



Date: _____

Series: Jesus is Lord of All
Spring Year 2, Lesson 51

The Power of an Example

Primary Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 1:4-8

Key Verse: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-6, "...the Good News we brought came to you not only with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit, and with complete certainty. In the same way you know what...good things we did for you. You imitated us and the Lord."

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

Kids grow by following examples. They need godly people in their lives who will inspire and motivate them to follow their example. All believers need such examples to follow. When the Holy Spirit fills our lives, we then can live the very message of Jesus and his love. Just as kids follow the examples of others, kids can also be filled with the Holy Spirit so that they become an example for others to follow. Today we challenge kids first to find godly examples to follow and second to be godly examples for others.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus gave his life for us so that we might have a relationship with God. In this relationship, the Holy Spirit will give us power to be filled with the love of Jesus.

Jesus in us: Jesus' love fills us through the power of the Holy Spirit. It's this power that helps us be examples to others.

Jesus through us: Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can be living examples of Jesus' love 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.

Use something to illustrate a super hero. This could be an action figure, a comic book, a poster or even a video clip.

Begin Kids Church with a brief vignette from the Spiderman movie, reading a section of a comic book or talking about an action figure.

Show a brief vignette from the Spiderman movie starring Toby Maguire. Begin by telling the kids that you're about to watch a short section of the movie "Spiderman" and that we'll start in the lunchroom the day after Peter Parker, high school student, has been bitten by a super spider.

Show the six-minute segment in which Peter catches Mary Jane's tray (beginning about 18:30 after the end of the credits), then accidentally dumps his own tray on Crash, leaves the cafeteria and is assaulted by Crash. Fast forward right after Peter wins the fight (around 21:30) – skipping the segment where a boy uses Jesus' name in vain -- and pick it up again at 22:00 with Peter examining his hands, then experimenting with wall climbing and building-leaping. Stop the video right after Peter vaults across the chasm and slams into the wall across the street (24:30).

Kids will complain that they want to see more.

I know you'd like to watch more of the movie. It looks so good, doesn't it? There are two reasons why we can't see more. First, the movie is rated PG13 – that means some of the other parts of the movie might not be good for us to see. Like in the section where we

fast forwarded, one of the characters used God's name in vain. The second is – this is Kids Church! We're here to worship, not watch a movie! But we watched this little section of "Spiderman" because in Kids Church today, our focus is going to be on super heroes!

Boys and girls, I need some help figuring out what might be some of the greatest super hero powers one can have. For example, if I had the power of Spiderman, what could I do?

Take audience answers. Select a few kids to name a few other super heroes and describe the powers they possess. Ask a child what super hero power he/she would like to be. Then say:

Today we are going to talk about a power you can actually have. It's not a power that any super hero possesses, but this power is given by someone much more powerful than any super hero. Besides, super heroes are make believe. The person I'm thinking of is real. The person I'm thinking of is God.

God gives us his power through the Holy Spirit. His power working through us can change the world. Today we'll discover that you can change the world, or part of the world, through the power of the Holy Spirit working in you. So let's open our hearts in worship.

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.

What does the Holy Spirit's power give us? He doesn't give us power to be invisible or to pass through walls or to bounce bullets off of us. What power does he give us? Take answers from the audience.

He gives us the power to believe in Jesus, who gave his life for us. Then we are so filled up with the love of Jesus that we share it with the world. When people have never known Jesus' love, and then meet him, their lives are changed. They receive God's forgiveness. They feel clean on the inside, and they become friends with God forever. Now THAT'S a super hero – someone who brings a friend to Jesus!

My guess is that there have been times this past week when we haven't looked much like that kind of super hero. There have been times when our actions have been selfish, motivated not by God's love, but by self-love. There have been times that, if people saw us, they would not be drawn to Jesus and his love because of our words or actions.

Let's turn to God right now and ask him to fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we will believe in Jesus and be filled with his love. Then we can share it with others.

Dear God, all of us need the love of Jesus. That's because all of us have done things that are wrong and we need your forgiveness. For example, some of us have not been very kind this week, and we haven't shared the love of Jesus with others. We need your help. Please forgive us. We know that Jesus gave his life for us and will live his life in us through the power of the Holy Spirit. Please cause your Holy Spirit to fill us up so that we will have the power of Jesus' love to give to the world. Lord, we want to be super heroes for Jesus, sharing his love with others. Please help us do that, in Jesus' name. 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.

Offering:

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

When the children come forward to give their offerings, have them blow on it before putting it in the offering basket. Say:

The wind is often God's picture to us of the Holy Spirit. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to the disciples. They heard a rushing wind go through the room.

By blowing on the offering before giving it, we are reminded that we can be filled with the Holy Spirit as we share our gifts with others. This is a way the Holy Spirit works. We share the love of Jesus with our offerings.



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.

“Simon Says”

To make the game Simon Says a challenge, give directions very quickly while doing actions that are contrary to what is said. The biggest challenge is to think of the actions and rattle them off quickly while doing something different. The following list of actions might help you in your Simon Says game.

****Remind kids of the rule that they are to do the action only if Simon Says. If they do an action that didn't begin with “Simon Says,” they should sit down.**

- Simon Says, “Start jumping.”
- “You can wave your arms when you jump.” Oops...
- Simon Says, “Wave your arms while you jump.”
- “Okay, stop jumping.” Oops...
- Simon Says, “You can stop jumping.”
- “Lift up your left leg.” Gotcha.
- Simon Says, “Lift up your left leg.”
- Simon Says, “Hold out your right arm.”
- “Now scratch your head with your left hand.” (Show your right hand doing the action.) Gotcha.
- “Put your right arm down” Oops...
- Simon Says, “Put your right arm down.”
- “Reach to the sky with your left hand.” Gotcha.
- Simon Says, “Reach to the sky with your left hand.”
- “Stand on both feet.” Oops...
- Simons says, “Stand on both feet.”

Learning point:

With the power of the Holy Spirit, we can be good examples to others. It's easy for kids to imitate us when they see how we treat others in love and faith in God.

However, people can also be led astray if they follow the wrong kinds of examples. So it's important we follow the examples of Christians who are living their lives the way God directs us to in his Word. The Holy Spirit gives us power to do that.

Bible Reading:

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.

Supplies needed: small pieces of candy

To encourage kids to actively listen to the Bible reading, tell them they will be rewarded with a small piece of candy if they raise their hand when they hear any of the following key words: "Holy Spirit," "power," and "imitate."

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:4-8.

Application:

Interactive Teaching: Copy Cat Artist

Supplies needed: two easels or something to mount poster boards or newsprint, appendix page design enlarged and mounted on poster board or easel, two blank poster boards, pieces of newsprint or other paper, marker

Keep the appendix page or master design hidden or covered until the appropriate time.

Say:

Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is God's Spirit sent to us to help us believe in Jesus and to witness about him to the world. What is the power that he gives us? ... The power to believe in Jesus and to demonstrate his love to others.

What does the word "imitate" mean? It means to act like someone else. When we act like Jesus, we are demonstrating the great power of the Holy Spirit. Let's see why the power of our example is so important.

Select two volunteers to come forward.

Hand the first volunteer a marker and have him/her stand by the blank poster board or newsprint that is seen by the audience. His/her job is to draw what he/she hears the second volunteer describe. Arrange the master design so the audience can clearly see it, but the first volunteer cannot. Have the second volunteer stand near the master design and describe it to the first volunteer.

This attempt should be difficult and perhaps amusing. When completed, mount a second blank piece of paper on the easel or wall. The first volunteer will make a second attempt to draw the master design by both hearing and now seeing it. The second volunteer can come near the first volunteer, both showing and telling about the design.

After demonstration, have both volunteers return to their seats and say:

It is so much easier to imitate things we see. The same principle is true for us. We need to see Jesus' love in others' lives first to know how to demonstrate it to others.

The apostle Paul often said to follow his example as he followed Christ. The only way that can happen is if one is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Storytelling: Jesus with Skin On

Four-year-old Joshua was having nightmares. When he woke up at night, the room seemed dark, and the shadows scared him. He was even too scared to get out of bed and go to his parent's room. So, he would simply sit up in his bed and cry. His mom came in to comfort him until he went back to sleep. Then his mother would remind him to pray when he got scared, and Jesus would be there with him.

The next night, Joshua had a nightmare again. When he woke up and saw the darkness of the room, he was even more scared. Again, he started to cry for his mother.

"Mommy, come to my room. I'm scared."

His mom replied tiredly, "Remember, just pray to Jesus. He'll be right there."

There was silence. Then Joshua said, "I don't want Jesus. I want someone with skin on."

Do you know what he was asking for? Now his mother understood. She went into the room and held Joshua for a minute. He felt much better. Then his mother prayed with him.

“Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us and for being right here, even if we can’t see you. Thank you that you’re alive and can make any scary thoughts go away. So in Jesus’ name, we command all those scary thoughts to go away.”

Joshua’s mom could feel him relax in her arms. Soon he was fast asleep.

The next night Joshua woke up. He was scared of the darkness and the shadows and called, once again, for his mother. She came to his bedroom door, but didn’t go in. She listened to see what would happen.

Then she heard Joshua pray, “Thank you, Jesus, that you love me. Thank you that you are alive and with me. In Jesus’ name, I tell all those scary thoughts to go away.”

Soon Joshua fell asleep. Joshua’s mom smiled. She realized that in the nights before, in a way, Jesus had been there to hug Joshua. She had been Jesus with skin on. Through that, Joshua learned from her example how to pray by himself.

Personal Testimony: Christ-like Example to Me

Tell your own story of how a person was “Jesus with skin on” to you. This might be a person who demonstrated God’s love in such a way that you grew a lot in your faith. Maybe they gave you an example of what it meant to be a Christian or what it meant to be Christ-like.



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.

Let children talk about someone who inspired them. Let them tell how this person made them want to be more like Jesus and share Jesus' love with 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 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:

- use something to illustrate a super hero – this could be an action figure, a comic book, a poster or even a video clip

Music:

- your choice of music

Offering:

- offering basket

Bible Reading:

- Bible

Application:

- two easels or something to mount poster boards or newsprint
- appendix page design enlarged and mounted on one of the poster boards or easels
- two blank poster boards, pieces of newsprint or other paper
- marker

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.

Appendix

