

# SHARING YOUR FAITH



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## BONUS LESSON

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2020 INTERNATIONAL PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH

# SHARING YOUR FAITH

## PREPARATION GUIDE

### BONUS LESSON - ELEMENTARY

This week you will teach the children about how they can share their faith. This is one of our greatest privileges as Christians – the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus! Before they tell others about Jesus, we must help them articulate what they believe and why they believe it. Today we remind kids that the “good news” is that Jesus came to earth, died on the cross for our sins, and then rose from the dead.

### WEEK 1

**LESSON MATERIALS:** | Small Plastic Balls (approximately 20) | Buckets (2 per class) | Blindfolds (2 per class) | Timer | *We Can Share Our Faith Calendar* Activity Page (1 per child) | Colored pencils | Scissors | Glue | Various Craft Items | *Family Guide* Activity Page (1 per family) | *Memory Methods* Activity Page (1 per family) |

# SHARING YOUR FAITH

## BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 8:26-39 (ICB)

## BIG IDEA

I can tell others about Jesus

## MEMORY VERSE

“Jesus said to the followers, ‘Go everywhere in the world. Tell the Good News to everyone.’”

**Mark 16:15 (ICB)**

## LESSON MATERIALS

| Small Plastic Balls | Buckets | Blindfolds | Timer | *We Can Share Our Faith Calendar* Activity Page  
| Colored Pencils | Scissors | Glue | Various Craft Items | *Family Guide* Activity Page |  
*Memory Methods* Activity Page |

## GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

1. Tell me about a time when something exciting happened to you.
2. When that happened, did you want to tell others about it? Why or why not?
3. Who did you tell?

## WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Today you will teach the children about how they can share their faith. Before they tell others about Jesus, we must help them articulate what they believe and why they believe it. Worship helps with this process when you choose songs that focus on the truth of who Christ is. Praising God also strengthens and renews their faith as they sing words that remind them of the gospel—the Good News.

We recommend singing “We Believe” by YancyNotNancy with today’s lesson.



HAVE THE CHILDREN HELP YOU CREATE A LIST OF THEIR FAVORITE WORSHIP SONGS. THEN, USE A SERVICE LIKE YOUTUBE OR SPOTIFY TO CREATE A PLAYLIST YOU CAN SHARE WITH FAMILIES SO THEY CAN PRACTICE THE SONGS AND WORSHIP TOGETHER AT HOME.

## PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather the children for prayer.

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** *Dear God, thank You for loving us enough to send Your Son, Jesus, to Earth to become a*

*man and die on the Cross for us. We believe that by trusting in Jesus, we will be forgiven and adopted into Your family. Holy Spirit, please help us live out this truth and courageously share the gospel with others so they can become part of God's family too. We love You. Amen.*

## REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

**BACKGROUND:** Say: "Today, we will talk about one of our greatest privileges as Christians – the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus! Many people believe Jesus existed and accept that He was a good man [or prophet]. Most of us would include ourselves in those groups. However, we also believe Jesus was more than a good man. We believe He was and is God.

"Jesus left His home in Heaven and became a baby. Can you imagine it? God became a baby! When you were a baby, how much power did you have? [Allow for responses.] Babies have no control over anything. Do you see how incredible it is that Jesus came to Earth as a baby? Christ, the King of Heaven, gave up everything to come to Earth to save us.

"Jesus grew into a man who willingly died on the Cross so we could be forgiven of all our sins. Then, through the power that only God has, Jesus rose from the dead so that we can be adopted into His family and live with Him forever. That is fantastic news, and we call this good news the Gospel!

"After Jesus rose from the dead, He met with His disciples and friends for forty days. He did this so they would understand how His death and resurrection could change their lives. Before He returned to heaven, He gave His disciples some instructions. They were to tell others the good news about Him [remember, we call this "good news" the gospel] wherever they went, whether in their hometowns or faraway places. Christ's command was not just for these first Christians, however. Jesus wants all His disciples [this includes us!] to share the gospel so that others will hear the truth and know Jesus for themselves. Today's story is about one of Jesus' disciples who obeyed this command. I can't wait to share this with you, but first, let's play a game!"

There is no puzzle piece for today's Bonus Lesson.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Before someone took the time to share the gospel with us, we were spiritually blind - we couldn't 'see' the truth. Do you remember who shared the gospel with you for the first time? [Allow for responses.] That's awesome! Now, let's play a game designed to prepare our minds and hearts for today's lesson."

## ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Small Plastic Balls (approximately 20) | Buckets (2 per class) | Blindfolds (2 per class) | Timer |

**GAME GOAL:** To shoot the most balls into the team bucket

### HOW TO PLAY:

1. Divide the students into two teams.

2. Have both teams line up several feet behind their team bucket.
3. Blindfold one player from each team and give them several (up to 10) small plastic balls.
4. The blindfolded player from each team will attempt to shoot as many balls as possible into their team's bucket in 30 seconds.
5. Record the number of balls in each bucket. (One ball = 1 point)
6. Allow all players to have a turn. The team with the most points at the end of the round wins.
7. If time permits, play again, but this time allow the players to shoot without blindfolds. Discuss how the outcome is different based on whether or not they can see.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Wow! Everyone did a great job with our game! Making your balls into the bucket while blindfolded was tough, wasn't it? It was much easier when you could use your eyes! That's because, without the blindfold, you could see where the bucket was. In other words, you 'saw' the truth. And seeing the truth makes all the difference!"

## LEARN – 15 MINUTES

Say, "So many people are blind to the truth of who Jesus is because no one has ever shared the gospel with them. The same was once true for you and me. Someone had to tell us the good news for us to understand who Jesus is and what He has done for us. Today, we're going to read a story about a man named Phillip who shared his faith with a man who was then changed forever. Let's open our Bibles and read together." Read Acts 8:26-39 (ICB).

**<sup>26</sup> An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip. The angel said, "Get ready and go south. Go to the road that leads down to Gaza from Jerusalem—the desert road." <sup>27</sup> So Philip got ready and went. On the road he saw a man from Ethiopia, a eunuch. He was an important officer in the service of Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians. He was responsible for taking care of all her money. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and <sup>28</sup> now he was on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot and reading from the book of Isaiah, the prophet. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit said to Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran toward the chariot. He heard the man reading from Isaiah, the prophet. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> He answered, "How can I understand? I need someone to explain it to me!" Then he invited Philip to climb in and sit with him. <sup>32</sup> The verse of Scripture that he was reading was this: "He was like a sheep being led to be killed. He was quiet, as a sheep is quiet while its wool is being cut. He said nothing. <sup>33</sup> He was shamed and was treated unfairly. He died without children to continue his family. His life on earth has ended." <sup>34</sup> The officer said to Philip, "Please tell me, who is the prophet talking about? Is he talking about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Philip began to speak. He started with this same Scripture and told the man the Good News about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> While they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. The officer said, "Look! Here is water! What is stopping me from being baptized?" <sup>37</sup> [Philip answered, "If you believe with all your heart, you can." The officer said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] <sup>38</sup> Then the officer commanded the chariot to stop. Both Philip and the officer went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away; the officer never saw him again. The officer continued on his way home, full of joy.**

Say, "Wow! What an incredible story of how Phillip shared the gospel with this man who served the Queen of Ethiopia. Ethiopia is a country far from Israel, but Phillip didn't have to travel to Ethiopia to share the good news about Jesus. He was just walking down a road near the city where he lived when he met this man. God spoke to Phillip and told him to go near the man's chariot. As he got closer, Phillip realized the man was reading from the Old Testament about how a man would suffer and die for the sins of everyone

in the world. The man from Ethiopia was confused about what he was reading. He needed someone to explain it to him! "



BE SURE TO POINT OUT THAT THE SPIRIT SPOKE TO PHILLIP, TOLD HIM TO STAND BY THE ETHIOPIAN'S CHARIOT AND PHILLIP OBEYED HIM. TELL THE KIDS THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKS TO US TODAY, GUIDES US, AND HELPS US TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS BE WILLING TO LISTENING AND OBEY.

Say, "Phillip was ready! He explained that those words were about Jesus. Philip shared the same good news he had heard from other disciples. After believing in Jesus, Phillip was ready to share his faith with this man. Phillip helped the man see what God's Word means, and this man gladly put his faith in Christ! He was even ready to be baptized that very day!"

Ask, "I wonder how that man felt when he suddenly understood the gospel. Do you think Phillip was excited about sharing the gospel with this man? Do you think it took courage for him to share his faith? Why or why not?" (Allow for responses.)

Say, "The Bible does not tell us what happened to this man after he heard the gospel. However, the Ethiopian Church records that the man returned to his home country and shared his new faith in Jesus with others. The people there heard and accepted the gospel, and today you will find many churches and Christians in Ethiopia! As far as we can tell, all of this started because Phillip obediently shared the gospel with this one man who likely became the first missionary to Africa. It's incredible to think about what God can do if we obey Jesus and share our faith!"



USE THE CHILDREN'S NAMES OFTEN. FOR EXAMPLE, ADD A CHILD'S NAME TO YOUR TEACHING: "CAROLINE, WOULD YOU BELIEVE THIS ETHIOPIAN MAN MAY HAVE BEEN THE FIRST MISSIONARY TO AFRICA?" INCORPORATING A CHILD'S NAME INTO YOUR TEACHING CAN HELP STUDENTS REFOCUS AND FEEL SEEN. ALWAYS ATTEMPT TO DRAW A CHILD BACK INTO YOUR LESSON IN AN ENCOURAGING MANNER BEFORE NEGATIVELY ADDRESSING BEHAVIOR.

Say, "Sometimes, we feel like we have to say all the right things and do everything just right when we share our faith. But let me ask you a question. Have you ever been in a musical or a play? If so, you may have been given a script and lines to memorize. Some people enjoy memorizing lines and performing for others. Other people find it stressful, which makes them avoid that kind of activity all together. But sharing our faith isn't supposed to be like memorizing lines and performing in a play. Sharing the gospel shouldn't stress us out. Instead, it is more like telling a friend about someone you love. That's how Phillip shared Jesus with the Ethiopian man. You don't have to sound like someone else when sharing the gospel. Your faith story with Jesus is YOURS!"

Ask, "Have you ever shared the gospel with someone? Tell us about it. What thoughts or feelings do you experience when you think of telling one of your non-Christian friends about Jesus?" (Allow for responses.)

Say, “One thing to remember about sharing our faith is that we do it first by living so that others see how the gospel changes our life. This begins by showing the love of Jesus as we treat everyone with respect and kindness. This should go right along with what we say to others when we are sharing our faith.

“In our story, the Ethiopian man heard the gospel and quickly accepted the truth of Christ. Sometimes people respond immediately, just as this man did, but sometimes they do not. Some people will watch your life before they listen to you speak about Jesus. They want to see how you treat others and what kind of choices you make. It may take a long time before they want to hear what you say. We don’t need to feel rushed or stressed about sharing the gospel. Instead, listen for God’s voice, and trust that He is working. He will help you. God desperately loves you and your unsaved friends and family members.

“Ask God to help you love as He does, and you’ll find that people want to be around you and are willing to listen to what you have to say about Jesus. So, remember, there are two essential parts to sharing your faith. First, we love others like Jesus does – with kindness, respect, and patience. Then, we share the good news about Jesus and ask them if they’d like to know Him too.”

## JOINING TO JESUS

JESUS WAS CONSTANTLY TELLING OTHERS ABOUT GOD. THIS WAS A JOYFUL THING FOR JESUS BECAUSE HE LOVED HIS FATHER VERY MUCH AND KNEW HIM VERY WELL. WE CAN ALSO HAVE A CLOSE AND LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD BECAUSE JESUS MADE A WAY FOR US WHEN HE DIED ON THE CROSS. WHEN WE STAY CLOSE TO GOD, WE ARE CHANGED INTO LOVING, AND KIND PEOPLE AS THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES US MORE LIKE JESUS.

### DISCUSS – 10 MINUTES

Say, “Today’s lesson was amazing! Let’s talk about it together.”

**1. What is the gospel?**

RESPONSE: It is the “good news” about Jesus!

**2. How is the gospel “good news” for the Ethiopian man (and for us)?**

RESPONSE: Jesus is God, and He willingly became a man who died on the Cross to save us from our sins. He rose from the dead, defeating death so we can live forever in Heaven!

**3. How did the Ethiopian man hear the gospel?**

RESPONSE: He heard it from Jesus’ follower, Phillip.

**4. What was the Ethiopian man’s response to that “good news?”**

RESPONSE: He believed in Jesus and was baptized immediately! We also believe that he shared his faith when he returned to Ethiopia.

**5. How did you hear the Gospel?**

RESPONSE: Answers will vary.

**6. How can we share the Gospel with others?**

RESPONSE: Answers will vary.



## 7. What did you learn about God in today's lesson?

Response: God wants me to share the gospel. God will help me share the gospel. God is loving. God is kind, etc.

**TRANSITION:** Great discussion! Now, let's work on a craft that will help us remember our story and share our faith with others!

## RESPOND — 10 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | *We Can Share Our Faith Calendar* Activity Page (1 per child) | Colored Pencils | Scissors | Glue | Various Craft Items (stickers, pom poms, dot markers, pipe cleaners, etc.) |

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each student a copy of the *We Can Share Our Faith Calendar* Activity Page. Make the colored pencils, scissors, glue, and craft items available to everyone.
2. Explain that they will decorate a special calendar to help the children and their families be intentional about sharing the gospel and love of Jesus with people they know.
3. Ask students to place their calendars face down on the table. On the blank side of the paper, give them a few minutes to think of people with whom they'd like to share their faith. Ask the children to write down those individuals' names.
4. Have the students color and decorate their calendars with the available items.
5. Explain that they will take these calendars home along with the *Family Guide* Activity Page and the *Memory Methods* Activity Page.

Say, "You have done a great job on your calendars. I hope this will help you and your family be prayerful and intentional about sharing your faith with your friends and family who don't know Jesus." If you plan on using the calendar with your family, too, share your plan with the children.

## MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Today, we are learning a verse that reminds us that **we can share our faith in Jesus!** It's a short verse, but we only have one week to learn it, so let's get going!"

**Jesus** [make sign language for "Jesus"] **said to the followers, "Go everywhere** [point index finger ahead] **in the world** [make a large circle shape with your hands]. **Tell** [cup your hands to your mouth as if shouting] **the Good News** [put two thumbs up] **to everyone** [point to several people in the class]. **Mark 16:15 (ICB)**

**Challenge:** Once you have said the verse together a few times, continue practicing with silly voices. Have the children suggest voices or use some of our favorites: robot, giant, British accent, squeaky mouse, baby, and monster.

## REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Today, we learned about a man named Phillip who bravely shared his faith. By obeying Jesus, Phillip changed the Ethiopian's life forever, AND that man returned home and shared the gospel with others. Their lives were changed too. Remember, it is ok if we don't see instant results when we share our faith. The important thing is to follow Jesus and obey the Holy Spirit as Phillip did and to keep sharing our faith and the love of Jesus anytime we have the opportunity."

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** *Thank You, Father, for giving us salvation and eternal life through Jesus. This is truly "good news!" Please help us share this wonderful truth with others so they can also experience the truth and live in freedom. Show us the people who need Your love, and help us share it with boldness and kindness. We love You so much! Amen.*

## RELEASE —

**MATERIALS:** | *Family Guide* Activity Page (1 per family) | *Memory Methods* Activity Pages (1 per family) |

If there is extra time, replay the game, finish the craft, or continue working on the memory verse. When parents or caregivers arrive, give them a copy of the *Family Guide* Activity Page and the *Memory Methods* Activity Page and explain that it is a resource to help their family intentionally share the love of Jesus with others.

# WE CAN SHARE OUR FAITH

MONTH: \_\_\_\_\_

WHO:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

HOW:

Do a Kind Deed

Invite to Play

Invite for a meal/sit with them at Lunchtime

Share Something Jesus has done for You

Other Ideas:

Give Encouragement (verbal or written)

Help a Specific Need



MONTH: \_\_\_\_\_

WHO:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

HOW:

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Invite for a meal/sit with them at Lunchtime

Share Something Jesus has done for You

Other Ideas:

Give Encouragement (verbal or written)

Help a Specific Need



# WE CAN SHARE OUR FAITH

## Family Guide

**Dear Parents/Caregivers,**

This week we learned about the importance of sharing our faith in Christ. We talked about how the gospel is good news. Because of Jesus, we are offered forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life. Our memory verse comes from Mark 16:15, and it's Jesus' command for His followers to go everywhere and tell the good news to everyone. Because we are Jesus' disciples, this command is for us too! So, we are sending a couple of special resources home today.

We hope that our Rooted families will joyfully teach their children to share the gospel AND grow in becoming families who enthusiastically share Christ's abundant love. You will need the Holy Spirit to transform your hearts, so begin by praying that God will give your family HIS love for unsaved family, friends, and neighbors. Our hope is that these resources will help your family become a family that shares the good news of Jesus on a daily basis.

### **WE CAN SHARE OUT FAITH CALENDAR**

The first resource is a faith-sharing planning calendar for your family. We encourage you to use this calendar to plan how your family can share your faith with friends and family members who do not know Jesus.

In class this week, your child wrote down a list of names. These names represent people they would like to share their faith with. We hope each person in your family will add names to this list. Then, together, decide "WHO" you will focus on each month. After you choose who you plan to intentionally share the love of Christ with each month, pray and talk about "HOW" God wants you to do that. We've offered a few suggestions, but there's additional space to include your family's unique and creative ideas.

### **WE CAN SHARE OUT FAITH MEMORY METHODS**

You can give your children added confidence in sharing Jesus by teaching them simple methods of evangelism. We've compiled some of our favorites. We do believe that sharing the gospel is better when it flows from our personal relationship with Christ and we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us, but these methods are a good starting point for kids.

Finally, be sure to take time to share your testimony with your child. We believe this will make these gospel-sharing projects more meaningful. Children need to hear how their parents came to Christ. We also hope that with these resources and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, your family will make it a part of your lifestyle to share your faith with others.

With you on this journey,

*Family Guide Activity Page*

# WE CAN SHARE OUR FAITH

## Memory Methods

**“Jesus said to the followers, ‘Go everywhere in the world. Tell the Good News to everyone.’” Mark 16:15**

1. **Gospel Colors:** Teach children to share the gospel by connecting colors to different parts of God’s story. Once they learn the colors, they can use this tool in a variety of ways. The five basic colors are:
  - **Yellow** - Represents Heaven, the place Jesus is preparing for us.
  - **Black** - Represents our sin, for we all sin and fall short of God’s glory and holiness.
  - **Red** - Represents Jesus’ blood that paid for our sins.
  - **White** - Represents Christ’s forgiveness that He freely gives if we ask.
  - **Green** - Represents our growth in Christ to become more and more like Him.

Wordless Books, Wordless Book Paper Airplanes, Salvation Bracelets, and Backpack Message Pulls are examples of methods that utilize the “gospel colors.” An online search will provide these resources and more. Because most of these ideas involve making a craft, make these together and then discuss which ones they would be most comfortable utilizing.

2. **The Gospel in Your Hands:** We appreciate this gospel-sharing method for its simplicity and accessibility. (You are never without your fingers and hands!) Instead of colors, the children will connect parts of God’s story with simple hand actions:
  - **Thumbs** - Reminds us that each of us have sinned including “me.” (Point to yourself with your thumbs.)
  - **“X” Index Fingers** - Reminds us of the cost for our sin, which is death. (Cross your two index fingers to make an “X.”)
  - **Cross Index Fingers** - Reminds us that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and took our place. (Turn your index fingers from the “X” position to make a cross.)
  - **2 Hands Together** - Remind us that if we confess our sins and believe in Jesus, we will be saved. (Make praying hands.)
  - **2 Hands Move Upward** - Reminds us that one day we will live forever in Heaven with Jesus. (Move your praying hands toward heaven.)

**3. Romans Road:** Older children can be taught specific Bible passages to help them understand the gospel and share it with others. The Romans Road does this by going through verses in Romans that outline the gospel. You can resources online that will help you and your family learn The Roman's Road. Here are the primary texts:

- **Romans 3:23** - All Have Sinned
- **Romans 6:23a** - The Cost of Sin is Death
- **Romans 5:8** - Christ Died for Our Sin
- **Romans 6:23b** - Christ's Gift of Eternal Life
- **Romans 10:9-10** - Confess and Believe = Salvation

**4. Family Hospitality:** Talk with your children about how you can love your neighbors and friends by welcoming them into your home and your lives. Be assured that God has placed specific people in your lives for a purpose. This is a great way to share the gospel with your friends, family and neighbors.