



Date: _____
Series: Good Kings – Bad Kings
Fall Year 4, Lesson 19

Share Your Faith With Your Family

Primary Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:1-5; Acts 16:1; Romans 8:15-16

Key Verse: Romans 8:15b, “Instead, you have received the spirit of God’s adopted children by which we call out, ‘Abba! Father!’”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

The most important influence in a child’s spiritual development is his/her parents. For some children, the parents are a wonderful influence and pass to their children the treasure of the living faith. It is a handoff well received. For others, though the parents are believers and are well intentioned, the children can reject their witness and drop the baton in the passing of the gospel. A third group of children are those whose parent or parents are unbelievers. Though it is more difficult for this child to encounter and receive Christ, it still can happen. For children in all these circumstances, they need to understand that they have the ultimate responsibility for their own faith, personal belief, or rejection. Once they have received their faith, they have a second responsibility to share their faith with family members, even if this means children sharing faith with their parents. This can be one of the most winsome witnesses in the world.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, we can be adopted as sons and daughters of the King.

Jesus in us: The Spirit of Christ transforms us so that we are empowered by his living presence.

Jesus through us: Actions and words can be used by Jesus to invite others to his royal family.

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Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies: small treasure box with a sign inside that reads, "Abba – Daddy."

If one of the children has a parent in the group, invite both of them forward. Place the treasure chest in the hands of the adult.

Today we are making one of the great handoffs of all time. I see that this mother is now passing an immense treasure to her daughter.

Ask the parent to pass the treasure chest to her daughter.

What do you think is in the treasure? Who wants to guess?

Take two or three guesses. Each time, note how impressive this treasure may be and that perhaps it is better than the guesses. Finally open the box to read, "Abba – Daddy."

Why is the word "Daddy" a treasure? Because the Bible says that you can now call your Father in heaven Abba which is the way they said "Daddy" or "Papa" in Jesus' time. It is the name that a small trusting girl would use as she stretches her arms up to give her daddy a hug. And all of this is possible because God gave his Son Jesus so we can be adopted as his children.

Let's worship him now as we reach our arms to heaven.

Dismiss the parent and child to return to the audience.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

How many of you know Jesus as your Savior and are sons and daughters of the King? Raise your hands.

I can see that there are a lot. I also can see that so many of you have shown yourselves to be sons and daughters of the King by attending Kids Church and in the way you worship and praise him. But think about this past week. Was there anything you did that a son or daughter of the heavenly Father would not have done? Maybe it was gossiping or cheating. Maybe you hurt someone or failed to help someone. What sin did you struggle with this week? Your heavenly Father doesn't want that sin to get in the way of your relationship with him. Please tell him about it when we pray. And in the name of Jesus, ask that it be taken away. God will then help you in the future. Let's pray.

Dear God, thank you that you want us to call you "Father." We can even call you "Daddy." Thank you for Jesus who made it all possible. Sometimes we don't live like a son or daughter of our heavenly Father. We are now thinking about the things we did this week that need forgiveness. We are talking to you quietly about them in our hearts now. Pause. Now, since you love us and gave us Jesus, please forgive us, and let us be so filled with your Son that we don't want to go back to our sin again. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Your choice of music.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Set the sign that reads, “Abba – Daddy,” on the altar, and set the treasure box next to it. Then say:

When a father gives a child an allowance, the money can be used for a lot of things. Did you know that all our money actually comes not from our earthly father but from our heavenly Father? He also says, “You can use it for whatever you need. But before you spend it all, give back to me one dollar out of every ten dollars. That way, I will use the money to help others come to know me.”

As we put our offerings in the treasure box today, let’s remember that our money comes from our heavenly Father.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Hot Foot Relay

Supplies: small candles, one for each group of five children; using masking tape, make two parallel lines ten feet apart

Ask the children to take off their shoes and socks. Divide children into groups of five and have team members stretch from one line to the other, holding hands. The goal is to pass an unlit candle down the line and back again using only their toes to take and pass the candle.

Without using hands, have the first person on each team take a candle from behind the line between his toes and pass it to the next person in line. In turn, this child will pass the candle to the next. If the candle is dropped during any of the handoffs (or in this case, the “toe-offs”) then the last person holding it must pick it up with his toes and try again until it is passed successfully. The fifth person in line must touch the candle behind the line closest to him and pass the candle back to the previous person in line. The candle is worked back to the first person in line that must set the candle behind the line with his toes. Then the team must sit down. The first team to sit down wins.

Learning Point:

Ask the children to guess what might be the learning point. Take answers.

Even though we didn't light the candles for safety reasons, the candles remind us of faith which is passed from one person to the next. Often, faith is lost in the handoff. Sometimes this is between parents and kids. However, we should not give up. We should continue to share the gospel with others. Faith is not only shared from parents to children. It can also be shared from children to parents just as we passed the candles back across the team.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Passing the Faith

Supplies: four candles, matches, four baseball caps, one Jewish skull cap, two scarves

Il Timothy 1:1-5 will be illustrated through an audience participation drama. All characters will be invited to begin offstage until called forward when they are given their name, their hat, and their part. An adult assistant or the presenter can do this as he reads the script.

Choose two boys from the audience—one older and one younger. Have the older one play Paul and the younger one play Timothy. Choose two girls from the audience—one older and one younger. The older one should play Lois and the younger one plays Eunice. Choose three boys or girls to play Gentiles. The dialog below clearly describes when each character will come forward.

This is the story of sharing your faith with your family. I would like to introduce Paul.

Invite Paul forward, and place a Jewish skullcap on his head.

Paul was born as a Jew. Actually, his name was Saul before it was changed to Paul. And while his name was Saul, he was a very famous religious leader among the Jews. He thought that if he could do just enough religious things and keep God's rules, then he could earn his way to Heaven.

Saul thought that Jesus was an imposter. He thought that Jesus was lying when he claimed to be the Son of God, so he was glad when Jesus died. He didn't believe that Jesus was raised back to life. Saul was so committed to his religious ways, he even hunted down Christians to imprison them or put them to death.

One time, when he was on the road to do just that, a very bright light shined on him. It was Jesus. Jesus called him to stop persecuting his followers and, instead, to follow him. The light of faith had been given to him.

Light a candle and hand it to Paul. Bring Lois and Eunice forward and put scarves on their heads. Bring the Gentiles and Timothy forward, and put baseball caps on their heads.

Paul soon became a missionary. He shared the message of God's truth not only with Jews but also with non-Jews, or Gentiles. He traveled from city to city and land to land sharing the Good News.

Once, he came to a town and shared the message with people who were believers there. Two of the Jews that believed were Lois and her daughter, Eunice.

Hand them candles. Ask them to light their candles from Paul's.

They had the light of Jesus shining in their lives. Eunice had married someone who was not a Jew but a Gentile. He was not a believer or follower of Jesus. But still she wanted to pass her faith down to her son. Her son's name was Timothy. Even though his father did not believe, Timothy received Jesus as his Savior and became a strong follower of Christ.

Ask Timothy to light his candle from Eunice's candle.

Now see how faith is shared in the family and is passed from a parent to a child? This can happen even if the other parent is not a believer. And if you look at Paul, neither of his parents were believers or followers of Jesus. But he was. Even if our parents are not believers, we are still responsible for the way we respond to the Good News of Jesus. But just because we do have Christian parents doesn't mean that we will automatically follow him. No parent can make that choice for his child.

What do you do if one of your parents is not a believer? You can share the gospel of Jesus with your parent—and also with others. That is what Timothy did. He shared the gospel with his father. We don't know if his father believed in Jesus or followed Jesus eventually, but Timothy did witness to him. Timothy went along with Paul and Silas on their missionary journeys to share this gospel light with others. Paul became just like a spiritual dad for Timothy. And one time, he even wrote him a letter when Timothy was a young pastor taking care of a church. Paul wrote about this in 1 Timothy.

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-2.

Application:

Supplies (optional): The Story Keepers: Ready, Aim, FIRE! video produced by Zondervan Publishing House, 1996, ISBN 0-310-20599-9. Order from http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/product?item_no=05929&netp_id=292116&vent=ESRCN&item_code=WW

We're Never Too Young

This is a true story about a girl named Debbie. When Debbie was just a baby, her mother would take her and her two brothers to church every Sunday. The church was a fine place where the people loved children very much and taught them about Jesus.

From a very early age, Debbie knew that Jesus lived in her heart. She could feel his presence in her life every day. We may think that all was well and perfect in Debbie's life because of her faith in Jesus, but one thing was missing. Debbie's dad never attended church with the family. Everyone prayed that one day her dad would decide to get up early on Sunday mornings with mom and the children and drive them all to church together. Debbie dreamed of the day when this would happen!

When Debbie was ten years old, she felt that it was up to her to talk to her dad about attending church. The Sunday school teacher had been talking to the class about heaven and hell, and how we need faith in Jesus to enter the kingdom of heaven. Debbie knew that she couldn't wait any longer. She did not want her dad to live eternally in hell.

On Saturday nights the family would eat supper together at 5:00 p.m. Mom and the kids would then prepare for church the next day. Clothes were ironed and set out for the next morning. Baths were taken, and hair was washed, and Bible lessons were completed for the next day in Sunday school.

One Saturday night, Debbie was trying to decide when she could have time alone with her dad to ask him about attending church with the family. When her mom was helping her brother take a bath and wash his hair, the opportunity came for Debbie to talk to her dad.

Debbie was extremely nervous. It wasn't easy to talk to her father. He sometimes had a temper and would get very angry about the smallest things. Debbie feared his anger and the possibility of being rejected by her dad. Then what would she do? What else could she try to get her dad to church?

Debbie's heart was pounding very hard, and she was trembling inside. Then she remembered one of her favorite Bible verses—Joshua 1:9 says, *"Be strong and courageous! Don't tremble or be terrified, because the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

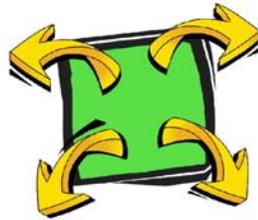
So Debbie prayed and then asked her father what he thought would happen to him when he died. He said he probably wouldn't go anywhere, that no one would want him anyway. Debbie told him that God would want him and that God loves everyone and wants everyone to spend eternity in heaven with him.

Debbie then invited her dad into her room to help her study the Bible lesson. Surprisingly her dad followed, and they studied for quite awhile together. The next morning when the family got up to go to church, Debbie's dad got up and drove everyone there! Debbie's prayers were answered! When Debbie was 16, she was old enough to sing in the church's adult choir. Her dad had a beautiful voice, so they both attended choir rehearsal every Thursday evening and sang together on Sunday mornings.

Sometimes we think we are too young to bring someone else to Jesus, especially if the person is older than we are. Debbie discovered this is not true. We are never too young or too old to lead another person to Jesus.

Just as Debbie did, all we have to do is ask God for strength and courage and the right words to say. There is a saying that will help you remember to do this important step: *Talk to God about the person before you talk to the person about God.*

If time allows, show the video *The Story Keepers: Ready, Aim, FIRE!* produced by Zondervan Publishing House, 1996, ISBN 0-310-20599-9. The video is 21 minutes 40 seconds. Begin after the previews and credits. The previews are 4 minutes 30 seconds, and the credits are 27 seconds.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Read the following story or invite an adult who did not have Christian parents, to talk about how he/she witnessed to his/her parent(s). Invite kids to share any stories they have about sharing their faith with their families, especially someone in their family who doesn't believe. This may not be a parent. It could be a brother, sister, grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin, etc. Pray for each of those people.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- small treasure box
- sign that fits inside the treasure box that reads, “Abba – Daddy”

Learning Game:

- small candles, such as birthday candles or emergency candles; one is needed for each group of five children
- masking tape to make two parallel lines ten feet apart on the floor

Bible Presentation:

- four candles
- matches
- four baseball caps
- one Jewish skull cap
- two scarves

Application:

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