

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God wants us to share the good news of Jesus.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will make a plan to share the good news of Jesus with at least one person.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 28:16-20, The Great Commission

MEMORY VERSE:

"He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Mark 16:15 (NIV)

See who can say the verse completely from memory with no hints.

SUMMARY:

Let's hear what people are saying from our man on the street. The good news of Jesus' death and resurrection is too great to keep to ourselves. Jesus wants us to go through-out the world, telling others about him.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us the words to tell our friends that Jesus died for them.

In Jesus' name, Amen



EASY AT HOME OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Reese's Peanut Butter Eggs

You can always tell what holiday it is by the candy we eat. At Christmas time we eat candy canes, chocolate Santas, and Reese's Peanut Butter Trees. At Valentines we eat conversation hearts, heart shaped boxes of chocolate, and Reese's Peanut Butter Hearts. And at Easter, the day we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, we enjoy Peeps, chocolate bunnies, and you guessed it: Reese's Peanut Butter Eggs.

Easter's pretty hard to miss. When Reese's Peanut Butter Eggs show up in Walgreens, right around New Years, the stores are trying to tell us something. It's time to finish off the candy canes and stock up on Peeps! Jesus wants us to be just as open about our faith as the stores are about holidays. He wants us to go out and tell the world that he is alive.

Jesus commanded all of us to go and tell the world that he wants to be their Savior. He wants us to share Jesus with our friends and invite them to church. He also wants us to tell people they are loved by loving them ourselves. Any time we reach out to a new kid in school or send a get-well note to a sick friend, we are sharing the love of Jesus with someone. The more we can love other people, the easier it will be for them to believe.

The Reese's Peanut Butter Eggs will soon be gone, but the work of Jesus goes on every day. Let's commit ourselves to sharing Jesus, in words and in actions, so that everyone will know Jesus is alive.



FAMILY GAME TIME

EASTER PASSWORD

ITEMS NEEDED:

Note cards

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two teams of two. Send one team out of the room. The other team will have forty-five seconds to play password. One player gets the cards and has to describe the word on the card, but they cannot say the word. Use Easter words like egg, bunny, cross, tomb, garden, Jesus, etc.

When the first team is done, bring in the second team and let them take a turn. Whoever gets the most right answers in forty-five seconds is the winner.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Jesus wants us to tell the world that he is alive!



FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God wants us to share the good news of Jesus.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will make a plan to share the good news of Jesus with at least one person.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 28:16-20, The Great Commission

INTRO:

News shows spend a lot of time talking to us. We watch men and women sitting at a desk or at remote locations speaking into the camera, telling us the events of the day. We hear about current events, sports scores, weather forecasts, and exciting events coming to our town. It's a one-sided conversation - most of the time.

That's because many news programs began allowing their viewers to talk back. Fox, CNN, even the local news take time out in the broadcast to share the opinions of people like you and me. They read Tweets sent to their Twitter account. They share Instagram photos people took of storms and tornadoes. They take phone calls, play back voice mails, and read emails sent by people who have something to say.

Letting the viewers respond is a news feature that goes back to the days before the Internet. Back then the TV stations would send someone out with a remote to get comments from the "man on the street." A newsman would go out and get people to give their thoughts on everything. What do you think about the president? Have you heard the latest song from Adele? Are you going to opening night of the new Star Wars movie? Do you think this town could support an NFL team?

Giving people the chance to speak makes viewers feel like they have a voice. It allows them to speak their mind, and it allows other people watching to see what others are saying about the big news of the day. You and I may not be TV journalists, but that doesn't mean we don't have a voice!

Today's scripture is about the last command Jesus gave to his followers. It's a command many people mistakenly think of as "something for pastors and preachers only." But Jesus wasn't speaking to a crowd of preachers. He was speaking to everyone who believes that he is the Son of God!

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

READ MATTHEW 28:16-20

MAIN POINT:

Jesus had fulfilled his mission on Earth. He allowed himself to be arrested. He allowed himself to die. Then he rose from the grave. Jesus had conquered sin and death and opened the door for all of us to have eternal life.

Anyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, can be saved. But what good is that news if no one hears it? Jesus gives the very direct command to all of us: raise your voice. Be the men and women in the street. Go out and tell the whole world that I want to be their Savior!

DRIVE IT HOME:

The men and women who heard Jesus give what we call The Great Commission didn't stop to question his words. They didn't make excuses or say, "Well, I'll leave that to the church staff." There was no church staff. There were only church members, and they all did their part to spread the gospel.

Men like Peter, John, Phillip, and the other disciples went out and began preaching the gospel. On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached a sermon and over 3000 people believed. They were soon joined by other believers like Silas, Barnabas, and Paul, a former Pharisee who persecuted the Christians until he met Jesus on the road.

But the disciples didn't just preach the gospel. They lived it. They shared their possessions with those in need. They saw to it that widows and orphans and other people in need were taken care of. They treated the soldiers and others who persecuted them for their faith with love. The love they showed to those people caused many of them to believe in Jesus themselves.

The news of Jesus' death and resurrection is the greatest news story of all time. The people didn't wait for someone else to step up and start sharing. They all went out and shared. Now, it's our turn to do the same, and we can do it like they did.

First, share your faith with other people. Let them know you are a Christian and that Jesus loves them. Invite them to church or to watch an online service with you, and bring them to hear the good news. Some of you may already be here because someone invited you!

And second, love others the way Jesus loved us. Ask Jesus to give you a genuine love for all God's children. All your classmates, all your teachers, all the kids on your street. Let God's love shine in your life so people can see Jesus' love in you.

Jesus is alive, and the world needs to know. We can't count on the evening news to spread this story. This one's on us.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

Let's take the good news to the streets, sharing the story of Jesus with words and actions. God can use us, even as kids, to change the world!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us the words to tell our friends that Jesus died for them.

In Jesus' name, Amen



LESSON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever seen or done something so cool, you had to tell everyone about it?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 28:16-20

Where did the disciples go with Jesus?

What command did Jesus give them?

Who is someone you can share Jesus with? How?

What is the good news Jesus wants us to share?

How can someone become a Christian?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God.

Thank you for saving us and allowing us to be part of your plans.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



LESSON REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

Twelve disciples followed Jesus to Galilee. FALSE

Jesus commanded his followers to go and preach the gospel. TRUE

Jesus was only telling the leaders to do the going and telling. FALSE

Jesus wants all of us to share the good news. TRUE

We can share the good news with our actions as well as words. TRUE



CRAFT ACTIVITY

Use glue sticks and strips of paper to have the kids make paper ring chains. Have them write "Jesus" on the first strip of paper before making it into a ring. Then connect other rings to the "Jesus" ring as a reminder that God wants us to help others connect with Jesus.