



SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

KEY VERSE

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

BIBLICAL BASIS

Genesis 3; Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 51:4,5; Isaiah 53:5; 59:1,2; 64:6; Habakkuk 1:13; Matthew 5:13-16; Mark 7:21-23; John 1:12; 3:16; 5:24; 10:10; 15:22; Romans 3:9,20,23; 5:1,2,8-11; 6:17,23; 7:9,15-20; 8:31-34; 10:9; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 1:7; 2:1-3,8,9; Philippians 2:14,15; Colossians 1:20-22; 1 Timothy 2:5; Titus 3:3,5; James 4:17; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 1:5,6; 3:4; 5:11-13; Revelation 3:20

THE BIG IDEA

God's plan of salvation is woven throughout the Scriptures and can be offered as good news to a fallen world.

AIMS OF THIS SESSION

During this session you will guide students to:

- Examine the good news of the gospel;
- Discover God's plan of salvation and how they can be prepared to share that good news with others;
- Implement how to share the good news.

WARM UP

MOTHER I'M SICK, MOTHER I'M DYING—

A skit of varying emotion.

TEAM EFFORT— JUNIOR HIGH/ MIDDLE SCHOOL

GIVING TO OTHERS—

A story of the ultimate giving to others.

TEAM EFFORT— HIGH SCHOOL

THE GREAT FISH CONTROVERSY—

A story on the importance of reaching others with the good news.

IN THE WORD

THE PLAN OF SALVATION—

A Bible study on God's plan to redeem His people.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT(OPTIONAL)

Questions to get students thinking and talking about the good news of Jesus.

PARENT PAGE

A tool to get the session into the home and allow parents and young people to discuss being salt and light to their world.



LEADER'S DEVOTIONAL

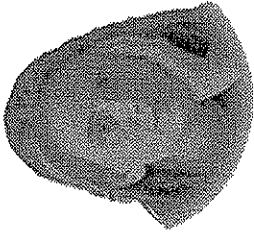
“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5).

As a freshman, Brandon came to our youth ministry almost on a fluke. Someone had given him a flyer at school about a free burger bash, so he and a friend showed up to our mid-week outreach event. After coming to the burger bash, Brandon began to regularly show up each week. Off and on for the next year, Brandon came and learned what being a Christian was all about. Then, one night he finally gave his life to Christ.

About a year later, Brandon signed up for one of our snow-ski trips to Utah. One day, while Brandon and I were riding up the ski lift, I asked him what convinced him to make a commitment to Christ. Brandon said he always remembered a simple story I told about how a Father sacrificially allowed His Son to die so that others could live. If God was willing to do that for him, Brandon figured, then it wouldn't be much for him to give his life to God.

Simple stories change lives. The Gospel is a simple story filled with good news that continues to change a fallen world. Sharing God's good news is one of the greatest privileges we have as Christians. When young people grasp the significance and simplicity of the gospel, powerful things happen. That's why your influence in their lives is so critical. That's why being a youth worker is one of the highest callings to which you could ever respond. When you share the good news with a young person, you are having a tremendous impact on all their future decisions—where they go to school, how they will treat their friends, whom they choose to date and marry and how they raise their children. Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ sparks a chain reaction of God's love through untold thousands of lives. (Written by Joey O'Connor.)

“Evangelism is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find the bread.”—D.T. Niles



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THE BIG IDEA

God's plan of salvation is woven throughout the Scriptures and can be offered as good news to a fallen world.

WARM UP (5-10 MINUTES)

MOTHER I'M SICK, MOTHER I'M DYING

- Before class, assign skit roles.
- Give each performer a copy of "Mother I'm Sick, Mother I'm Dying" on page 167.
- Students perform skit.

TEAM EFFORT—JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL (15-20 MINUTES)

GIVING TO OTHERS

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
- Give each student a copy of "Giving to Others" on page 169 and a pen or pencil, or display a copy using an overhead projector.
- Students complete their pages.

Fold

The Response and Result

1. Our response
John 1:12; Romans 10:9; Revelations 3:20
2. The result
John 5:74; Romans 5:1,2; 9-11
3. The promise and assurance
1 John 5:11-13

Answer these questions:

1. According to these Scriptures, what must we do to be saved?

2. What makes these Scriptures such good news?

Now summarize "the response and results" to share with the rest of the group.

SO WHAT?

How can we use this material to benefit our lives? How can we use this material to benefit the kingdom of God?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)

• Use the questions on page 177 after or as a part of "In the Word."

1. The gospel means "good news." What makes the gospel of Christ such good news?

2. If the gospel is such good news, why doesn't everyone accept it?

3. How does 1 Timothy 2:5 fit into the plan of salvation?

PARENT PAGE

- Distribute page to parents.

A little boy was told by his doctor that he could actually save his sister's life by giving her some blood. The six-year-old girl was near death, a victim of a disease from which the boy had made a marvelous recovery two years earlier. Her only chance for restoration was a blood transfusion from someone who had previously conquered the illness. Since the two children had the same rare blood type, the boy was the ideal donor.

"Johnny, would you like to give your blood for Mary?" the doctor asked. The boy hesitated. His lower lip started to tremble. Then he smiled and said, "Sure, Doc. I'll give my blood for my sister."

Soon the two children were wheeled into the operating room—Mary, pale and thin; Johnny, robust and the picture of health. Neither spoke, but when their eyes met, Johnny grinned.

As his blood siphoned into Mary's veins, one could almost see new life come into her tired body. The ordeal was almost over when Johnny's brave little voice broke the silence. "Say, Doc, when do I die?"

It was only then that the doctor realized what the moment of hesitation, the trembling of the lip, had meant earlier. Little Johnny actually thought that in giving his blood to his sister he was giving up his life! And in that brief moment, he had made his great decision!

1. What were Johnny's conditions for giving to Mary?

2. What are your conditions for giving to another?

7 TEAM EFFORT—HIGH SCHOOL (15-20 MINUTES)

THE GREAT FISH CONTROVERSY

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
- Give each student a copy of "The Great Fish Controversy" on page 171 and a pen or pencil, or display a copy using an overhead projector.
- Students complete their pages.
- Read story aloud.

1. What's the main point of this story?

2. What can we do to keep this story from being the story of our lives?

1 IN THE WORD (25-30 MINUTES)

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

- Divide students into three groups: The Problem, The Solution, and The Response and Result.
- Give each student a copy of "The Plan of Salvation" on pages 173-175 and a pen or pencil, or display a copy using an overhead projector.
- Students complete their portions of the Bible study.
- Have students share their responses.

The Problem

1. Sin—what is it?
Psalm 51:4,5; James 4:17; 1 John 3:4
2. How did sin originate?
Genesis 3
3. How do we know about sin?
Exodus 20:1-17; Romans 3:20; 7:9,15-20
4. Who sins?
John 15:22; Romans 3:9,23
5. The result of sin
 - a. Stray from God
Isaiah 59:1-2; Habakkuk 1:13; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 John 1:5,6
 - b. We become slaves to sin
Mark 7:21-23; Romans 6:17; 8:31-34; Galatians 5:19-21; Titus 3:3
 - c. Spiritual death
Romans 6:23
6. We cannot "remedy" this condition
Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:20; Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5

Answer these questions.

1. Why does sin pose such a problem for God?

2. Why did sin separate God and humankind?

Now summarize "the problem" to share with the rest of your group.

The Solution

1. God's plan
John 3:16; 10:10
2. God's remedy: The Cross
Romans 5:8; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:20-22; 1 Peter 3:18

Answer these questions:

1. What makes the Cross central to our salvation?

2. Could there have been another remedy to reconcile God and humankind?

Now summarize "the solution" to share with the rest of your group.


MOTHER I'M SICK, MOTHER I'M DYING¹

Characters:

Doctor

Son (or Daughter)

Mother

Director

First try: Make it as dry as possible, like it is being read for the first time. No expression at all. When Director stops it, he claims this is an emotional scene and the actors should sound emotional.

Second try: Do it with wild emotion; it is the saddest thing you have ever seen. When Director stops he says that maybe the actors have overdone it a little—make it a bit lighter.

Third try: It is now the funniest thing that could ever have happened; laugh until it hurts. Director tells the actors, after this try, to mix it up a little and add a little variety.

Fourth try: Son—redo first try, as deadpan as possible. Mother—redo second try in complete hysteria. Doctor—redo third try, again laugh until it hurts. Director stops practice and says, "I think I am dying."

Mother: (enter)**Son:** (enter) Mother, I feel sick.**Mother:** Son, you look sick.**Son:** Mother, I think I will die.**Mother:** Oh, Son, you must not do that. I will call the doctor. (Pick up phone) Doctor, Doctor, come quickly, my son is dying.**Doctor:** (enter immediately as Mother finishes)**Mother:** Doctor, where have you been?**Doctor:** I had an emergency appendectomy after you called.**Son:** (after slight pause) I feel sick.**Mother:** You look sick.**Son:** I am sick. (slight pause) I think I will die.**Mother:** You must not die.**Doctor:** You are dying.**Son:** I am dying.

Director stops the practice.

Note

1. Source unknown.

TEAM EFFORT

GIVING TO OTHERS

A little boy was told by his doctor that he could actually save his sister's life by giving her some blood. The six-year-old girl was near death, a victim of a disease from which the boy had made a marvelous recovery two years earlier. Her only chance for restoration was a blood transfusion from someone who had previously conquered the illness. Since the two children had the same rare blood type, the boy was the ideal donor.

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2. What are your conditions for giving to another?

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TEAM EFFORT

THE GREAT FISH CONTROVERSY¹

For months, the Fisher's Society had been wracked with dissension. They had built a new meeting hall which they called their Aquarium and had even called a world renowned Fisherman's Manual scholar to lecture them on the art of fishing. But still no fish were caught.

Several times each week they would gather in their ornate Aquarium Hall, recite portions of the Fisherman's Manual and then listen to their scholar expisit the intricacies and mysteries of the manual. The meeting would usually end with the scholar dramatically casting his net into the large tank in the center of the hall and the members rushing excitedly to its edges to see if any fish would bite. None ever did, of course, since there were no fish in the tank. Which brings up the reason for the controversy.

The temperature of the tank was carefully regulated to be just right for ocean perch. Indeed, oceanography experts had been consulted to make the environment of the tank nearly indistinguishable from the ocean. But still no fish. Some blamed it on poor attendance at the Society's meetings. Others were convinced that specialization was the answer. Perhaps several smaller tanks geared especially for different fish age group would work. There was even division over which was more important: casting or providing optimum tank conditions. Eventually a solution was reached.

A few members of the Society were commissioned to become professional fishermen and were sent to live a few blocks away on the edge of the sea and do nothing but catch fish. It was a lonely existence because most other members of the Society were terrified of the ocean. So the professionals would send back pictures of themselves holding some of their catches and letters describing the joys and tribulations of real live fishing. And periodically they would return to Aquarium Hall to show slides. After such meetings, people of the Society would return to their homes thankful that their Hall had not been built in vain

1. What's the main point of this story?

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2. What can we do to keep this story from being the story of our lives?

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Note

1. This story was originally given as a sermon by Ben Patterson at Irvine Presbyterian Church in Irvine, California.

I IN THE WORD

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

The Problem

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 - c. Spiritual death
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IN THE WORD

SHARING
THE GOOD NEWS

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2. The result

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3. The promise and assurance

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2. If the gospel is such good news, why doesn't everyone accept it?

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3. How does 1 Timothy 2:5 fit into the plan of salvation?

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SHARING
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SALT AND LIGHT: ADDING FLAVOR AND SIGHT TO THE WORLD

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:13-16).

In this passage, what two images does Jesus use to describe His disciples?

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Before refrigeration, salt was used to keep meat from rotting. With this in mind, what do you think Jesus meant when He said, "You are the salt of the earth" (v. 13)?

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What might cause Christians to lose their saltiness?

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How can a Christian be a "light of the world" (v. 14)?

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Read Philippians 2:14, 15. What does Paul advise Christians to do in order to be light in the world?

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Why do you think "light" is such a common reference to Christ and faith in Him?

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PARENT PAGE



SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

The Christian Taste Test

Circle the appropriate answer:

If I am salt, my relationship with Christ is:

blah tasteless mild seasoned spicy very tasty

Complete the following sentence:

To add more "salt" to my Christian diet, I need to...

.....

Turned on for Jesus

Circle the response that best describes you.

When it comes to shining for Christ, I...

- a. shine brightly.
- b. flicker now and then.
- c. feel dark and cold.
- d. need a new spark.
- e. burn hotter every day.
- f. shed the light of God's glory.
- g. need a few other candles for help.

If Jesus came to you today and said, "I need you. You are My only light to your family, friends, and school or work. Will you shine for Me?" What would you say and do?

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Who Are You Influencing?

Billy Graham, the well known evangelist, once said, "The evangelistic harvest is always urgent. The destiny of men and nations is always being decided. Every generation is strategic. God will hold us responsible as to how well we fulfill our responsibilities to this age and take advantage of our responsibilities."

How do you feel when you hear that you are strategic for reaching your generation for God?

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What can you as a family do to fulfill your God-given responsibilities?

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Session 11 "Sharing the Good News"
Date.....