Do you think God has a purpose for your life and if so what is yours?"
- What are some ways that you can live a godly life for Christ that is real?



Tug Of War

For this activity all you need is tape, a rope that is strong enough to play the game, and a space that is large enough to play. Break your Challengers into two even teams. Put a piece of tape on the floor to mark the middle of the rope at the start of the game. Put two more pieces of tape that are exactly the same distance from the middle piece. When a team is pulled over the piece of tape on their side of the middle, they lose. Have the teams grab the rope. On the command, "GO," they try to pull the other team past their mark. After one team wins, reorganize the teams and play again.

After you play the game, explain that many times we face pressure from two or more things. Often we are pressured by peers to do one thing, even when we know God's way is better. Tell them that no matter what pressures they face God can help them live a godly life.



Making Choices

Have Challengers turn to 1 Kings 12:1-19. Have a volunteer read the verses.

After the verses have been read, talk about the story. Rehoboam, as king, had to make a decision. He had to decide to whom he would listen. He had the elders, who had served Solomon, and he had his friends. Both were giving him advice on how to answer the people. Rehoboam chose to follow his peers and the results were devastating! Tell the Challengers that many times we try to do things on our own. However, God saved us when we first believed in Him and we need to look to Him for guidance.

There are many ways that we can live a Christ-centered life! One of the ways is to learn from people who are serving Christ on a day-to-day basis. David Rainer and his family serve as missionaries in Japan. They have to depend on God every day. There are several basic lessons he and his family have learned that help them in their commitment to Christ and evangelism. David says, "First, prayer is foundational. Second, we try to be helpless and available. Finally, because of all the promises of God to save His children, the promise of the Holy Spirit to always be with believers, we do not have to be ashamed of the gospel, but instead we can be confident." When we hear about people who are willing to go to another country to tell others about Christ, we are encouraged to follow God's path for our lives.



CHALLENGERS LESSON EVANGELISM

When we read stories in Scripture like Rehoboam in 1 Kings 12:1-19, we are reminded that we all face pressures in life. The way we react to them should be based on Christ's example and teaching. The only way we can share Christ with others is when we look to God for strength. Missionaries like David Rainer depend on God for guidance in living a godly life and sharing Christ with others.



Prayer Journal

You need a small spiral notebook for each Challenger and something for them to write with. You could also have some markers or colored pencils so they can decorate the first page. Have Challengers write their name and today's date in the front of their journal. Most Challengers like to draw. Have them decorate their prayer journal covers to reflect their individual preferences (Sports teams, talents, etc.). Guide them to set up a section in their journal where they pray specifically for their lost peers.



WHAT NOW?

You can follow up this lesson several ways. Ask the Challengers to bring their prayer journals each week. Tell them that you would love to hear what God is doing in their lives through their journals. You can also have someone come speak about how he answered the call to be a witness for Christ. Encourage Challengers to write in their prayer journals each day.



Lesson By: Brian Spearman

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GOSPEL PRODUCES SALVATIONS

Aim: Engage students in evangelism that results in documented professions of faith.

Outcomes:

- Students will learn how to ask for a decision when sharing Christ.
- Students will learn how to follow up with new Christians about baptism and discipleship.
- Students will learn that they honor God in their obedience to evangelism; not the outcome.

Materials Needed:

- ✓ Mixing bowl
- ✓ Mixing spoon or electric mixer
- ✓ 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- ✓ 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ✓ 1 teaspoon salt
- ✓ 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- ✓ 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- ✓ 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- ✓ 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ✓ 2 large eggs
- ✓ 2 cups (12-oz. pkg.) chocolate chips

Leader Preparation:

A common misunderstanding is that your salvation is all about you. No doubt, when a person is saved, the attention is focused upon what God has done specifically for that person in rescuing him from the inescapable judgment for his sins. Every person rightfully celebrates the promise of heaven and the guarantee of eternal life. While it is appropriate to rejoice over being saved, it would be shortsighted and selfish to assume that God's sole purpose in saving a person is only about that particular person.

In The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), Jesus commands His followers to take the life-changing message of salvation to the world. This is the last command of Jesus before He ascended to heaven following His resurrection. It is of primary importance to every Christian, yet many followers of Jesus treat their own salvation like a spiritual graduation and never take the next step of witnessing to others.

The "Scripture Focus" (Romans 10:9,11,13) is an assurance to both the Christian as well as the non-Christian. For the non-Christian, it is the message of salvation that is available by faith. For the Christian, though, the passage offers the encouraging



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promise that God is still in the business of saving souls. Jesus continues to offer redemption to anyone who will claim God's promises, and He rescues anyone who calls out to Him. God's Holy Spirit continues to go out into the world, overcoming evil and calling people to respond to God's invitation.

There is a lot of talk that America has moved into a "post-Christian" age and that the emerging generations are particularly resistant to the gospel. These claims don't hold up to the evidence of experience though, as teens continue to come to faith in Jesus week-by-week, month-by-month, and year-by-year because of the faithful witnessing of friends, classmates, teammates, and co-workers. The biblical promise is that the Lord will hear the prayer of anyone, regardless of race, gender, age, background, history, or circumstance, who calls out to Him for salvation.

In "Recipe for Witnessing," you will highlight the appeal of the gospel by mixing the ingredients of cookie dough, talking about how delicious the dough is to eat. However, at the end of the presentation, you will delay giving an invitation for the teens to take part in the treat. This is a picture that while the gospel should always be shared it must also be delivered with an invitation for the listener to receive what God offers.

"Leader Says Championships," a new take on "Simon Says," serves as the launching point for a conversation about following through with baptism. While salvation is the work of God alone accomplished fully apart from baptism, all believers are commanded to obey and be baptized as a public witness of their faith in Jesus. Explain the blessings that come from obeying God in this important act of faith.

Finally, in the "What Now?" conclusion of the lesson, it is important to communicate the reality that the blessing of obeying God's command to witness is not merely in seeing people come to faith. The blessing is in the obedience itself. God is glorified when His children submit to His will and share His love freely with others. Whether or not a person becomes a Christian is solely the responsibility of the Lord. However, God has determined to use the faithful witnessing of His obedient children to save the world, one soul at a time.



SCRIPTURE FOCUS:

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved... Now the Scripture says, No one who believes on Him will be put to shame... For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:9,11,13).

Go and Tell

Use any or all of the following questions as discussion starters. Give the Challengers time to respond to each question. Do not insist that each boy answer the questions. Be sensitive to Challengers who are not Christians.

- ➡ What are the names of people who shared the gospel with you or led you to faith in Jesus?
- ➡ How many of you became Christians because you had a conversation with a parent? Maybe a sibling? A coach, teacher, friend?
- ➡ Why do you suppose God decided that His way to save the world would be through people like you and me, by having us talk to one another one person at a time, sharing the gospel?



Recipe for Witnessing

Lay out the ingredients for the cookie dough, and have the Challengers come up and put the ingredients into the large mixing bowl. The whole time of making the dough, be talking about how tasty cookie dough is, how satisfying, and what a treat it is for people who are fortunate enough to enjoy it. Once the dough is finished, show it in the bowl admiringly, but do not give anyone the invitation to sample it. Ask, "What's left to do to enjoy this cookie dough? (Invite people to taste it.)"

Draw parallels between this experience and how Christians often talk about their faith, but fall short because they don't invite their non-believing friends to receive Jesus as Lord. Engage in discussion on reasons why people stop short in witnessing. Close this exercise by distributing portions of the dough for the boys to enjoy.



Leader Says Championships

Tell Challengers now that they've had a taste of something sweet they need to stand to participate in the Leader Says Championships. This is "Simon Says," but play it aggressively, physically, and challenge the boys to keep up and follow directions. Play for 10 minutes, giving creative commands. Congratulate the champion and lead into a conversation regarding baptism.

Help Challengers understand that, like in the game, baptism and discipleship are commands that God tells His children to do. Explain baptism as a symbol of our faith and as a picture of what Jesus did in dying for the sins of the world and being resurrected. Invite boys to share their testimonies of baptism. Encourage them to include baptism as part of their witnessing efforts to others.

Discuss discipleship with Challengers, that it is not just a class but a partnership in following Jesus. Exhort teens to be disciples learning about Jesus and inviting their friends to do the same with them.



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WHAT NOW?

Ask Challengers: “What happens if you witness the best you can, invite friends to come to faith, but the friends don’t do it? Did you fail? Did you disappoint God?”

Remind boys that we witness in obedience to Christ’s command. Salvations are just one of the blessings. Regardless of whether salvations occur, God is pleased every time a personal testimony is shared of His goodness and mercy. Challenge boys to find an opportunity in the week ahead to tell their own story to someone new and come back with a report of the experience.



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