

SHARING JESUS WITH OTHERS

Lesson 1: Telling People About Jesus

This includes:

1. Leader Preparation
2. Lesson Guide

1. LEADER PREPARATION

LESSON OVERVIEW

The decision to follow Jesus is the biggest choice we can ever make in life. But more than just following Jesus, we're also called to share Jesus with others. This lesson will look at God's Word to help students understand why they are called to share Jesus with others. It will also help them see what Scripture says happens when we share our faith.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. WHAT: Sharing Jesus with others is something that God wants every follower of Christ to do.
2. WHY: As teenagers share Jesus with others, they follow Christ's example, bring hope to the hopeless, and grow in their own relationship with God.
3. HOW: Your students will examine how the Bible calls them to share Jesus with others, and they will discuss the importance of sharing about Jesus.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 4:1-5

SECONDARY SCRIPTURES

Matthew 4:19; 28:18-20

TEACHING PREP

The short overview below is designed to help you prepare for your lesson. While you may not want to convey this information word-for-word with your teenagers, you'll definitely want to refer to it as you lead.

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5.

This passage introduces students to an interesting idea. The idea is that simply following Jesus isn't all that Christ-followers are called to do.



LEADER
TIP



God has given us a ministry, and that ministry is to work at telling others the Good News of Jesus. The Bible doesn't say that it always will be easy, but we are called to press on for the sake of God's kingdom.

As students read the Scriptures that go with this week's lesson, they will begin to understand why they are called to share Jesus with others. They will also consider how God goes with them in this journey, and that there are things that they need to learn if they are going to be effective in sharing Jesus.

THE BEFORE & AFTER [OPTIONAL]

Text Message Questions

We've provided a couple of different text message questions to send out to your students prior to your meeting. Feel free to use one or both of the questions below. As with the rest of the curriculum, edit these questions to fit the needs of your ministry

- When was the last time you shared Jesus with someone? Tell the group about it tonight.
- What's the best thing Jesus has done in your life? Come ready to share the answer with all of us tonight.

Parent Email

We've provided you with an email below that you can send to your parents following the lesson. Our hope is to encourage parents to continue the conversation at home. Feel free to edit and customize the email to fit your ministry needs.

Dear parents,

We've launched a new three-lesson study on sharing Jesus with others. It's a chance for us to help our students understand the basics of evangelism, and to discuss ways they can help others understand the amazing things that God is doing in their lives.



The first lesson focused on why we share Jesus with others and what God's Word says about it. Students learned that God calls them to share Christ with others and that we must first learn how to follow before we can lead. They also discussed how they are never alone when they share Christ with someone and that sharing Christ won't always be easy, but that's OK.

As you go throughout the week, help reinforce this teaching in your teenager's life by asking the following questions as you have the opportunity:

- Why does God want us to share Jesus with others?
- How can sharing Jesus with someone help you grow in your own faith?
- Think of a time you saw or heard someone effectively telling a friend about Jesus. What did that person do well? Why was the conversation so effective?

Have a great week!



SHARING JESUS WITH OTHERS

Lesson 1:
Telling People
About Jesus

2. LESSON GUIDE

GETTING THINGS STARTED [OPTIONAL]

Preview the following video for your group: youtu.be/-3LuYPpS-X4. You will need an Internet connection and a computer or tablet to display the video for your participants.

Welcome your students and invite them into your meeting area. Open in prayer, and then show the video clip. Then ASK:

- *Why is this video both painful and funny?*
- *As the Christian guy was talking about heaven and hell, what was wrong with his wording? his timing? his tone?*
- *Have you ever tried to share Christ with a friend and had it go terribly wrong—maybe not like the guy in this video, but in some other unfortunate way? Tell us about it, and what you learned from the experience.*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Maybe you've tried to share Christ with someone and had it go terribly wrong. Or maybe someone has tried to share Christ with you in a way that made you feel uncomfortable or strange. This lesson series is focused on how you can share Christ with others in a way that will encourage them and help them hear your message.*

TEACHING POINTS

The goal of the Teaching Points is to help students capture the essence of each lesson with more discussion and less lecture-style teaching. The main points we have chosen are (1) God wants you to share Jesus with others (2) Before you can lead, learn to follow, (3) You aren't on your own when you share Jesus (4) Sharing your faith isn't always easy, but that's OK.

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.



LEADER
TIP



LEADER
TIP



Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5 together as a group. Consider dividing verses among your students so everyone has a chance to read.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Let's explore these verses to learn about sharing Jesus with others.*

1. God wants you to share Jesus with others

ASK:

- *What's the best thing Jesus has done in your life? Have you told many people about it? Why or why not?*
- *You're a teenager, not a pastor at a church, so how do the first five words of verse 2 apply to you?*
- *How is sharing about Jesus a form of ministry? Do you think any follower of Christ is exempt from sharing about Jesus with others? Tell me what you think.*
- *When was the last time you shared Jesus with someone? How did it go?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *God wants all followers of Christ to share their faith in Jesus with others. This passage even goes so far as to call it "the ministry God has given you." As we look through this Scripture and elsewhere in God's Word, it quickly becomes clear that sharing Jesus with others is not something that is reserved only for pastors, missionaries, or evangelists. We are all called to share Jesus with others.*

2. Before you can lead, learn to follow

ASK:

- *Have you ever tried to do something before you really knew how to do it? How did that end up for you?*
- *Think of a time you saw or heard someone effectively telling a friend about Jesus. What did that person do well? Why was the conversation so effective?*
- *Read Matthew 4:19. What do we have to do before we can "fish for people"?*
- *How does faithfully following Jesus prepare you for sharing Jesus with others?*



- *How can sharing Jesus with someone help you grow in your own faith?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Jesus calls his followers to follow him and he will teach them how to become fishers of men. Basically, Jesus is saying that if we want to invite others to know him, we need to know what we're talking about—we need to experience what it's like to follow Jesus and commit our lives to him. People need to see the difference being lived out in our own lives first. And along those lines, we also can learn from other followers of Jesus about the best ways to share the message of Jesus—we can have mentors in this.*

3. You aren't on your own when you share Jesus

ASK:

- *If you share Jesus with someone and it doesn't go the way you hoped it would, how can you handle that situation?*
- *Read Matthew 28:18-20. Why are the final words of verse 20 so reassuring? Could we even do this without God's help?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Jesus calls us to go and make disciples of all the nations. That means that we are called to go and share Jesus with everyone in the world. The cool part is, we don't have to do this on our own. Jesus says that he is with us always, even to the end of the age. With Jesus with us, we can be confident that we are never alone when we share our faith with others.*

4. Sharing your faith isn't always easy, but that's OK

ASK:

- *When do you find it most difficult to share about Jesus with someone who doesn't already have a relationship with him? Why?*
- *What might keep a person from telling others about their faith in Jesus? Are any of those reasons valid? Why or why not?*
- *How can you share the message of Jesus with people before even speaking anything about your faith? How can your lifestyle communicate that message?*
- *If you have a bad or awkward experience of sharing Jesus with someone else, how can that help the next time you go to share about him?*



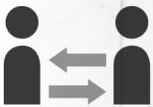
SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Sharing Jesus with others isn't always easy, and it doesn't always go the way we hope. But that's OK. Just like fishing for fish, "fishing for people" doesn't always go smoothly. The cool thing is that every time we share Jesus with someone, we are introducing that person to the amazing truth of Jesus' love. Even if people don't respond immediately or in the way we hoped they would, we can still pray for them and be excited that we had an opportunity to plant a truth that can become something bigger.*

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION [OPTIONAL]

Ask students to form groups of two or three for these questions.

ASK:

- *If you're a follower of Christ, how did it happen? Where and when did you first hear about God's love for you? When and why did you choose to follow Jesus?*
- *Why do many Christ-followers stay quiet and not share their faith?*
- *Why is it important to pray for people who aren't followers of Jesus yet?*



PAIR SHARE

Bring everyone back together, and ask for volunteers to share answers to the previous questions, as time permits.

APPLICATION

ASK:

- *How might today's conversation change the way you share your faith with others?*
- *Think of one person who isn't a follower of Jesus. What is a specific time or way you can share Jesus with that person over the course of the next week?*
- *Is there any part of your life right now that you need to change in order to better represent Christ when you're sharing him with others? If so, how can we pray for you and help you in that area?*



- *How can you support friends and other followers of Christ as they share Jesus with others?*

SUMMARY



LEADER
TIP

End your lesson here. Provide your teenagers with a quick summary or take-home challenge based on (1) the content of this lesson, (2) the dialogue that took place during the lesson, (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]



LEADER
TIP

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

You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others (2 Timothy 2:2).

