



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Year 3, Lesson 58 (Spring)

# Tell What Jesus Has Done for You

**Primary Scripture:** 1 Peter 3:15; Ephesians 1:18

**Key Verse:** 1 Peter 3:15, “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...” (NIV)

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

Kids need to talk about their faith. They need to know simple ways that they can share what Jesus has done for them with friends and family. Not only will this help others meet and trust Jesus, but this also helps the people sharing their faith. Witnessing is an essential ingredient to growing in faith. When kids are encouraged to witness and are coached on how they can, they are typically less inhibited than adults and readily share their faith. This lesson will teach the technique of “Your story—My story—His story.” This means the person witnessing listens to *your* story, ties it into *his* own story and then links it to *Jesus’* story.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** HIS STORY. Jesus has a story to tell me. He gave his life for me so I might have the certain hope of life with him now and forever.

**Jesus in us:** MY STORY. Through faith, Jesus’ story becomes my own. He gave his life for me not only to pay the price of my sin, but also so he would live in me through his Holy Spirit.

**Jesus through us:** YOUR STORY. I can listen to others and identify with their stories. This gives me an opportunity to share my story, especially the points in common with theirs. Then I can share the story of how Jesus helped me and can help them, as well.

## 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: some object that symbolizes gold such as a rock painted gold or a bagful of rocks*

Begin with:

**Back in the 1800's, a group of men called prospectors set out from the town of Bannock, Montana, looking for gold. However, they weren't successful. They didn't find gold. Their good horses were stolen and they were told by the Indians to go back to Bannock and stay there. If the Indians found them again, the whole group would be killed.**

**These prospectors then began their journey back to the town of Bannock. They felt all was lost. They were ready to give up. They were brokenhearted.**

**When they stopped by a creek bank, though, one of them casually picked up a stone from the creek bed. Guess what it was? Yes, GOLD! Quickly, they became excited again. Soon they found more gold in the creek bed. The next day they panned out about \$50.00 worth of gold. They struck it rich.**

Hold up the rock or bag of "gold."

**But they still needed supplies. They had to go back to town. They all made an agreement, “Don’t say a word about our find to anyone.” They all promised.**

**Each man kept his word. None of them told anyone about their discovery. They all acted normal as they bought more supplies. They got on their horses and got ready to leave town. As they left, to their surprise, more than 300 men followed them. “Who told?” they asked each other. But no one did.**

**Can you guess what happened to cause 300 hundred men to follow them? It was obvious to the townspeople that these men were prospectors. When they came into town with their faces beaming, even though they said nothing about finding gold, everyone guessed they must have struck it rich.**

**What about you? Have you struck it rich? No, you haven’t been prospecting and looking for gold in the riverbanks, but you have struck it rich.**

**The Bible says you are rich in spiritual blessings. (*Ephesians 1:18b.*) You are rich because you trust in Jesus who gave his life for you. Now he lives in you. You have his love and his joy in your heart.**

**So let’s show our joy, and thank God for how much he has given us as we worship him. Join with me in telling him, “Thank you, Lord.” We don’t need to keep it a secret. We want others to know the Good News of Jesus!**

## **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.*

Show gold rock or bag of rocks again.

**Let’s imagine that you had a bag of gold. It is worth a million dollars. What would you do with a million dollars? I’m sure of one thing: you wouldn’t hide it under your bed at home and never spend it or never buy one thing with it the rest of your life.**

**But did you know that God has given us much, much more than a million dollars? He gave his Son Jesus so that we could be friends**

with God forever. He also gave us a family and all those that love us. He has given us all that we own. But if we are not thankful and don't share with others how wonderful God is, it's like not ever spending the riches that God has given.

Lets pray about that now.

Dear God, thank you for making us so rich. Thank you for giving us Jesus. Thank you for giving us all that we have. Thank you for giving us riches from heaven. But when we are not thankful or when we don't tell others about you, it is like we are not really spending our money or enjoying what you gave us. If we have kept the Good News to ourselves and not told others, we are sorry. Please forgive us. Help us to do a better job of sharing your riches with others. 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.*

*Supplies: small pebble the size of a pea*

*Background information: One ounce of gold is worth \$556.40 (February 2006). If made into a ball, the size of an ounce of gold is roughly the size of a pea. Research the Internet if you would like current prices on the gold market.*

**How do you think God would feel if you gave him this little rock for an offering? Do you think he would be very pleased?**

Take a couple of responses.

**But what if this little rock was gold, instead? Do you know how much it would be worth? It would be worth \_\_\_\_\_** *(insert the current value).*

**Do you think God would then be pleased? Does God need this rock? Does God need gold? No. They are all rocks to him. He made them. He already owns them.**

**But why does God want us to give to him? Because he wants us to give something of value to us toward the work and service that would bless his kingdom. An ordinary rock would not be very valuable, but that which we value and give away would be a sacrifice.**

**That is what a sacrifice is—giving up something that is important and valuable. Your sacrifice shows your love for God and how important he is in your life.**

**God will use whatever we give him to help others. So today when you bring up your offering, think about what is valuable to you and what you can sacrifice for God and his kingdom as a way of saying, “I love you, God.”**



# 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.*

### **Balloon Pass:**

*Supplies: inflated balloons (preferably gold)—one balloon for each team of six*

Form teams of six. Divide the teams in half with three kids from each team at opposite sides of the room.

All teams compete at the same time, relay style. The first person in line tucks a balloon under his/her chin and runs across the room with it. He passes it to the first teammate in his line that tucks it under his/her chin and runs back to the other side. This continues until all six kids have had a turn.

### OPTIONS:

- Pass the balloons without using hands. In this case, no hands are used, but the players can use their elbows to help their partner place the balloon under his/her chin.
- During another round, you might have the children tuck the balloons between their knees and walk the balloons over to the other side.

After the relay games, gather kids together for the teaching point.

**Balloons remind us of the riches we have in Jesus when we know him as our Savior. Are these riches meant to be kept to us? Of course not. We have to pass them to others. That is how more people come to know about Jesus and what he has done. They share his story by passing it along. We should be eager and excited to do this.**

**What do you think this game might be like if this balloon contained all the riches of Jesus?**

**How is this game an example of us doing what God wants us to do?**

# 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.*

## Peter Heals the Crippled Brother

Acts 3:1-16

Video Presentation

*Supplies: The Visual Bible: Acts, produced by Visual Bible International.*

### Introduction: 1 Peter 3:15

Peter was one of Jesus' closest followers. He wrote this in the Bible ***"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (NIV)*** Peter says to always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in your life. The hope written here means when you think about the future, you know there is a happy ending because of what Jesus has done for you.

Watch this Bible event from Acts 3:1-16. It features Peter and John shortly after Jesus had ascended back into heaven. They were filled with hope knowing that Jesus would do wonderful things for those who trusted in him. When you listen to this video and you hear Peter say the words, "Silver or gold I do not have," see if you can be the first person to clap one time.

Show the video, *The Visual Bible: Acts*, covering Acts 3:1-16. Then, continue:

During the video, Peter listened carefully to the crippled man. By doing so, it was like saying, "I will listen to *your story* first." Then Peter said in effect, "I will tell you *my story*."

Peter's story was that he did not have gold or silver to give, but he had something much more powerful. He had the message of Jesus. When he healed the man, he told the man and those who were listening Jesus' story—or *his story*.

Today we will learn to give our riches away by following this plan. First I'll listen to *your story*. Then I'll tell you *my story*; and then I'll tell you *his story*—the story of how Jesus worked in my life.

# Application:

## Your Story—My Story—His Story

### Dramatic Role Play

*Supplies: three posters with headings reading “Your Story,” “My Story,” “His Story”*

In advance, display three posters with three titles: Your Story—My Story—His Story. A cross might be prominently placed in the center of the poster titled “His story.” Say the following to show how these posters fit together.

**This explains how to give an answer of the hope that is in us. In other words, how can we tell others what Jesus has done for us? Here is a simple formula.**

#### Poster one: Your story

**Firs, we need to listen to other people and find out what their needs are. When people are sad, we want to understand and talk about how God can help with their sadness. Or maybe they are confused. We want to listen and find out what is puzzling them. Then we can share with them how God helps our understanding. So this first poster reminds us to listen... listen to their story. If you were talking to me, I’d first listen to *your* story**

#### Poster two: My story

**After I have listened to *your* story, I can share *my* story. I look for something in common with your story. Maybe I’ve been sad about being alone or left out of a group. I can tell my story of similarity. It will draw the two of us together, because I can understand. But I want to do more than understand; I want to help. So I tell how God has helped me. That moves us to the next poster.**

#### Poster three: His story

**If I have listened to *your* story and shared *my* story, then I can share how *his* story, God’s story, helped me. If God helped me, then he can help you, too. It’s like Peter. He said he didn’t have gold or silver but he did have something to give. He gave the man Jesus. In Jesus’ name, the crippled man could get up and walk. Let’s role-play some scenes.**

## Dramatic Role Play

*Supplies: a supply of plastic gold coins, "Telling the Story" role-play situations (see appendix A)*

As an example, have two adults do the first role-play. One should play the person having the problem, and the other should play the role of the one who listens to *your* story. He/she then shares his own story (*my story*) and links it to Jesus with *his* story.

After the two adults have demonstrated, invite a child to come and replace the adult with the problem, telling *your story*. For the next role-play situation, this child will role-play the one telling his own linking story (*my story*) and how Jesus helped in his life (*his story*) as another child volunteers to role-play the one with the problem (*your story*).

If children from the audience have difficulty sharing an illustration or linking a situation to God's help, the first adult volunteer may help with suggestions.

Give a gold coin to anyone that comes up to do the dramatic role-play.



# 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.*

Encourage kids to share about any time they were so excited about what Jesus had done for them that they couldn't keep it a secret, but had to go and tell. How was that story received?

## 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:

**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.

## *Attention Grabber:*

- rock painted gold, or some other object that reminds us of gold such as a bag of rocks

## *Power of the Cross:*

- rock painted gold, or some other object that reminds us of gold, such as a bag of rocks from *Attention Grabber*

## *Offering:*

- pebble the size of a pea

## *Learning Game:*

- inflated balloons (preferably gold)—one balloon for each team of six

## *Bible Presentation:*

- *The Visual Bible: Acts*, produced by the Visual Bible International. Order from [http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=364](http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=364). Show the clip of Acts 3:1-16.

## *Application:*

- three posters with headings reading “Your Story,” “My Story,” “His Story”
- a supply of gold coins
- Appendix with scenes to play

# Telling the Story

## YOUR STORY

- You got in trouble in school. You were sent to the principal's office and you feel terrible.
- You are angry because a bully pushed you.
- Your family is going through hard times because your parents are fighting all the time.
- You felt sad when you were left out of the group on the playground.
- You were worried about how things were going in school.

## MY STORY

- One time I felt really bad about something that happened in school...
- I felt angry, too, when...
- My family had a hard time, too, when...
- I felt left out, too, when...
- I've been worried before when...

## HIS STORY

- Something about Jesus' forgiveness.
- Jesus gives the power of protection and standing up for oneself in non-violent ways.
- God helped my family with forgiveness of each other, which helped us begin again.
- God helped me feel better even though I was left out, because he says he is always with me and...
- A time God helped me to trust him was...

## “I Have a Story To Tell”

Parents,

Today in Kids Church, we learned that we all have a story to tell. Through our stories, we can tell the story of Jesus. Your child was introduced to the following key phrases: *your story*, *my story*, and *his story* (or Jesus' story).

We learned from the Bible in 1 Peter 3:15 that in our hearts we *should* “*set apart Christ as Lord.*” We should always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks about the hope we have in our lives.

Before we give answers, we learn to listen. We listen to others' stories and find out the needs they have for Jesus. We listen to *Your story*.

After listening to others' stories, I can tell *My story*. My story is the experience I have in common with you. It might be something as simple as “I, too, have felt sad like that before.”

Then we can continue our story by telling *His story*—Jesus' story. For example, “Jesus helps me not feel sad because he promised me that he is with me always and I will live with him forever.”

On the back of this handout are several phrases that will help your children talk about situations: how they might listen to others (*Your story*), share their story (*My story*) and link it to God's help in Jesus (*His story*).