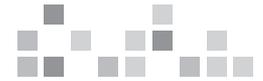


Apostles Defend Their Faith

Acts 5:12-42

As preschoolers learn that we should tell others about Jesus, they may begin to think of ways to share their faith. Most likely they will store away this knowledge to be applied a bit later in life. This lesson helps them see that everyone needs to know about God, not just them and their families or church friends.



► **Bible Point**
Tell others about Jesus.

Key Verse
“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective” (James 5:16).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will tell others about Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player, towel, flashlight Teacher Pack: CD, whistle	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 5 min.</i>	Paper Bag POWERful! Use a fun activity to learn the Key Verse.	Bible, 1 paper lunch bag per child	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 20 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear how Theo tells others about Jesus.	CD player, Theo puppet, construction paper, tape Teacher Pack: CD	Make a “megaphone” by rolling a piece of construction paper so that it has a larger opening on one end than the other end. Tape the paper in place, and then attach it to Theo’s paw.
	Bible Time: Telling Others About Jesus Place apostle puppets in “jail,” help free them, and tell others about Jesus.	Bible, CD player, 1 craft stick per child, tape, crayons Teacher Pack: CD, “Jail Cell” poster, angel and apostle pattern 	Cut the dotted lines around the door on the “Jail Cell” poster so that the door opens and closes. Cut slits as indicated. Photocopy the angel and apostle patterns, and cut out enough angels and apostles for each child to have one of each. Write the children’s names on the figures.

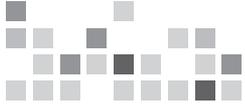
Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Freedom to Share Put an apostle puppet in “jail,” and then help set it free.</p>	My Bible Hugs, apostle puppets, angel figures, modeling dough	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them. Cut along the dotted lines of each page to create a door.
	<p>Center 2: Megaphone Snacks Make a tortilla “megaphone,” and tell others about Jesus.</p>	small tortillas, napkins, soft cream cheese, plastic spoons	
	<p>Center 3: Sharing Time Tell others the good news about Jesus.</p>	CD player Teacher Pack: CD, heart	
	<p>Center 4: My Megaphone Make megaphones to spread the good news.</p>	1 plastic foam cup per child, pencils, crayons	
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs, crayons	
	<p>Action Prayer Pray for help in sharing Jesus with one specific person.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player
towel
flashlight

Teacher Pack

CD: "We Welcome You"
(track 9)
whistle

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate



Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your whistle to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "We Welcome You" (track 9 on the CD) to the tune of "Angels Watching Over Me." Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **We welcome you to church today,** (*Shake hands with someone.*)
Church today, church today. (*Nod head.*)
We welcome you to church today. (*Shake hands with someone.*)
We're so glad you've come. (*Smile and point to corners of mouth.*)
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Welcome to church. Today we're learning to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. Let's sing a song about that.**

Tell children that they're going to sing "This Little Light of Mine." Explain that the "little light" is their love for Jesus and that letting it shine means showing others about Jesus.

Turn off the lights to sing "This Little Light of Mine" (not on the CD). As you sing the first verse, have the children pass a glowing flashlight around the circle. During the second verse, have one child hold the flashlight as the others cover the flashlight with the towel. When you sing "no," have them remove the towel. Repeat the song several times.

 **This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!**
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Hide it under a towel? No! I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a towel? No! I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a towel? No! I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.





2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Paper Bag POWERful!

What You'll Do

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Give each one a lunch-size paper bag. Open your Bible to James 5:16, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible is James 5:16. This verse says, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." That means that prayer is powerful. Let's say this together.** Lead children in repeating this simplified version of the Key Verse with you: **Prayer is powerful.**

Say: **When something is powerful it can get big, important jobs done. An explosion is powerful. People can use an explosion to break up rocks to make a road, or to tear down an old building. We are going to make pretend explosions to remind us that prayer is powerful.**

Show how to open and inflate a paper bag by putting your mouth to the opening of the bag and blowing. Demonstrate how to gather the opening of the bag, twisting it shut so the air remains in the bag, and hold the bag in one hand.

Say: **Now that our bags are ready, let's say our Key Verse, "Prayer is powerful," again. We will say it very slowly. When we say "powerful," clap your bag between your hands.** Lead children in saying the verse with pauses between each word to increase excitement, and then have them pop their bags. Shout and cheer after the bags are popped. Repeat the activity several times. Most kids will be able to reuse their bags, but have extra bags on hand to replace any that tear.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some important things you have prayed to God about?
- How did God use his power to help with those important things?

Say: **Prayer is powerful because God is powerful. We can talk to God about anything. If it is important to us, God will listen and answer in the way he knows is best. We can also ask God to help us ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.**



Paper Bag POWERful! Supplies

-
- Bible
 - 1 paper lunch bag per child





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
construction paper
tape

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 2)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Make a "megaphone" by rolling a piece of construction paper so that it has a larger opening on one end than the other end. Tape the paper in place, and then attach it to Theo's paw.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 2 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hi, Theo! It's great to see you. What do you have there?

Theo: It's a megaphone. When I want people to hear me, I speak through it. *(Demonstrates by holding it up to his mouth.)* Hello!

Teacher: May I try it?

Theo: Sure!

(Take megaphone from Theo, hold it close to your mouth, and speak through it.)

Teacher: Hellooooooo.

(Take megaphone away from mouth.)

Teacher: Wow! That really does make my voice louder. What were you using the megaphone for, Theo?

Theo: I'm using it to tell others about Jesus.

Teacher: That's great! Our Bible story today shows us that we ► **TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.** Speaking of our Bible story, it's time to tell it! Thanks for visiting us, Theo. Goodbye!

Encourage kids to wave or say goodbye to Theo, and then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was Theo doing with the megaphone?**

Say: **You don't have to use a megaphone to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. But it is very important to tell others about Jesus.**

Bible Time: Telling Others About Jesus

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Acts 5:12-42, and show the children the words.

Say: **Today's Bible story tells us to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. A group of Jesus' friends were so excited about Jesus that they wanted to tell everyone about him.**

Distribute the apostle figures, and let the children color them. Help each child tape a craft stick to the back of his or her figure to make a puppet. Then have children use their puppets to say "Jesus loves you" to each other.

Say: **Some people didn't want Jesus' friends to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. They put Jesus' friends in jail.**

Have the children place the craft stick part of their puppets through the slits in the "Jail Cell" poster.

Ask:

- **Have you ever gotten in trouble for something you didn't do? What happened?**
- **How do you think Jesus' friends felt about being in jail?**

Say: **Jesus' friends were going through a hard time. But they stayed happy.**

An amazing thing happened while Jesus' friends were in jail. An angel came, opened the door, and let the men out! Distribute the angels to the children. That's amazing! If God can send an angel to set Jesus' friends free, he can do anything! Let's sing "God Sends Angels" as we set free Jesus' friends.

Sing "God Sends Angels" (track 11 on the CD) to the tune of "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."

 **God sends his angels to help us
And keep us safe.
God sends his angels to help us
And keep us safe.
God sends his angels to help us
And keep us safe.
God is watching over us.**

**We know that God really loves us.
Yes, he does.
We know that God really loves us.
Yes, he does.
We know that God really loves us.
Yes, he does.
God is watching over us.**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

As you sing, have children take turns opening the door with their angels and "walking" their puppets out the door.



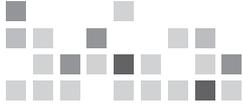
Bible Time: Telling Others About Jesus Supplies

-
- Bible
 - CD player
 - 1 craft stick per child
 - tape
 - crayons
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: "God Sends Angels" (track 11)
 - "Jail Cell" poster
 - angel and apostle pattern

Bible Time: Telling Others About Jesus Easy Prep

Cut the dotted lines around the door on the "Jail Cell" poster so that the door opens and closes. Cut slits as indicated. Photocopy the angel and apostle patterns, and cut out enough angels and apostles for each child to have one of each. Write the children's names on the figures.





Say: **The angel set free Jesus' friends and told them to keep telling others about Jesus.** Have children use their puppets again to say "Jesus loves you" to each other.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How do you think Jesus' friends felt when the angel set them free?**
- **Why should we tell others about Jesus?**

Say: **Jesus' friends had a hard time, but they could still be happy. Hard times help us grow. It was important for Jesus' friends to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. It's also important for us to tell others about Jesus.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

■ CENTER 1:

Freedom to Share

What You'll Do ■■■■

Give kids their apostle puppets and their angel figures. Distribute small amounts of modeling dough, and have children push the apostle puppets into the dough so their puppets will stand up. Help children fold up the top half of their My Bible Hugs pages along the solid line so that the top half of the page is standing up. Then show children how to open and close the jail doors. Children can place their apostle puppets in jail. Then they can use the angel figures and open the doors to let the apostles out. After they free the apostles, encourage the children to use the puppets to tell each other about Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you like to tell people about Jesus?**

Center 1: Freedom to Share Supplies

My Bible Hugs
apostle puppets
angel figures
modeling dough

Center 1: Freedom to Share Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut along the dotted lines of each page to create a door.



Say: Jesus' friends told others about Jesus even if they had to go to jail. That's because it's important for everyone to know Jesus. You can ► **TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS**, too.

■ **CENTER 2:**

Megaphone Snacks

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children clean their hands and then sit down to prepare their snack. Serve each child a small tortilla on a napkin. Show children how to roll the snack into the shape of a megaphone; help them add cream cheese to hold it together. Then have children turn to a partner and use their "megaphones" to tell one thing they know about Jesus. Suggest that children say things such as "Jesus loves me," "Jesus loves you," and "Jesus is alive." Then allow children to eat their megaphones.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- How does it feel to tell others about Jesus?
- Who else can you tell about Jesus?

Say: **Let's thank God for helping us ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS and for providing our snack.** Invite one child to pray for the snack.

■ **CENTER 3:**

Sharing Time

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children sit in a circle. Hand one child the heart. Explain that you'll play some music while children pass the heart around the circle. Each time the music stops, the child holding the heart should tell one thing he or she knows about Jesus.

Begin the game. Stop the music frequently so all the children will have a chance to share. If children need help, ask them questions such as "Who loves you?" and "What have you heard about Jesus?"

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Who can you tell about Jesus?
- What will you tell them about Jesus?



Center 2: Megaphone Snacks Supplies

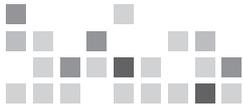
-
- small tortillas
 - napkins
 - soft cream cheese
 - plastic spoons

! **ALLERGY ALERT**

Center 3: Sharing Time Supplies

-
- CD player
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: various songs
 - heart





Center 4: My Megaphone Supplies

1 plastic foam cup per
child
pencils
crayons

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs
crayons

Say: **Jesus loves you, and Jesus loves everyone. We want everyone to know that Jesus loves them. That's why we ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.**

CENTER 4:

My Megaphone

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a plastic foam cup and crayons to decorate the outside of the cup. Then show kids how to use a pencil to poke a hole in the bottom of a cup and then gently tear around the hole and remove the bottom.

Encourage kids to use their megaphones to loudly say, "Jesus loves you!" to others.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think Jesus' friends said about him?
- Who told you about Jesus?

Say: **Knowing that Jesus loves us and saves us is such good news we want to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. Let's use our megaphones to shout "Jesus loves you!" so everyone can hear.** Allow children to joyfully shout the good news.

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned to ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS. I would like each of you to choose a way to tell others about Jesus this week.**



Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Each night before you go to bed, ask Jesus to help you tell others about him the next day.**
- ■ **Share your lunch with a friend while sharing the news of Jesus' love!**

Say: **If you want to pray each night, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to share your lunch, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Action Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle. Ask each child to think of one person they want to tell about Jesus. Have each child pray, "Jesus, please help me tell [person's name] about you."

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for helping Jesus' friends be happy when they have hard times. Thank you for helping them keep telling others about Jesus. Please help us ► TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS, too. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.



