

SECTION

4.7

Witnessing



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Funny Story

What You'll Need: Nothing

STEP 1: Ask kids to think of a funny family story. Have two or three share their stories as time permits.

STEP 2: Ask the following questions:

- Why do you like to tell that story?
- Why is it special and unique to your family?
- How do you feel when others respond to your story?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- Sharing a story gives us the opportunity to tell others something about us or our family.
- Others can get to know us and our family better when we share or give evidence to the things that take place in our family, such as these funny stories.
- God asks us to give evidence or to tell what He has done for us. When we give evidence to what God has done for us, others can learn about God and see the truth that they need to accept Jesus as their Savior.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of witnessing with words, actions, and lifestyle.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: Evidence Given

Notes:

What You'll Need: Nothing

PREP: Ahead of time, ask a leader or special guest to answer some interview questions about how Jesus Christ has impacted his or her life.

STEP 1: Introduce your guest to the group, and explain that today's lesson is about witnessing to others about what Jesus Christ has done in each of our lives.

Ask your guest the following questions:

- Could you share when you realized that you wanted Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior?
- How has belonging to Jesus changed your life?
- How can others see a difference in your life now?
- Why is it important to share what God did for you with others?

STEP 2: Share these concepts:

- Our guest witnessed to us about how he or she accepted Jesus as Savior. Our guest gave evidence to us of what Christ did for him or her.
- Our guest is different now that he or she is saved, and others will be able to see that difference in him or her.
- Our guest is a witness by his or her testimony (words) AND lifestyle.

STEP 3: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of witnessing with words, actions and lifestyle.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Evidence of a Changed Life!

What You'll Need: Bibles

STEP 1: Ask three volunteers to act out a passage of Scripture as you read it. Assign the following roles to the volunteers: Peter, John, and the lame man. Read Acts 3:1-10 slowly, offering encouragement and suggestions to the kids who are acting out the passage.

STEP 2: Briefly share these key concepts from Acts 3:1-10.

- Peter and John had a changed life because of what Christ did for them. They left their former jobs and followed God's command to be witnesses of Jesus to others.
- They offered the lame man something way better than the money that He wanted. Through the power of Jesus Christ, the lame man was healed, and he immediately believed and was saved.
- The lame man had a changed life. Not only could he walk, he praised God and shared the good news with others.
- Others saw the evidence of a changed life in the lame man, and they were amazed!

STEP 3: Ask the following questions:

- Why do you think Paul and John were so excited to give evidence of Christ to others?
- What did the lame man do that showed he believed in Jesus?
- How do you think the lame man felt?

STEP 4: Remind kids that while they can't go out and heal a lame person, they can witness just as good as Paul and John.

Share these key concepts:

- We witness to others in our words AND our lifestyle. When our speech, actions, and

treatment of others give evidence to the Holy Spirit's ministry in our lives, others recognize the evidence of a changed life through Christ (Galatians 5:22-23, Matthew 5:16, 1 Timothy 4:12).

- As others recognize the evidence of Christ in our lives, they, too, will want to choose to follow Him. When they accept Jesus as Savior, their excitement and joy causes others to notice, and then more people see the evidence of Christ.
- When we grow in our faith and our relationship with God, we will live a life that pleases Him. We will have love, joy, peace, compassion and patience (Galatians 5:22-23). As others see the evidence of what Christ did for us, our lights shine brightly for God, and others will be drawn to Him (Matthew 5:16).

STEP 5: Ask kids to think of one person to whom they can be a witness this week. Give kids a moment to pray silently, asking the Holy Spirit to give them courage and opportunities to be a witnesses to that person this week. Then close the lesson in prayer.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 2: Example to Follow

What You'll Need: Bibles, Example to Follow Handout, paper, marker, masking tape, beanbag (optional: use a sandwich size plastic bag filled with something if you cannot find a beanbag)

PREP: Tape five large squares on the floor of your space, arranged in a cluster (hopscotch style). Print out the handout pages, and tape each one inside a square. Tape a line several feet away, for the kid with the beanbag to stand behind.

STEP 1: Explain that today's lesson is about witnessing, and you will be playing a game where you will need volunteers.

Share these key concepts:

- Giving evidence to what Christ has done in our lives is known as witnessing.
- We witness when we tell others what Christ has done for us through salvation (Romans 5:1, 6-10).
- We also witness to others in our lifestyle. When our speech, actions, and treatment of others give evidence to the Holy Spirit's ministry in our lives, others recognize the evidence of a changed life through Christ (Galatians 5:22-23).

STEP 2: Tell kids that Timothy is a perfect example of someone who was a witness to others.

Share these fast facts about Timothy with the kids.

- Timothy was like a son to Paul (1 Timothy 1:2).
- Timothy was taught the truth of the Bible from an early age and had a sincere faith (2 Timothy 1:5).
- Paul told Timothy to not be ashamed to tell others about Christ (2 Timothy 1:8).
- Many Bible teachers believe that Timothy was much younger than other pastors of the early churches.

STEP 3: Read 1 Timothy 4:12. Explain the areas in which Timothy was to be a witness: speech, conduct, love, faith, purity. Then have the kids line up behind the line that you taped, and take turns throwing the beanbag towards the squares. Whatever square their beanbag lands in, they need to think of one way someone could be an example that relates. For example, if they land their beanbag in the speech square, they can say that someone can be a witness by not saying mean words about other people.

STEP 4: After you have finished a few rounds, thank your volunteers.

Then share these key concepts:

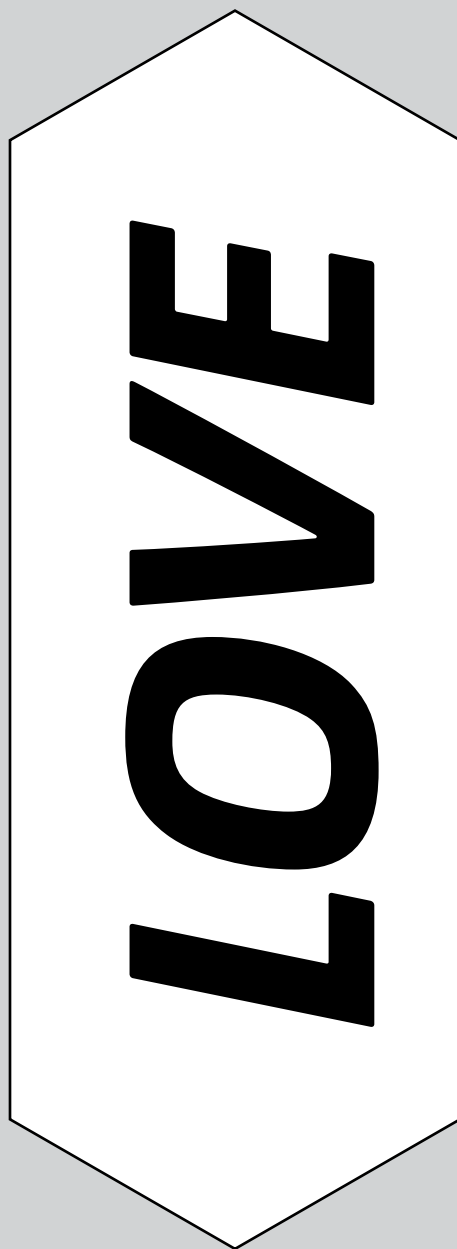
- As others recognize the evidence of Christ in our lives, they, too, will want to choose to follow Him. When they accept Jesus as Savior, their excitement and joy causes others to notice, and then more people see the evidence of Christ.
- When we grow in our faith and our relationship with God, we will live a life that pleases him. We will have love, joy, peace, compassion and patience (Galatians 5:22-23). As others see the evidence of what Christ did for us, our lights shine brightly for God, and others will be drawn to Him (Matthew 5:16).

STEP 5: Follow up with the Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

Notes:

SPEECH

CONDUCT



FAITH

