

Good News!

Small Group Lesson



Ages
6-7

Power Point

Jesus gives us good news to share!

Scripture Memory Verse

I am proud of the good news! It is God's powerful way of saving all people who have faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles.
—Romans 1:16

Bible Lesson

Peter moves from being afraid to stand up for Jesus to being a bold witness.
—Matthew 26:31-35, 47-55, 69-75; Acts 1:3, 9; 2:1-4

Overview

Before Jesus was crucified, Jesus predicted how Peter would deny Him. While Jesus was on trial, Peter denied Jesus three times, just as Jesus had said.

After Jesus was resurrected, He gathered His disciples and promised them the Holy Spirit would come to them. Jesus then returned to heaven in their sight. When the Day of Pentecost came, Peter spoke boldly about Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions

1. How many times did Peter deny knowing Jesus? (*Three times.*)
2. What did Peter do after the third denial? (*He cried.*)
3. After Jesus was raised from dead, what did He tell the disciples? (*They would teach others about Him.*)
4. Who spoke on the Day of Pentecost about Jesus? (*Peter.*)
5. What is one good thing that you can say about Jesus? (*Allow responses.*)
6. How does it make you feel when you share something good about Jesus to others? (*Allow responses.*)

God Encounter

Materials: Small pieces of candy, new video game (the box will do if the game is not available), music CD.

Preparation: Cue the CD to a favorite song.

Boys and girls, today's lesson is ***Jesus gives us good news to share.*** Have you ever played a video game that was so fun, you couldn't wait to tell your friends about it? What was it? (*Have kids briefly share what game they played.*) Do you remember how you felt? You were probably so excited you couldn't wait to see your friends to tell them about the awesome game. You probably wanted them to play it so they would have as much fun as you did. Has anyone ever played this game? (*Show game box.*)

Boys and girls, someone that is even better than any video game is our friendship with Jesus. We can get just as excited about Jesus as we can playing a game—even more!! When you tell someone about a game, you explain all the cool features and game levels. When you tell someone about Jesus, you tell him or her about all the awesome things He can do. He can help you in school, He answers your prayers, He makes you feel better when you're sad and He can even heal your body when you're feeling sick. Jesus also wants to be your very best friend and He promises never to leave you...ever!

I'm going to give everyone a piece of candy. Don't open the wrapper because you won't be keeping this. When the music plays, walk around the room. When the music stops find a partner. Each of you tell the person closest to you one good thing about Jesus and give that person your piece of candy. Then, the music will start and walk around the room. Again, it will

stop and you'll do the same thing. *(Once you've done this exercise a few times, you may stop and have everyone share a good thing about Jesus before they eat their candy. After kids eat their candy, provide time for them to commit to share the one thing they mentioned, by praying the one thing aloud.)*



The Jesus Factor

I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me.

—John 20:21b

Materials: Flashlight, large eraser, construction paper heart, medicine vial, smiley face stickers or picture.

Preparation: Place all of the items in front of the room on a table.

When God the Father sent Jesus into the world, He sent Him with a message of hope to share with everyone. *(Ask a volunteer to read John 20:21b aloud.)* Now Jesus is sending us. He wants us to share His message with others. **Jesus gives us good news to share.** What is the good news He is sending us out with? I've brought some things that can help us see this.

For instance, when Jesus forgives us, He erases our sins—the mean or selfish things we do that are against God's wishes for us. *(Hold up eraser.)* That is the good news: Jesus erases my sins. Secondly, *(hold up the flashlight),* He rose from the dead and sent the Holy Spirit, Who lights the path of my life and shows me where to go. That's good news. Thirdly, *(hold up the heart),* He changes my heart so I want to do the things that please God. *(Hold up medicine vial.)* Jesus also can heal my sicknesses and pains. When we get sick, we need to hear about a doctor named Jesus who can heal us. Finally, *(hold up the smiley face),* He gives me His joy and happiness even when times are tough. *(Hold up each item and review the good things Jesus gives us.)* Kids, God placed forgiveness, light, a new heart, healing, and joy in Jesus when He sent Him into the world. Now, Jesus gives us these same things. **Jesus gives me good news to share.**

Small Group Activity

Good News Signs

Materials: Index cards, markers, empty McDonalds® Happy Meal box, small Bible, CD player.

Preparation: Place items on a table in front. Place a Bible inside the Happy Meal and close the lid.

Kids, have you ever been driving with your parents down the road and see a McDonalds® sign that really made you hungry? It might have made you hungry for a Happy Meal. The sign was advertising the “good news” about McDonalds. Well kids, we have “signs” that will hopefully lead people to Jesus. When some people hear our good news that Jesus died for our sins and rose again from the dead and is alive today, they will be hungry for God. Here's the cool part, Jesus knows how to give people something way better than just a Happy Meal. *(Hold up the Happy Meal, tear open the box and take out the Bible.)* He knows how to make them full of happiness and joy.

(Pass out index cards and markers.) I would like you to write “Jesus Loves You!” on one side of the card and “Good News” on the other side. After you have finished line up for a game. When the music starts, walk around the room. When the music stops find a partner and each of you share one good thing about Jesus' love or His good news, based on what side of the card is up when your partner reads it. Then, the music will start up. When it stops, find someone new and do the same thing. *(Start and stop the music as above. Continue this a few times until the kids are comfortable sharing.)* Hold on to your cards as a reminder to tell others because **Jesus gives us good news to share.**

Take-Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 6 Ages 6-7 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Hand out this week's Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind kids that you'll ask them for responses during next week's K.I.D.S. Church service.

Good News!



Ages
8-10

Small Group Lesson

Power Point

Jesus gives us good news to share!

Scripture Memory Verse

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—Romans 1:16

Bible Lesson

Peter moves from being afraid to stand up for Jesus to being a bold witness.
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Overview

Before Jesus was crucified, Jesus predicted how Peter would deny Him. While Jesus was on trial, Peter denied Jesus three times, just as Jesus had said.

After Jesus was resurrected, He gathered His disciples and promised them the Holy Spirit would come to them. Jesus then returned to heaven in their sight. When the Day of Pentecost came, Peter spoke boldly about Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions

1. What did Peter say about Jesus he was accused of being a follower? *(He denied Jesus and said that he didn't know him.)*
2. Why do think Peter did that? *(He was afraid and didn't know what to say.)*
3. How do you think that made Jesus feel? (Bad, hurt and lonely because they were friends.)
4. What was the good news that the disciples discovered three days after Jesus died? *(He was risen and alive.)*
5. What news did Peter share after Jesus returned to heaven? *(Jesus was Lord and Savior for everyone who believed in Him.)*
6. What good news do you have about Jesus today? *(Allow responses.)*

God Encounter

Materials: "Sharing Good News" handout from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Preparation: Print "Sharing Good News" handouts, one per child.

Boys and girls, we are discovering that God wants us to tell others about Jesus. We also know that it feels good when we stand up for what we believe. We don't have to be like Peter when he denied Jesus to that little girl. Rather, we can be like Peter a few weeks later who, full of the Holy Spirit, proved himself when he stood up and told thousands about Jesus as we read in the book of Acts.

Let's think about something for a moment: In Bible days they didn't have TV's, the Internet or published Bibles that you could buy at the mall bookstore. But today, we have all these things and more! Therefore, we can thank God for the many ways we can tell others the good news about Jesus. *(Pass out handouts.)*

Here are pictures of some of the many different ways Christians can tell the world about Jesus. *(Divide kids into pairs.)* I would like each pair to choose two of the pictures and talk about how you could use the object in your chosen pictures to share the good news that Jesus died for our sins, but because God rose Him from the dead He is alive today! In a few minutes, you'll have an opportunity to share your ideas. *(Give kids time to discuss ideas. After a few minutes allow volunteers to share their ideas.)* Kids, these are all excellent ideas. Now, I would like all of us to gather

around in a circle. Let's take time to pray for ways these objects can share the good news around the world. You pick your favorite and ask the Lord to bless the people who are learning about Jesus. (*Pray with kids.*) Kids, God can use us to **share the good news of Jesus**. God may lead you to develop a Christian website or video game. Or he could use you now to tell a friend about Jesus on your cell phone or internet blog. How do you think you might **share the good news of Jesus Christ?** (*Allow and encourage responses.*)



The Jesus Factor

“I am sending you just as the Father has sent me.”

—John 20:21b

Materials: A variety of local, state, country and world maps (one that is disposable).

(*Ask a volunteer to read John 20:21b aloud.*) God sent Jesus to be the good news. And Jesus sent out His disciples to share that same news and be good news for others. Jesus started with 12 disciples. As the disciples shared Jesus and started churches, more and more people also became disciples. And now, Jesus sends us out to be His disciples today.

(*Have kids form small groups and give each group a type of map. Form additional groups with extra maps if needed.*) In your groups, look at your maps and talk about how you could **share the good news of Jesus**. For example, if you have a map of our state, you could talk about how you could join with other churches to share Jesus. (*Allow groups a few minutes to discuss ideas. Allow volunteers to share their group's ideas.*)

The good news Jesus asks us to share hasn't changed, but the *ways* we might share the gospel can change. For example, people can hear the gospel on the radio and TV today, when they couldn't do that 2000 years ago. Our challenge is to share the message with as many people as we can. (*Hold up the disposable map.*) This map will be a reminder for us to be thinking about how we share Jesus. (*Tear a piece of the map off and give to each child.*) Keep these pieces to remember **Jesus gives us good news to share**.

Small Group Activity

Running with the Good News

Materials: Masking tape or rope.

Preparation: Mark start and turnaround lines with masking tape or rope.

(*Kids form two relay teams and line up behind the start line.*) We've been exploring how **Jesus gives us good news to share**. Let's play a fun game to remind us to do this.

Kids at the front of the line race to the turnaround point and then run back to tag the next player on their team. Here is how kids will tag players: When the running player tags, he says, **“Jesus gives us.”** And the next player says back **“good news to share!”** Then she can run the course. Repeat until all the kids have run the course. If time permits, choose alternate ways to run the course, such as heel and toe, running (or walking) backwards, or crab walking.

Take-Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 6 Ages 8-10 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Hand out this week's Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind kids that you'll ask them for responses during next week's K.I.D.S. Church service.

Good News!



Ages
11-12

Small Group Lesson

Power Point

Jesus gives us good news to share!

Scripture Memory Verse

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Bible Lesson

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Overview

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After Jesus was resurrected, He gathered His disciples and promised them the Holy Spirit would come to them. Jesus then returned to heaven in their sight. When the Day of Pentecost came, Peter spoke boldly about Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions

1. What did Peter say when he was asked if he knew Jesus? (*He denied Jesus and lied.*)
2. Why do think Peter did that? (*He was afraid and didn't know what to say.*)
3. After Jesus was raised from dead, Peter was different. What did Peter do in Acts 2:14? (*He stood up and told a large crowd the good news about Jesus.*)
4. What was the good news that the disciples had? (*Men crucified Jesus. Jesus died for our sins, and God raised Jesus from the dead.*)
5. How do you think the disciples felt standing up for Jesus? (*Strong, courageous and proud to know Jesus.*)
6. What is the biggest thing that hinders you from standing up and telling people about Jesus? (*Allow responses.*)

God Encounter

Materials: 2 large pieces of newsprint, tape, whiteboard or easel.

Preparation: Hang up the two newsprint sheets and write "Team A" on one and "Team B" on the other. Tape them on either sides of a whiteboard or easel. Assign a recorder for each team who can write quickly but legibly.

Peter went from being a coward to acting very courageously. What do you think made the difference? (*Allow responses.*) Peter needed two things: the good news that Jesus rose from the dead and the power of God's Holy Spirit inside of him. In a lot of ways we're like Peter, we also have something about Jesus to share, but maybe aren't so sure about how to share it. We too are at a loss for the right words when we are put on the spot.

Today, we are going to pack you with a whole alphabet of words that describe Jesus, because **Jesus gives us good news to share!** (*Divide the group into two teams, A and B.*) Here's how we play. When I say go, Team A has to come up with a word that describes Jesus that starts with the letter A. Then, Team B has to come up with a word that starts with the letter B. At the end, we will see which team has the most words. If you can't come up with a word in five seconds, we pass to the other team to attempt it. (*Play the game.*) Great job kids, that was fun.

Let's all come together and make one circle. I would like everyone to pick a word that means something to you. I will open in prayer and I would

like each of you to thank Jesus by saying the word you have chosen for Him. Once everyone has prayed I will close the prayer. *(Open in prayer and have everyone take a turn. If someone doesn't want to pray, encourage kids to simply say their word. Close the prayer with something like the following.)* Lord Jesus, You are amazing from A to Z. Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross for our sins to make a way to God. Thank You also for rising from the dead, and are alive with us right now! We commit ourselves to share your good news to others. You gave us the love and courage and now we give you our commitment. Amen.



The Jesus Factor

“I am sending you just as the Father has sent me.”

—John 20:21b

Materials: “Sharing Good News” handout from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Preparation: Print or photocopy “Sharing Good News” handouts, one per child.

(Ask a volunteer to read John 20:21b aloud.) God sent Jesus to be the good news. Jesus spoke about Himself as being the good news and He sent out His disciples to tell others about Jesus. The disciples walked or took boat rides everywhere they went and talked to people face-to-face 2000 years ago. They didn't have bicycles, cars, or planes; they didn't have books (as we know them), cell phones, radios, TVs or the Internet. Today we have many ways to tell the good news.

(Pass out handouts.) Here are pictures of the many different ways Christians can tell the world about Jesus. *(Divide kids into pairs.)* I would like each pair to choose two of the pictures and talk about how you think using the object in your chosen pictures, can be used to share the good news of Jesus. In a few minutes, you'll have an opportunity to share your ideas. *(Give kids time to discuss ideas. After a few minutes allow volunteers to share their ideas.)*

(Gather kids in a circle.) Let's pray for ways we can use these objects to share the good news that Jesus died for our sins, rose from the dead and reigns

from heaven today. You pick your favorite and ask the Lord to bless the people who are learning about Jesus. *(Pray with kids.)* Kids, God can use us to **share the good news of Jesus**. God may lead you to develop a Christian website or video game. Or he could use you now to tell a friend about Jesus on your cell phone or internet blog. How do you think you might **share the good news of Jesus Christ?** *(Allow and encourage responses.)*

Small Group Activity

Good News Reporting

Materials: Props to make a TV news studio.

Optional: Video camera or recording device (could be as simple as a cell phone video).

Preparation: Set up the TV studio. If video recording, gather the people and equipment needed.

(Kids choose who will be the reporter and the news anchor.) We've been exploring how **Jesus gives us good news to share**. Let's see what this might look like on a TV news report. *(Have kids form pairs and discuss what things they know about sharing Jesus. They will tell these things in response to the reporter's questions. For the reporter, provide the following questions to help her interview groups: What is the good news? Why is this good news? Who is the good news for? How has this been good news for you?)*

Welcome to the Good News Newscast! Let's hear from our news anchor. *(Have the anchor introduce the reporter who will report on her interview with the groups. After the newscast, encourage kids to think of way they can share the good news of Jesus.)*

Take-Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 6 Ages 11-12 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Hand out this week's Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind kids that you'll ask them for responses during next week's K.I.D.S. Church service.