



Lesson #11

We've A Story to Tell...

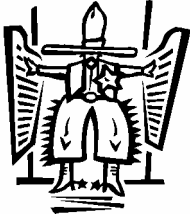


Scripture Reference: **Luke 15:3-7**
Acts 13-28



Goal: We need to tell others about Jesus.

Telling other people about Jesus is a something we're all called to do. But are we actively pursuing this task, or are we content to let those called into foreign missions do the job? Millions of persons, some in our own backyard, are waiting to hear about the Savior. This lesson is designed to help the children realize the need for sharing the message of the Gospel with those who've not yet heard it. By taking part in the interactive activities listed, the children will be exposed to the role of a missionary and ways in which they can be missionaries in their own hometowns.



Opening Activity:

(For this activity, you will need about a 60 piece jigsaw puzzle and Bibles. Ahead of time lay the mixed-up puzzle pieces out on the floor or table, with the exception of one piece. Hide that piece somewhere in the classroom.)

Have the children work as a team putting the puzzle together. When it is complete except for the missing piece, say: **What's wrong? There's a piece missing! A puzzle with a missing piece isn't much good. Let's look around and see if we can find the missing piece.** When the last piece is found and put in place, say: **Wow! You found it! How does that make you feel? It makes me feel like celebrating.**

Finding the lost piece of puzzle reminds me of a story in the Bible. Have the children look up Luke 15:3-7. Read the passage aloud to the children. **What did the man do when he lost his sheep? How did he feel when he found the sheep?**

The missing piece of puzzle and sheep are like a person who doesn't know about God's Son. She feels lost and empty inside. When that person finally learns about Jesus and asks Him to fill her heart with His love, she feels like celebrating, just as we did when we found the puzzle piece. God feels like celebrating, too. In fact, God celebrates every time someone comes to know Jesus.

But there are lots of people in the world who don't know God's Son. Today we're going to travel back in Bible times to meet a man to whom God gave a special job, the job of telling other people about Jesus.



Bible Experience:

(This activity consists of a monologue portrayal of the Apostle Paul. You may dress in character and present the monologue yourself using the script provided below, or find someone else who would be willing to do so.)

If someone is dressing in character, you will need clothing similar to what a man would have worn during Bible times.

If you are dressing for the part, you may wish to arrange ahead of time for another adult to stay with your class while you get into costume.)

Gather the children together in front of the area from which the monologue will be presented.

Script

Come into the room, brushing dust off your clothes as you talk.

Good morning! My name is Paul. I'm pleased to meet you. You'll have to excuse me if my clothes look a bit dusty and dirty. I just got out of jail and haven't had a chance to clean up yet...*Pause.* Oh, I see the way you're looking at me – not too comfortable being in the same room as me, knowing I've been in jail and all. You're probably wondering what I did to get put in jail, too, aren't you?

Would you believe I was thrown in jail because I love God? It's true! I was! There's a rather long story behind the whole ordeal, and I'd be more than happy to share it with you. But I don't think you'll want to be here all day, so I'll just share part of the story.

I guess I'm what you would call a missionary. I go around to different places telling people about Jesus; often these are places I've never been visited before. I tell the people that Jesus is God's Son and that He died on the cross, so they could be forgiven for their sins (the wrong things they've done). But Jesus didn't stay dead. He came back to life again! He lives in Heaven with His Father. We can go to Heaven to live some day too, if we choose to love and obey God.

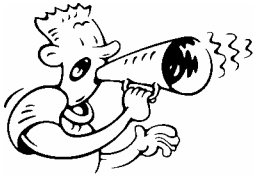
Many people are glad when I come to their towns. They want to hear about Jesus and how much He loves them. They want to know how to live for Him. But not everyone is always happy to see me come.

The town leaders don't like it when I tell the people to obey God. They think the people should obey *them!* To keep me from talking to the people, sometimes they put me in jail. Sometimes they beat me with sticks or whip me. But it doesn't stop me – I keep right on talking about Jesus!

It's hard being a missionary at times, but it's worth it. Every time I hear someone say, "Jesus, I want to live for You – I choose to obey You!", every time I hear those words, it makes getting thrown in jail not seem quite so bad after all.

Telling other people about Jesus is the most important thing I can do right now. You know, you could help me out some by telling other people about Jesus, too. Maybe you could start with your friends.

Well, I'd better get going. I have to catch a ride on a ship. I do hope I don't get seasick. If you'd like to know more about my missionary adventures, you can read about them in the book of Acts in the Bible.
Wave as you walk away.

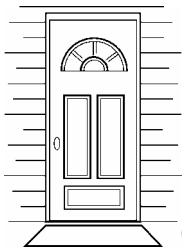


Life Application:

(For this activity, you will need a blackboard, chalk, and an eraser.)

On the blackboard, write "A missionary is..." Say: **We just met a man from the Bible named Paul. Paul said he was a missionary. What is a missionary?** Write all responses on the blackboard underneath the heading. **What else can you tell me about a missionary?** Write additional notes. **Who can be a missionary?**

God doesn't ask everyone to be a missionary in a faraway land, though He does ask some people to do this. Not all people who need to know about God live faraway. How can we be missionaries for God right where we live?



Closing Activity:

(For this activity, you will need the attached door hanger pattern, card stock or poster board, assorted colors of fun foam, tacky or craft glue, scissors, pencils, and permanent markers, as well as small slips of paper containing the name of your church and times of the various services.)

Ahead of time, trace the door hanger pattern onto card stock or poster board a few times and cut them out for the children to use as patterns. You may want to make a sample hanger for the children to use as a guide. If you prefer,

some craft stores have pre-cut fun foam door hangers and shapes available for purchase.)

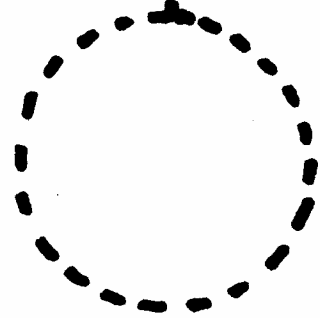
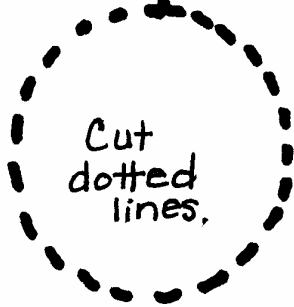
Lead the children in making door hangers to give to a friend who doesn't go to church. The children may trace the door hanger patterns onto whatever color of fun foam they wish and cut them out. They may decorate the hangers any way they wish by cutting smaller figures out of different colored fun foam (suggestions for shapes might be hearts, crosses, flowers, etc.). Each hanger must bear the words, "Jesus Loves You!" Attach a slip of paper containing the church name and times of services to the back of each door hanger.

Say: Today we learned what a missionary is and how we can be missionaries where we live. Telling other people about Jesus is an important job. This week I want you to be missionaries by giving the door hangers you made to friends who don't go to church and by inviting them to come to ours.

Next week we will learn about some special missionaries who live in faraway places.

Door Hang

Sample



Jesus



You!

