

Passionate Evangelism

To the Leader:

Weeks four through ten explore each of our seven characteristics in kid-friendly language. These traits depict what should characterize every local Nazarene church. Week six covers the characteristic of Passionate Evangelism.

Objective: Children will understand that the mission of the Church of the Nazarene is to make Christlike disciples in the nations. We follow Jesus' example of sharing God's love and the good news of salvation with others.

Material Needed:

- Bag or Box that will conceal several small items (pillow case or shoe box)
- Various simple, small items for children to describe
- Paper
- Pencils or markers
- Chalkboard or white board or a large paper to write on.
- Salvation bracelet supplies: red, black, white, green, blue, and yellow beads, and elastic string.
- Raisins
- New bottle of clear soda pop (7up or Sprite)
- Flat bottle of clear soda pop
- 2 clear drinking cups/glasses
- Copies of "Colors of Salvation" for each child

Early Arrival Activity: Show and Tell Guessing Game

You can play this game for 10-15 minutes. Have a bag/box filled with several items. One at a time, have a child choose an item from the bag without showing it to anyone else. Then offer the group three to four clues to guess what the item is. Do this several times.

Ask: How did we help people know what we chose from the bag? (Gave them clues or showed it to them.) It is fun when we know something others don't and then share things that help them understand what we already know to be true. What does it mean to share our faith with others? How can we give clues that will help others know Jesus? What does it look like to share Jesus with someone else? How can we help people to know Jesus when they can't see Him? Allow answers.

Say: Today we are going to learn about a disciple named Phillip, who shared Jesus' love with a complete stranger who didn't know anything about Jesus. This story happened after Jesus rose from the dead. ~~abe~~

Bible Story with Discussion: Philip and the Ethiopian, Acts 8:26-39

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road — the desert road — that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

³¹ "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture:

*"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before the shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.*

³³ *In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth."*

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" [a³⁷] ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

[a³⁷] [Acts 8:37](#) Some manuscripts include here *Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may."* The eunuch answered, *"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."*

Review questions: Talk about the story. What did you like about the story? Not like? Who would you want to be and why? What do you think God wants us to learn from this story?

1. How did Phillip know what to do at the beginning of the story?
2. How do you think Phillip knew what to say?
3. How might God have prepared Phillip for this encounter?
4. What would you do or say if you were Phillip?

God prepared the way for Phillip to share the story of Jesus' love with this Ethiopian official. God also prepares the way for us to share about Him. He prepares and prompts us. He also prepares the heart of the person He sends us to. They may not realize it, but they are ready to hear the message of His love. This man was hungry to hear and understand God's word. Philip was ready, willing, and obedient and the Lord used him.

Memory Verse and Object Lesson* - Relying on God's Power:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Supplies: raisins; 2 clear drinking glasses; new, clear soda pop (Sprite or 7up); flat, clear soda

What do you think this verse means to us? Jesus gave these instructions to His disciples at the very end of His time on earth. He meant it to be for all His disciples, including us. What does it mean to be a witness to something? God wants us to tell others about His love in our own life.

But he doesn't expect us to do this alone. He has sent the Holy the Spirit to help. Here is an example of what can happen when we have God's power, the Holy Spirit, working in us.

- 1) Pour the new can of soda into one glass. Pour the flat soda into the other glass.
- 2) Let the kids take turns dropping raisins into the glasses and observing what happens.



The glass of flat soda should make the raisins drop to the bottom. The glass of new soda should make the raisins rise and fall, almost slow dancing. (Be careful to not add too many raisins to the carbonated glass. They tend to not rise and fall as well as more are added.)

3) **Say:** Each glass represents a person. One is relying on God's power and one is relying on his own power. Which one is which? God's presence makes all the difference! The Holy Spirit gives us the power, courage, and ability to share God's love and the good news of Jesus.

**Object lesson can be found on Pinterest and in Kaboom!© from River's Edge by Dienna Goscha. Used by permission.*

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Review Game: Pair Sharing and Craft: Salvation Bracelet or Wordless book

Say: You may be wondering, "What do I say when I tell someone about Jesus?" What do you want others to know about Jesus?

Today we are going to make something that will help us remember the things we want to be sure to tell others when we talk to them about Jesus.

Craft: Allow each child to make two salvation bracelets, one to keep and one to give away. String beads in the follow order on an elastic thread, cord or leather strip. Talk about the significance of each bead.

- **Black** stands for our sin. We are all sinners and sin separates us from God. (Romans 3:23)
- **Red** stands for Jesus' blood and love. He freely gave His life because He loves us. (John 3:16)

- **White** stands for our clean heart when we confess Jesus as Lord, ask Him to forgive us our sins, and accept His free gift of forgiveness and salvation. (Romans 10:9)
- **Blue** stands for the water of baptism, an action on the outside that represents what God has done for us on the inside by cleansing our heart. (Matt. 28:19)
- **Green** stands for us growing in faith as we follow Jesus' example, read God's word, talk to Him in prayer, and listen to the Holy Spirit to help us make good choices. (Joshua 1:8-9)
- **Gold** stands for eternal life with God on heaven's streets of gold. (John 14:1-3)

Say: We can use our bracelets to share about Jesus. Let's practice with a partner what you would say using the colors in our bracelets or books. After about 5 minutes, switch roles. (Alternative to bracelets: Have children make wordless books using these colors of constructions paper, concepts, and scriptures. You could also add a symbol like a black bucket, red heart, white cloth, bowl of blue water, green plant, and yellow sun.)

Personal Challenge or Take away and Prayer: It pleases God when I share my faith in Him and tell others about His love. Practice at home with your family. Pray and ask God who you can share Jesus with this week. Who should you give your second bracelet to? Pray for that person to receive it with an open heart.

Close with prayer:

Thank You, God, for Your saving love and for forgiving my sins. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to help me share that love with others. Show me who I need to share my bracelet with this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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