



Date: _____
Series: The Early Church
Spring Year 1, Lesson 55

The Witnessing Church

Take Home Point: *Team up! Don't give up—no matter what! *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Acts 5:17-42. The apostles are imprisoned for their witness, freed miraculously, and then boldly proclaim Jesus in front of the Jewish council.

Key Verse: Acts 5:32, "We are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has give to those who oey him."

We will help kids know:

- We are teamed up with the Holy Spirit to be witnesses to the world for Jesus.
- We team up with one another and find courage together to witness for Jesus Christ.
- The content of witnessing is knowing Jesus as Savior and Lord and giving this knowledge to another.




We will help kids feel:

- Courage to be able to share their faith in everyday situations.
- Love for fellow friends, family, and even enemies so they might share Jesus.

We will help kids do:

- Role play real life applications of witnessing in their world.
- Pray for God to show them their witness partner or partners they can find strength in as they share together in witnessing about Jesus.
- Think of one person who needs their witness and pray for that person.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3-4	The kids' job will be to problem solve in a game and illustrate how they can carry Jesus to the world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gift bow for each group • a hula-hoop, tape, or yarn for each group to make a circle
Large Group 	4 9-11 10	Overview Puppet Presentation: "The No-Matter-What Witness"---Gordy wants to be a witness for Jesus, no matter what. Video: <i>The Visual Bible: Acts 5:17-42</i> ---Peter and the other apostles are on trial in front of the Jewish Council. Puppet Presentation Conclusion: "The No-Matter-What Witness"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy with a heart headpiece around his face. To make, cut a hole in a paper heart big enough for Gordy's face to fit through. Place a gift-wrap bow at the corner of the heart, and on the heart write, "Jesus loves you."
Small Group Application 	5-8	Kids will act out four different scenarios. They will practice teaming up and never giving up no matter what, as they think of the ways they can present Jesus to the person in need.	

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

For this game you will need a gift bow and a hula-hoop, tape, or yarn to make a circle.

Begin with a discussion about giving a special gift.

Can you tell us about one really cool present that you gave someone? Maybe it was the best present you ever gave to someone.

After this has been briefly discussed, say:

**Today we will learn to give the very best present, Jesus, to the world.
To show you how this works we are going to play a game.**

Use the hula-hoop, tape, or yarn to make a circle in one corner of your area. Then place a gift bow on someone's head who will "become Jesus." The person representing Jesus is placed at the opposite corner of the area from where the circle is.

The object of the game is for this Jesus person, who is the best gift, to be taken to the world, which is symbolized by the circle. The rules of the game are that Jesus can not walk, be dragged, or be carried on a person's back to the circle, but he must get there somehow. The kids' job will be to problem solve and carry Jesus to the world.

Let the kids brainstorm for a short time and then make the following suggestion.

It will take two kids to do it. Can you join your arms (hands) together to make a seat? This is how Jesus can be carried to the world.



Make a saddle seat using a team of two kids facing each other. Have both children extend their arms in front of their bodies with their hands down. Bend the right arm at a right angle and grab the left arm at about the elbow. Now have partners, each with their left hand, attach to the other person's right arm. Their arms connected together form a square or "seat." Together they will be able to carry a person. The person being carried must place his arms around his carriers' necks for balance as he is lifted onto the seat made by the children.

You need to walk with the children and watch for any falls. Not every one will be strong enough for this activity, so pick the proper candidates.

Restate that the goal is to carry the gift of Jesus to the circle, which symbolizes the world.

Today we will talk about how the disciples brought the message of Jesus to their world. These two children are like the disciples. When they put their hands together to carry Jesus it shows us how they carried the message of Jesus to other people. We, too, will bring Jesus to our world. So **team up! Don't give up—no matter what!*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview:

Puppet Presentation: “The No-Matter-What Witness”

Gordy wants to be a witness for Jesus, no matter what. He thinks the best way to do this is by wearing a special decoration.

Video: *The Visual Bible: Acts.*

Acts 5:17-42---Peter and the other apostles are on trial in front of the Jewish Council. Even though they had strict orders not to mention Jesus' name, they did it anyway.

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “The No-Matter-What Witness”

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Acts 5:17-42 in their Bibles.

Why did the disciples get put in jail? *(Acts 5:16-18. The chief priest and the whole party of the Sadducees were jealous of what the apostles were doing.)*

How did the disciples get out of jail? *(Acts 5:19. An angel of the Lord opened the door and let them out.)*

What did they do after they got out of jail? *(Acts 5:21. They went back to the temple and started to teach.)*

Did they all stick together as a team, or, was each apostle by himself? *(Acts 5:25, 29, 41. They were all together.)*

What did the Jewish leaders do to the apostles when they heard them preaching again? *(Acts 5:27. They brought the apostles to stand before the council.)*

What did Peter and his team say to the Jewish leaders? *(Acts 5:29, 32. They must obey God rather than people and that they were witnesses.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

What do you think the apostles felt when they were first thrown in jail?

What do you think they felt when they were let out of jail by an angel?

Do you think they wanted to give up, or were they scared to talk about Jesus after they were let out of jail?

Where do you think the apostles' strength to give Jesus to others came from?

Acts 5:32 says, “We are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Point out that it is not just a team that gives them strength, but it is teaming up with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us power but then he puts us on a team with other believers.

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Are you ever scared or uncomfortable when you try to witness to someone about Jesus?

What lesson do we learn from this Bible event about witnessing?
*(*Team up! Don't give up—no matter what!)*

Witnessing is giving Jesus to your world. Where do you get the strength and courage to do that? (From the Holy Spirit.)

Application Activity:

Narrate the following four scenarios while teams of two or three kids act them out. After you have assigned the parts and read the script, have the children role play the outcome. The children can practice teaming up and never giving up no matter what as they think of the ways they can give Jesus to the person in need.

Scenario One: “Church Is Dumb”

The shepherd stands behind the student playing Joey and reads this description.

Hi, I’m Joey. I am playing on the playground. Two of my good friends come up to me. (That’s _____ and _____.) We start talking. This is what I said to them. “I don’t know why you go to church because I heard my Dad say that believing in Jesus is dumb. He was just some guy who lived a long time ago. So, I guess Jesus must be a dumb idea. Who do you say Jesus is?”

Have the two friends respond to Joey’s comment. Direct them to talk about what Jesus has done for them and what he means to them.

Scenario Two: “Rotten Ralph”

The shepherd stands behind the student playing Ralph and reads this description:

My name is Ralph. Sometimes kids call me Rotten Ralph. That’s because not too many people like me. I am bigger than a lot of the kids so I act like I don’t care. I just like to hit ’em. But if you really want to know the truth, I really do care that nobody seems to like me. Maybe I hit ’em just to get kids to pay attention to me.

When we are waiting in line at the drinking fountain I see _____ and _____, who are talking about a party at their church. It makes me mad that I can’t go so I say, “Your party is dumb,” and I push ’em.

Have the two friends role play how they could respond as witnesses.

Scenario Three: “Sad Courtney”

The shepherd stands behind the student playing Courtney and reads this description:

Hi, my name is Courtney. I am walking home from the bus with two of my friends, _____ and _____. I am talking about how my grandpa is really sick and everyone is worried that he might die. I have to go straight home and can’t play today. My grandma says we need to pray, but I’ve never had God answer any prayers. Have you?

Have two more kids role play.

Scenario Four: “*Left Out Louise*”

The shepherd stands behind the student playing Louise and reads this description:

My name is Louise. I am having a terrible day at school. JoAnn, who used to be my best friend yesterday, now doesn't like me at all and is trying to get everyone to not like me as well. She has called all the kids on the playground together to whisper about me, and I can't hear what they are saying. I try to pretend that I don't care but it really does make me feel sad. I feel very alone. I think I will hate her forever.

I am going to sit with _____ and _____, and maybe they will be my friends. I am going to tell them about all the bad things my used-to-be-friend is saying. I am going to tell them how I am going to get even with her. Maybe they would be my friends to help me get even.

Ad-lib the rest of the conversation. What would you say if you were the friends?

Was it easier to witness in these scenarios when a friend was partnering with you? Why?

How does it make you feel to know that God, through the Holy Spirit, is also your partner in witnessing about Jesus?

Remember, that we have situations all the time that give us opportunities to witness about Jesus. So **team up and don't give up—no matter what!*

Closing Prayer:

Invite each child to think of someone who they might have a chance to give Jesus to or witness to in their world. Then have them think about and pray for some special friends to team up with so they can ****team up and not give up—no matter what!***

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Large Group Presentation

“The No-Matter-What Witness”

Puppet Presentation

Take Home Point: *Team up! Don’t give up—no matter what!

Gordy appears with a large red heart with a gift-wrap bow and the words, “Jesus loves you” around his face.

Gordy: Hi, Mr. King.

Mr. King: Hi, Gordy. What’s that thing around your face?

Gordy: Oh, this is my “no-matter-what witness.” Isn’t it cool?

Mr. King: Your no-matter-what witness? What’s that about?

Gordy: Well, I know that today we’re talking about taking Jesus to the world, no matter what.

Mr. King: That’s right. We will be talking about how not to give up no matter what.

Gordy: Well, we are supposed to don’t-give-up witness and no-matter-what witness. So how about this?

Mr. King: This what?

Gordy: This witness I have.

Mr. King: You mean this big heart with a bow tie on it that says, “Jesus loves you?”

Gordy: Yeah. Isn’t this the best way to witness? I mean, no matter what I’m not giving up if I wear this.

Mr. King: Do you think this is going to help people know Jesus?

Gordy: Sure, Mr. King. Won’t it?

Mr. King: I don’t know, Gordy. Let’s ask the kids. Kids, what do you think? Point your thumbs up if you think this would help Gordy witness at

school. Point your thumbs down if you think it wouldn't help very much. Pause for audience response. Uh oh, I see a lot of thumbs pointed down. Maybe they think this won't help you.

Gordy: Okay, but I won't give up. Here, Mr. King, you take it. You can wear it.

Mr. King: I don't think it would help me either.

Gordy: Well, what is going to help?

Mr. King: I'll tell you what will help...teaming up. Then it's a lot easier not to give up no matter what. Teaming up is a lot better way to share Jesus with other people.

Gordy: What do you mean, Mr. King?

Mr. King: Watch our Bible event in which the early disciples were teamed together so it was easier with the courage of the Holy Spirit. As a matter of fact, they were teamed up with the Holy Spirit himself. God did a miracle and broke them out of jail. They didn't give up no matter what as they gave Jesus to the world.

Gordy: Is that what we're supposed to do?

Mr. King: That's right. Today we are talking about witnessing, which is giving Jesus to the world.

Gordy: And we team up?

Mr. King: Team Up!

Gordy: And don't give up?

Mr. King: And don't give up!

Gordy: No matter what?

Mr. King: No matter what! Take a look at this, Gordy. Here is the Bible event.

Show Acts 5:17-42 from the video, *The Visual Bible: Acts*.

Mr. King: This Bible event demonstrates how the disciples witnessed about Jesus no matter what. Even after they were thrown into prison and beaten, they continued because they teamed up. They even had the Holy Spirit as a partner.

In Acts 5:32 Peter and the other apostles said, “We are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

After the above wrap-up, have already selected kids who mastered the opening warm-up activity quite well, demonstrate carrying Jesus to the world. As they do so, have the kids chant about how it is that we witness. Again, we are defining witnessing as giving Jesus to the world and how we do it is ***Team up! Don’t give up—no matter what!** By dividing the group into thirds, this could be a fun chant to do while the example group is demonstrating getting Jesus to the world.

Gordy: Okay, Mr. King. You can have my know-matter-what witness decoration. Actually, I think it will improve your looks quite a bit.

Mr. King: Thanks, Gordy. Would you say a closing prayer for us?

Gordy: Sure, Mr. King.

Dear God, Thank you for your Holy Spirit who gives us the courage to take the good news of Jesus to the world. Thank you for the disciples who teamed up no matter what as an example for us to team up with other believers. Help us to be courageous and to not give up no matter what in sharing Jesus with others. In Jesus’ name. Amen.