

LESSON 6: SHARE THE NEWS

This includes:

- 1. LEADER PREPARATION**
- 2. LESSON GUIDE**

1. LEADER PREPARATION**LESSON OVERVIEW**

Deciding to follow Jesus is life-changing—for eternity. Our loving, forgiving Savior wants to be in relationship with us forever. But many people still don't know about Jesus' love and the eternal life he offers. We have the amazing honor and responsibility of sharing that good news with others. This lesson will help students understand that Jesus calls them to tell others about him.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. **WHAT:** Christians have the opportunity to tell other people about Jesus and what he's done for us.
2. **WHY:** To reach people who don't yet know him, Jesus works through people who already follow him.
3. **HOW:** When teenagers realize what a privilege it is to share their faith, they can do so with confident boldness.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

SECONDARY SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 3:15

TEACHING PREP

**LEADER
TIP**

Use this short overview to prepare for your lesson. While you may not want to convey this information word-for-word with your group, you'll want to absorb it as you prepare to lead.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 and 1 Peter 3:15.

Paul wrote two letters to Christians in the city of Corinth. Although these believers were exposed to challenges of idolatry and immorality, they were maturing in their faith. Paul reminds them about God's truth and also defends himself against false teachers who said untrue things about him.

Paul passionately reminds us about the source of our faith—and the role that Jesus calls us to play in the world. Paul makes it crystal clear that God worked through Jesus to reconcile us to himself, and now we have the privilege of telling others how they can be reconciled, too. Paul emphasizes that Jesus' followers are called to be his representatives in a broken world. By being ambassadors of our faith, we point people to Jesus and the salvation he offers.

First Peter addresses Christians who were being persecuted for their faith. Peter rallies them—and us—to stand firm for the truth and for Jesus. Even though most modern-day Christians won't have to risk our lives for our faith, we still may experience earthly pain because of it. Jesus simply asks us to trust him above all else and to answer his call to tell others about him.

THE BEFORE & AFTER [OPTIONAL]

TEXTS OR TWEETS

Send one or both of these messages to your students prior to your meeting. As with the rest of the curriculum, edit these questions to fit the needs of your ministry.

- *Do you know what special privilege Jesus gives you? Come find out what it means for your life!*
- *What's the best news you've heard recently? Share your answer—and bring a friend!*

PARENT EMAIL

Send this email to parents following the lesson to encourage them to continue the conversation at home. Feel free to edit and customize the email to fit your ministry needs.

Dear Parents,

Our series “My New Life With Jesus” continued this week as we discussed sharing our faith with other people. After students tried to do some activities while blindfolded, we talked about people who are spiritually blind because they don't yet know Jesus.

By studying 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 and 1 Peter 3:15, we talked about how Jesus calls and equips his followers to share the hope we have in him. We focused on the privilege of being Jesus' ambassadors so other people can be reconciled to him.

This week, please take a few minutes to chat with your teenager about our lesson, to help cement the teachings. These conversation-starters are a great place to begin:

- *How does it feel to be an ambassador for Jesus? What excites you the most about that? What frightens you the most about it?*
- *Who have you talked to about Jesus, and how did you bring up the subject?*
- *On a scale of 1 to 7 (with 1 being “not ready at all” and 7 being “can't wait to talk about my faith”), where do you rank yourself on being ready to tell a friend about Jesus? Why?*
- *How can we become more comfortable sharing our faith stories with other people? I'd love to help you prepare to share your faith—and I want to be ready too!*

Thanks for your prayerful partnership with our ministry. Have a fantastic week!

LESSON 6: SHARE THE NEWS

2. LESSON GUIDE

GETTING THINGS STARTED

LEADER
TIP

For each student, you'll need one blindfold, a piece of paper, and a pen or pencil.

Welcome your students and invite them into your meeting area. Open in prayer, and then lead students in this opening activity:

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Today's lesson is about sharing your faith, or helping your friends "see" the truth you can see about Jesus. First, let's try an experiment. Grab a blindfold, a piece of paper, and a pen or pencil. Then sit down with a bit of space between you and the next person.*

Allow time.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Set the paper and pen in front of you, and then put on the blindfold. Once it's on, pick up your paper and pen. (Pause.) Now, without peeking, draw an animal—any kind you want. When you're done, put your paper and pen down in front of you. (Pause.) Next, take off a shoe and gently toss it about six feet in front of you. Then take three steps from your spot, turn around once, and return to your paper. (Pause.) Now find your shoe and put it back on. (Pause.) Pick up your paper and pen, circle your animal, and write your name on the paper, in the top right. (Pause.) You can take off the blindfold now.*

ASK:

- *Share your picture with us! What did you draw, and how does it look?*
- *How well did you do finding your shoe?*
- *What would be the most challenging aspects of being blind?*
- *Who helped you first "see" the truth about Jesus and his love?*
- *How does "spiritual blindness" compare to physical blindness—which is worse, and why?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Being physically blind comes with challenges. But an even worse condition is spiritual blindness. That's what people experience when they don't have a relationship with Jesus. They don't know who he is or what kind of difference he makes in a life. Jesus' followers have the privilege of helping other people know about the hope and life Jesus gives.*

TEACHING POINTS

LEADER
TIP

Use the Teaching Points to help students capture the essence of each lesson with more discussion and less lecture-style teaching. Remember: All throughout these lessons, it's up to you to choose (1) how many questions you use and (2) the wording of the main points—keep ours, or change the wording to make it clearer for your audience.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 together as a group. Consider dividing verses among your students so several people have a chance to read.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *These are exciting Bible verses—kind of a personal job description from Jesus. Let's unpack these verses so we understand more about the opportunity we have to tell other people about him.*

1. YOU'RE AN AMBASSADOR FOR JESUS

ASK:

- *Most countries have an American embassy, staffed by an ambassador. How would you define what an ambassador does?*
- *The Bible says that as Christians, we have the privilege of being ambassadors for Jesus—actually representing him. What's one way you have been Jesus' ambassador to others?*
- *Verse 20 says Jesus is "making his appeal through us" as his ambassadors. What do you think that means?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Jesus cares so much about each of us that he died for our sins. He cleared the way for his followers to have a personal relationship with him. Sin interfered with our relationship with God, but Jesus restored it. Now he wants us to help other people experience that, too.*

2. YOU HELP RECONCILE PEOPLE FOR JESUS

ASK:

- *Think about a time you had a disagreement or fight with a friend. What was that experience like?*
- *Reconciliation is simply making a relationship right again—fixing what's broken and removing the separation. When you think about the last disagreement you resolved with a friend, what emotions did you feel during and after the reconciliation?*
- *Before we know Jesus and believe in him, we're separated from God. Who helped you begin a relationship with Jesus? And how?*
- *We all know people who don't yet know Jesus—what's a great first step we could take to help them know about the joy of following him?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Telling other people about Jesus is a privilege he has entrusted to you. You may not feel 100 percent confident about doing this yet, and that's okay! Jesus can work through you anyway—even if it's by how you live. Continue to be an example for Jesus, and keep yourself open to share what you know. Remember that Jesus is always with you, giving you strength.*

Read 1 Peter 3:15 together as a group. Because this passage is so brief, consider having students read the verses several times, from different translations of the Bible.

3. YOU CAN BE PREPARED TO SHARE ABOUT JESUS

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *This Bible verse reminds us to be prepared to give the reason for our hope in Jesus. That doesn't mean you'll have all the answers about your faith. But because of Jesus' gifts of forgiveness and eternal life, he has changed your heart—and he wants you to be ready to tell others about that change, too.*



SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Form groups of two or three. In your group, take turns telling when and how you began a relationship with Jesus. Be brief, but include details about who was involved and what motivated you. After each person's story, allow time for questions and answers.*

Bring everyone back together to discuss the following questions.

EXTRA DISCUSSION [OPTIONAL]

ASK:

- *What's something new you learned about one of your group members?*
- *Why is it important to know and practice telling your faith story?*
- *First Peter 3:15 says we should give the reason for our hope with gentleness and respect. Why is that significant?*

LIVING IT OUT

ASK:

- *Which of these is most challenging for you: being an ambassador, being a reconciler, or being prepared to share your story?*
- *What's one step you can take this week to grow in that area?*
- *Think of someone you'd like to tell about Jesus. What do you need most from Jesus to make that happen (courage, boldness, opportunity, etc.)?*

SUMMARY

Provide a quick summary or take-home challenge based on (1) this lesson's content, (2) the dialogue that took place today, (3) your understanding of the issues and struggles your teenagers are facing, and (4) the big picture of your youth ministry and what your leadership team wants accomplished with the teaching and discussion time.

FOR KEEPS [MEMORY VERSE]

Encourage and/or challenge your teenagers to memorize the Scripture below.

"Worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it" (1 Peter 3:15).