



Date: _____

Series: The Early Church
Spring Year 1, Lesson 50

Power to Be Christ's Witnesses

Primary Scripture: Acts 1:3-11

Key Verse: Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses..."

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

A characteristic of this generation is that kids seek to make a difference. Young followers of Jesus Christ need to know that Jesus expects them to make a difference in their world. They can be his witnesses. Before they can make a difference, they need power from Jesus. As they picture him ruling with all power in heaven, they can trust Jesus to give them the power to share his love and his message with others. They will have power to be his witnesses to the world.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus defeated Satan through his death and resurrection. Now Jesus rules from on high to give us his power.

Jesus in us: Jesus declared that we would have power as the Holy Spirit comes upon us.

Jesus through us: Through the power that Jesus has given us, we can witness to the world.

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.

Needed: A heart made of cardboard or heavy weighted paper with a string or yarn attached to it

Toss the heart or weighted paper toward the ceiling. Enter the worship area oblivious to anyone else in the room, tossing the heart toward the ceiling and picking it up to toss it again. After several repeated tosses, say:

Oh, excuse me! I didn't see you there. I was just getting ready for worship. Yep, I'm giving my heart to Jesus. I am tossing it into the air as an act of worship to him. This is what it says in the Bible in Colossians 3:1 (NIV):

"...set your hearts on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God."

When we worship, it is like taking our hearts and tossing them toward heaven. When we tell Jesus that we love him, we are tossing our hearts to him. But when we do that in worship, our hearts don't fall back down. They stay up there with Christ as we think about him.

**I brought along some things so everybody can make a heart today.
Let's each make a heart to remind us that when we worship, we give
our hearts to Jesus.**

Have kids make symmetrical hearts by folding a piece of red construction paper in half and cutting a half-heart shape. When kids open it, it becomes a whole heart. When finished making, have everybody shout, "Hallelujah!" while tossing their heart in the air.

As kids pick up their hearts, continue with singing.

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.

Supplies: a large bucket labeled "sin"

The truth is, I don't always give my heart to Jesus like I should. Sometimes I toss my heart to things that are bad. Do you ever do that? Pretend with me that this bucket is filled with yucky mud. That's what sin is like – yucky mud which dirties up our lives. For example, when we do or say mean things to other people, it is like we are giving our hearts to sin.

This last week did you do or say anything that was mean? What about times that we might have had the opportunity to share Jesus' love with another person or to tell that person about Jesus, but we didn't?

Toss your heart into the bucket, and then have kids pretend to throw their hearts into the bucket.

How does it feel, pretending to throw your heart in the yucky bucket of sin? (Not good) That bad feeling, that guilty feeling you get when you sin, is God's way of helping us know we need to change, that we've done something that makes him very sad. That's called our conscience. God uses our conscience to draw us back to him when we have sinned. He wants us to come to him and confess the bad things we have done.

Jesus wants to pull our hearts out of the yucky bucket of sin. That is why he died on the cross. He paid for our forgiveness so our hearts can be pulled out of the yucky bucket of sin.

Now let's pray this prayer in our hearts:

Thank you, God, that you gave Jesus to die for our sins. Please forgive us for our sins and help us keep our hearts set on you. Thank you for loving us so much and help us to love you more every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Be sure to make the point of visually removing the heart from the "bucket of sin".

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.

Offering:

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

Place the heart used in today's *Attention Grabber* in the offering basket. Tell the kids this is a picture of how we can show our love to God through the gifts that we give him. Have kids place their paper hearts along with their offerings in the offering basket.



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.

Super Chair Blastoff!

Supplies: two office chairs, scooter boards or skateboards

To play this game, you will need two office chairs on wheels, scooter boards, or skateboards upon which a child from each group can sit.

Have each team (maybe boys vs. girls) form parallel lines. Each team is to act as a rocket blastoff station pushing the chair or skateboard along the line. The kids must stay stationary but can push the chair along with their hands as it gathers speed traveling down the line until it finally blasts off!

The contest is to see which team can send its chair the farthest. Players can take turns in the chair to find the best combination for the farthest flight.

Discuss the learning point.

We are Christ's ambassadors or witnesses. What is an ambassador or witness? Right, he/she is a representative of a king. When we are Jesus' ambassador or witness, God sends us out to people to tell them and show them about Jesus' love. How far will he send us? We don't know, but it is exciting! And he sends us with POWER, just as our chairs "blasted off" in the game.

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.

Show Acts 1:3-11 from the video, *The Visual Bible: Acts*. It is produced by Visual Bible. Order from http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=364.

Application:

Read the short book, *Adam Raccoon and the Mighty Giant* by Glen Keane. Order from <http://www.directtextbook.com/prices/0781430100>.

Object Lesson #1:

Explain how countries today have ambassadors who are representatives of their king or the president of their country. Explain the definition of an ambassador as someone who takes the place of the king when the king wants to talk to a foreign country. You can also use the example of a substitute teacher. The substitute takes the place of the teacher when the teacher can't be there. Then say:

Jesus says that we can be his ambassadors. This would be like Jesus sitting in his throne room and saying to one of his people, "I want you to go and be my representative to a foreign country. I want you to tell these other people about me." That is exactly what an ambassador does.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV) says it this way. *"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."*

That means Jesus has sent you to your family and to your friends to be his ambassador. You are to be a representative of the King.

Object Lesson #2:

Supplies: on top of a large table, have a large chair in the middle of two smaller chairs

Give the kids a visual picture of their position in Christ by preparing an object lesson. On top of a large table, have a large chair in the middle of two smaller chairs.

Boys and girls, last week we learned that Jesus rose from the dead and he is alive. Since Jesus died on the cross, he defeated Satan and all of our enemies. Now he is alive! Today we are going to see how Jesus ascended to heaven and is a king in the highest position of power there.

I would like you to imagine right now that you could see Jesus in heaven. It might look something like this.

Point to the chairs on top of the table.

Imagine Jesus sitting in the middle chair on top of the table. Envision him as king of the universe! He is ruling right now and his love and power are greater than anything else.

Whom do you think these other two chairs are for?

Take suggestions from the group until someone guesses that the chairs would be for us. If your table is sturdy enough and the children are light enough, you might have two small children actually sit in the smaller chairs to the side of the big chair. *(Be sure this is safe!)*

The Bible says in Colossians 3:3, “...*your life is hidden with Christ in God.*” In other words, since you trust Jesus as your Savior and follow him as your Lord, it is just as if you were with him where he is. It’s just like Jesus is in heaven right now ruling the whole world and you’re right there with him!

Even though you cannot see heaven or Jesus, the Bible says that your life is hidden with him. Because of that, you will have great power.

Use your imagination again. Picture Jesus ruling in heaven. Then picture yourself right next to him as one of his faithful subjects. That is what we are going to learn about today as we discover what it means to be seated with Christ.

We are seated with Christ when we trust that he has risen from the dead and is seated right now on God’s right hand. He now rests, having defeated the power of Satan through the cross and his resurrection. When we believe in him, we can also rest and be seated with Jesus in a position of power. From that position, Jesus also sends us out to be his witnesses!



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.

Begin by explaining again what we mean by witnessing and give an example of a time you witnessed to someone. Then have kids share times they witnessed to others.

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.

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 songs 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:

- heart made of cardboard or heavy weighted paper with a string or yarn attached to it

The Power of the Cross:

- large bucket labeled “sin”

Learning Game:

- two office chairs on wheels, scooter boards, or skateboards

Object Lesson #2:

- on top of a large table, have a large chair in the middle of two smaller chairs

Bible Reading:

- video, *The Visual Bible: Acts (1:3-11)*, produced by Visual Bible International and Visual Entertainment, Inc. (1994) —order from http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=364

Life Application:

- short story, *Adam Raccoon and the Mighty Giant* by Glen Keane (Chariot Books, David C. Cook Publishing Co.: Elgin, IL.1989)—order from <http://www.directtextbook.com/prices/0781430100>

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