

# WITNESSING SKILLS

## KEY VERSES

"We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me." Colossians 1:28,29

## BIBLICAL BASIS

Acts 26:1-23; Colossians 1:28,29; 4:5,6

## THE BIG IDEA

As Christ has redeemed our lives we can share that good news with others.

## AIMS OF THIS SESSION

During this session you will guide students to:

- Examine various ways of sharing their faith stories;
- Discover a method of sharing their faith and witnessing for Jesus Christ;
- Implement a lifestyle of sharing their faith in a positive way.

## WARM UP SHARING OUR STORY—

Students develop stories of their own.

## TEAM EFFORT— JUNIOR HIGH/ MIDDLE SCHOOL

### THE WITNESS—

A role-play of one way to share the faith.

## TEAM EFFORT— HIGH SCHOOL

### THE 60-SECOND INFOMMERCIAL FOR CHRIST—

Students "sell" their stories of Jesus.

## IN THE WORD SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY—

A Bible study on developing a testimony of faith.

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)

Questions to get students thinking and talking about their testimonies of Christ's work in their lives.

## PARENT PAGE

A tool to get the session into the home and allow parents and young people to discuss their faith experiences.



## LEADER'S DEVOTIONAL

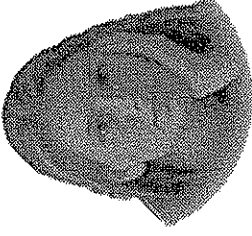
**“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone” (Colossians 4:5,6).**

One of the most effective ways I've discovered to communicate the gospel to teenagers is to have a young person speak instead of me. Many times in youth ministry, youth workers believe that they have to make a gospel presentation “just right” before they speak to young people. While it's important to present the message of Jesus Christ clearly, I've found that it doesn't have to be presented perfectly. Let me give you an example.

John was involved in our youth ministry and had a tremendous conversion to Christ. Previously, John was heavily involved in the party scene and was very popular on campus. When John made a commitment to Christ, he was then in a position to be a positive influence in other students' lives. From time to time, I asked John to either give his testimony or to speak at our midweek program. John wasn't a polished speaker. He didn't always say things as well as they could have been said, but the most important thing was that John was authentic. John simply shared how Jesus transformed his life and how Jesus could do the same for anyone else. When John spoke, other students listened. John was one of their own.

Your youth ministry is the best place for students to learn how to share their faith. And some of the best communicators of the gospel in your youth ministry may not be adults, but teenagers! If we're really serious about young people making a difference in this world for Jesus Christ, then we must give them the opportunity to communicate how God has changed their lives. As you spend time with teenagers, you are sharing the life of Jesus Christ with them. Watch what will happen in your ministry when your students begin doing the same thing with their family and friends! (Written by Joey O'Connor.)

**“The life of a preacher speaks louder than his words.”—Oswald Chambers**



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## THE BIG IDEA

As Christ has redeemed our lives we can share that good news with others.

## WARM UP (5-10 MINUTES)

### SHARING OUR STORY

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
  - Have each group compose one paragraph of a story using one or more of the following words: alligator, wicked princess, hero, castle, early morning, horse, lost map and happily ever after.
- Then have each group compose one paragraph about God using one or more of the following words: love, Jesus, cross, resurrection, eternal life, freedom, joy and response.

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

### THE WITNESS

- Assign the skit roles.
- Give each performer a copy of "The Witness" on pages 187-189. If possible, do this before the session so performers have an opportunity to rehearse.
- Students perform skit.

Fold

- Ask students the following questions:  
What do you see as the key twist in this drama?  
What are better ways to share our faith?

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

### THE 60-SECOND INFOMERCIAL FOR CHRIST

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
- Have each group prepare a 60-second infomercial for Christ. They can use take-offs from recent TV commercials or create their own.
- Videotape each group, and show the results to the whole group.
- As a whole group, discuss the pros and cons of presenting the love of Christ in a 60-second infomercial.

## IN THE WORD (25-30 MINUTES)

### SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY

- Divide students into groups of three or four.
- Give each student a copy of "Sharing Your Testimony" on page 191 and a pen or pencil, or display a copy using an overhead projector.
- Students complete the Bible study.

#### Paul's Testimony

Read Acts 26:1-23.

After reading Paul's testimony, take a few minutes to fill in the blanks as if you were a modern-day Paul.

Before I met Jesus Christ:

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How I met Jesus Christ:

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How Christ has changed my life:

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### SO WHAT?

Now that you have read Paul's testimony, here's a chance for you to write out your own testimony. Your testimony might not be as dramatic as Paul's, but you can use the same formula as found in Acts 26:1-23 to write your own account of meeting Christ.

Before I met Christ:

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How I met Christ:

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How Christ has changed and is changing my life:

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Share your testimony with your group.

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT (OPTIONAL)

- Use the questions on page 193 after or as a part of "In the Word."

1. What makes it difficult to share our faith stories with others?

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2. How have you seen witnessing done in a negative way? In a positive way?

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3. What makes the personalization of a testimony so important?

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## PARENT PAGE

- Distribute page to parents.



## TEAM EFFORT

### THE WITNESS<sup>1</sup>

The scene is a typical student union. Joe is seated at a table studying in preparation for an upcoming test. Nick, a super-straight-looking student, approaches and sits right next to Joe ignoring all the empty seats around him.

**Nick:** Hi...How ya doin'?...Do you live around here?

**Joe:** (Eyes still on books.) Yea.

**Nick:** Where?...Where do you live?

**Joe:** (Still reading.) In the dorms.

**Nick:** Really?...I thought about living there once...What's it like? (Pause. Joe doesn't answer.) Do you study here all the time?

**Joe:** (Concentration finally broken, gives Nick a hard look.) Yes, I study here a lot because over in the dorms too many people bother me, and I can't concentrate!

**Nick:** Yea, it must be really hard to study with people bothering you all the time.

**Joe:** Yes, it is!

**Nick:** (Begins talking faster, acts rather nervous and unsure.) Are you saved?

**Joe:** What?

**Nick:** Are you saved? You see, I belong to the Go With God Student Christian Club, and we are sort of taking a survey to see who is going to hell. But you don't have to go to hell. (Nick pulls out a booklet called "God Wants You!") Right here in this little book is a chance for you to have eternal life. Here on page one it says "You are hiding from God in the wretchedness of your ugly sins. You must repent."

**Joe:** (He is dumbfounded and speechless until this point.) Wait a minute...

**Nick:** Oh, please save your questions until I've read you the whole thing.

**Joe:** In case it's not obvious, I'm trying to study.

**Nick:** There are only three more pages. Now this verse from the Bible...

**Joe:** (Louder.) I am not interested in your weird religious ideas!

**Nick:** (Pause.) What's your name?

**Joe:** My name isn't important. Will you please go away so I can study.

**Nick:** If you don't listen to me, your name, whatever it is, won't be written in the book of life and...

**Joe:** (Very mad, he explodes.) Look! I am trying to study, or are you too ignorant to see that? What is it with you Jesus freaks anyway? Do you work on a commission basis? One more star in your halo for every soul saved! Well, I'm not interested, so flake off!

**Nick:** (Pause, dead serious.) He said we would be persecuted.

**Joe:** (Resigned.) I don't believe this! (Slams book shut, rips booklet in half, throws it in Nick's face and storms off mumbling something about crazy fanatics. Nick rises and stands in center stage.)

**Mr. Applegate:** (From the darkness behind Nick.) That was very good Nick.

**Nick:** (His whole composure changed to a strong determined person.) That wasn't just "very good."

**Mr. Applegate:** (He comes into the light with Nick. He wears a dark business suit, and there is something ominous about him.) How do you mean?



## TEAM EFFORT

**Nick:** That was the best you've ever seen. I know it, you know it, and Number One knows it.

**Mr. Applegate:** That's why I have come to talk to you. Number One has a new assignment for you.

**Nick:** It's about time.

**Mr. Applegate:** There is a new church and coffee house which has just opened on the north side. The man who runs it has a very intimate relationship with the Enemy. He is very dangerous and could change our whole standing there without fast action. Number One seems to think that you are creative enough to come up with some good moves. We'll start you as a heroin pusher, but if you can't work with that let us know and other arrangements can be made. Can you handle it?

**Nick:** I can.

**Mr. Applegate:** Good. Let me warn you Nick, we don't usually let demons of your standing take a job like this. If you fail...well you know what will happen.

**Nick:** I know.

**Mr. Applegate:** Very well. You'll start right away...

### Note

1. *Ideas Number 21-24* (El Cajon, CA: Youth Specialties, 1984), pp. 109-111. Used by permission.

**I** IN THE WORD

**SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY<sup>1</sup>**

**Paul's Testimony**

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**SO WHAT?**

Now that you have read Paul's testimony, here's a chance for you to write out your own testimony. Your testimony might not be as dramatic as Paul's, but you can use the same formula as found in Acts 26:1-23 to write your own account of meeting Christ.

**Before I met Christ:**

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**How I met Christ:**

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**How Christ has changed and is changing my life:**

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**Share your testimony with your group.**

**Note**

1. Adapted from Barry St. Clair, *Giving Your Faith Away* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1991). Used by permission.

# THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. What makes it difficult to share our faith stories with others?

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2. How have you seen witnessing done in a negative way? In a positive way?

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3. What makes the personalization of a testimony so important?

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PARENT PAGE



WITNESSING SKILLS

**THE FAITH ROAD MAP**

“We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present every-one perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me” (Colossians 1:28,29).

As a family, share key moments in your spiritual life that have brought you to where you are today. You can use conversion experiences, difficult periods, special times with God or other significant moments. Start with your oldest recollection of a key Christian experience and move toward the present time.

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing.



Session 12 "Witnessing Skills"  
Date.....