

53. I am Alive: Tell the World

Acts 2; Matthew 28



Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations."
Matthew 28:19

I am Alive: Tell the World

Before Jesus went back to heaven, he told his disciples: "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey. I will be with you always."

His disciples went by ship, by foot, by horse. They traveled near and far. They told people about Jesus. They healed the sick. The men told demons to leave, and they did. Night and day, they prayed. They baptized. Churches sprang up. You can read about this amazing time in the book of Acts.

Peter told a crowd, "Jesus came from heaven. You put him to death on a cross. But God raised him from the dead. We saw him ourselves."

Their hearts were filled with sadness. "What shall we do?" they asked.

Peter said, "Be sorry for your sins. Be baptized in the name of Jesus. You will be forgiven." That day, thousands of people became believers.

Jesus left us with the same wonderful work. We get to share with the world about Jesus. God will give us power through the Holy Spirit, who lives inside us. We will tell the Good News about Jesus.

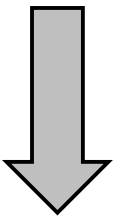
Questions

1. What did Jesus tell Christians to do?
2. How did they obey?
3. How can you obey this command to go and tell?
4. Think of one person in your life who does not know Jesus as Lord. Will you tell that person?

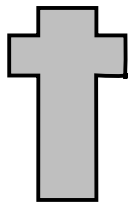
Dear Lord Jesus,
I will obey your command to share the Good News.
Show me how. Use the power of the Holy Spirit inside me.
Help me be brave and tell the truth. Send me where you
want and to whom you want.
Amen

Learn to share this simple, good news story:

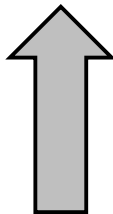
Jesus came
from heaven.



He died for
your sins.



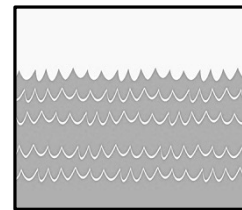
Jesus rose
from the
dead.



Say you are
sorry for
your sins.



Believe and
be baptized.



Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) If Jesus was going to give his disciples one power (super-strength), what might it be for?
- b) How did you become a believer? Who told you the Good News?
- c) If a friend asked you how to become a Christian, what would you say?

Footsteps to Faith

When someone believes in Jesus, he is like a little child, even if he is an adult. Unless someone comes alongside him to teach, train, and befriend him, it is likely that the seed of faith will wither away (Matthew 13:1-23). On a clean table top, make a path using colorful Dot candies. These represent Christians walking along in our faith journey. Now, add another trail of candy next to those "footsteps." These represent a new believer. As you lay those Dots next to your steps, state what that child of God needs to grow into a disciple: admitting his sin; believing in Jesus; understanding who he is in Christ; growing by praying; growing by giving; growing by reading the Bible, growing by worshipping at church; and growing by obeying and telling the good news. When the "disciple" is to that point, the path can veer off and another "new believer" will join the journey. When there are many paths, add one more alongside the others. It is Jesus walking with you and helping you to become a disciple maker.

The Older, the Colder

Statistics show that of all the people becoming Christians in the West, a whopping 85 percent of them are children between the ages of 8-14. Perhaps we can say that the older a child gets, the colder his or her heart may become toward God. Give each child some playdough. Let them play with it as they talk about their love for God and their belief in him. Now have the kids form a heart out of their playdough. Leave it on a piece of paper. Check it each day and mark the days. Tell the kids that each day is like a year. The older kids get, the harder and colder they can be toward God. Teach them to share Christ with kids in their class, neighborhood, and family before those kids grow up.

Come and See

Don't feel that you have to have a perfect gospel presentation before sharing the good news. The unnamed Samaritan woman at the well and the apostle Philip shared the good news simply by saying, "Come and see!" Divide the class in half. One half will act out John 4:1-41 and the other half will act out John 1:43-51. The other half will be the audience. Then show this video and sing along with Bob Bennett's song "Come and See" : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DU48-u-kVic>

Bible Smugglers

What ways did the disciples share the Good News? They went by ship, by foot, and by horse. By what means do Christians spread the gospel today? More ways than we can imagine! Because of the Internet, people are getting the Word faster, safer, and in their own languages. Especially in countries where believers are persecuted, the ways to share the Word of God can get very creative. Photocopy this page onto card stock. Cut out the boxes and hide them. The one who finds the most, hides the next round. Thank God for your freedoms. Find more at: <https://www.kidsofcourage.com/>



Christians in South Korea print the gospel onto balloons and float them into North Korea from ships at sea.	When Russia was Communist, the Word was printed onto teeny tiny letters and mailed to surprised unbelieving families.	In Nigeria, Believers are given Mp3 players with headsets. They listen to books of the Bible. This is especially helpful for those who cannot read.	In India, men loaded Bibles into boxes that were labeled for beer and then onto camels. These strong mammals carried the Good News to faraway villages.	In China, Christians text each other the Good News using coded language. For example, they might call the Bible, the "book."
In Colombia, pilots fly over jungles and drop radios down on parachutes. The radios are set to Christian channels.	In Iran, Christians gather around TV sets to watch Christian programs secretly. It's hard to stop air waves!	In Vietnam, students hide Bibles in their book bags and share them while they ride buses to and from school.	In Eritrea, one Bible smuggler hid his Bibles in the walls of the train until after his luggage was checked. Then he could distribute them.	In England in the 1500s, believers from Germany printed small Bibles and smuggled them into the country hidden in bales of hay that were sent on ships.

* Some countries' names have been changed.

Fear-filled to Spirit-filled

Read together Matthew 26:69-75. Peter was so afraid of being arrested that he denied he even knew Jesus. After the Lord came back to life, Peter was filled with fire and power from the Holy Spirit. See how brave he was, even telling those who crucified Jesus, "You killed the author of life; but God raised him from the dead! (Acts 3:15)." Peter had been a deflated, defeated believer. To illustrate this, turn a large, brown grocery bag into a big puppet. Lay it down with the crying Peter on the bottom of the bag. Talk about Peter's fear keeping him down. Now read Acts 2. Stand a flashlight upright. (Place the flashlight inside a jar of playdough to secure it). Put the brave Peter face on top, as though he is filled with light and power. Talk about how we can have the same power inside us to tell the Good News.

Peter before the death and resurrection of Christ.
Images from
www.FreeBibleImages.org



Peter after the resurrection of Christ and full of the Holy Spirit.



The Baton of Belief

Have you ever seen a mile relay race? The first runner on the relay team carries a plastic tube and runs around the track. She hands that baton to the second person on her team. The third runner does the same; and the last runner tries to cross the finish line before the other team. We are told by Jesus to pass our beliefs on so those new becomes disciple-makers. The apostles did that after Jesus left, and so did those newer disciples...all down through history. That's why we are believers today. Someone was faithful and obeyed Jesus' commands to go and tell. Let's be a part of that winning team! On your mark, get set...GO!

Create a simple track outdoors. Copy this page onto card stock. Read the numbered texts, roll this page into a baton, tape it, and use it in a relay race. You'll need one baton per team. Who will you pass the baton to next? How can you help that friend turn into a baton-passing disciple? Now say the prayers together.

1. Jesus told his disciples to GO and make disciples of all nations.

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for telling the disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. What a great plan! Amen

2. Peter did GO. In one day, 3,000 people became believers!

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for Peter's faithfulness in telling the truth. Thank you for all the other disciples throughout history. Thank you for the obedient pastors, missionaries, and believers who shared the Good News. Amen

3. Many faithful disciples obeyed Jesus' command to GO. They went to Rome. Those new believers went farther west into Europe. Those European disciples went to England. English believers came to America. Christianity has been passed down for more than 100 generations. Now, the baton of belief has been passed to me!

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for the person who shared the Good News with me!
I am blessed to be a part of this race, chosen to believe. Amen

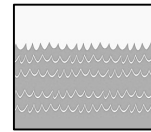
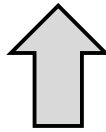
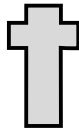
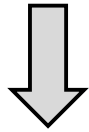
4. Now Jesus is telling ME to GO! I will go and tell my friends and family. I will pray for God's help to become not just a disciple, but also a disciple-maker.

Dear Jesus,
Who should I bring the Good News to? Please help me to be faithful and brave and tell the truth to... _____. Amen

A Booklet of Belief

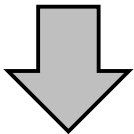
Photocopy this booklet, cut it into pages, staple on the left, and practice sharing it with a friend. Get comfortable using it before sharing it with a non-believer. You read the numbered words and Bible verses. The friend traces the shape and states the beliefs in bold.

A Booklet about Belief



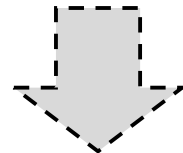
"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." Acts 16:31

1. Jesus came from heaven. He is God but he came as a human.



The Word became flesh. Those who believe are children of God.
John 1:1-18

I believe that Jesus is God but he came to earth as a human.



2. Jesus died on a cross to pay the price for your sins. His death becomes the payment that God accepts in order to forgive us and allow us into heaven.

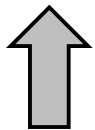


Christ died for sins once for all to bring you to God.
1 Peter 3:18

I believe that the death of Jesus pays for my sins.



3. Jesus rose from the dead. He did many miracles while he was on earth like healing the blind. His greatest miracle was coming back from the dead.



If you believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved.
Romans 10:9

I believe that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive.



4. Say you are sorry for your sins. You must repent which means to feel sorry about your sins and decide to turn your life around.

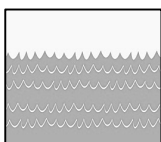


But now, you have been set free from sin!
Romans 6:22

Jesus, I am sorry for my sins. I believe that Jesus forgives me. I want to follow Jesus forever.

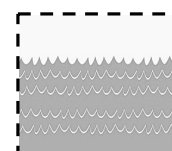


5. Believe and get baptized. Believers should get baptized to show the world that they are now a Christian.



Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
Acts 2:38

I am believe that I am now a child of God! I promise to get baptized. I plan to grow as a believer.



Remarkable Resources

Make use of these resources to share the Good News and encourage believers to grow through Bible reading and other growth tools.

FREE

Go back through the curriculum in the Life of Christ. Go to story 8 about John the Baptist. You will find more ways to **share the gospel**.

<http://www.easyreadenglish.com/bible-lessons.html>

Syllable Stories are created so that anyone needing help with reading or pronouncing English can learn skills while reading Bible stories. Sometimes people who would never open a Bible will come to this site to **learn words** and meet The Word (Jesus)! <https://www.ezreadenglish.org/>

Of all the commitments made to Christ, the vast majority are children between the ages of 4-14 years old. Learn how to **lead a child to Christ** during this open window time of their open heart.

<https://children.cccm.com/assets/Uploads/TrainingMaterial/LeadingAChildToChristCCCM.pdf>

Find free photos, **illustrations**, and power points of a huge number of Bible stories. <http://freebibleimages.org/>

Faith comes by hearing, and **hearing the Word of God** (Romans 10:17). This Bible version is at about a 6-7th grade level. Enlarge the font on the right and click the audio. Listen and follow along.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=mark+1&version=NLT>

The Bible really comes to life on your iPad or other handheld device. The stories on this amazing **Bible app** are full of colorful animation, rewards, and told in many languages. <https://www.bible.com/kids>

Learn how believers struggle but persist in the faith in countries where it is illegal or **dangerous to be a Christian**. You will find stories, videos, games, recipes, activities, downloadable books, and more at the kid-friendly, fascinating site.

<https://www.kidsofcourage.com/>

Join the **Mail Box Club** and get colorful, excellent material delivered right to your home. Go to Bible Lessons <https://mailboxclub.org/>

Small Fee

Start a **Good News Club** in your neighborhood. Training and materials are provided for a low cost. <https://www.cefonline.com/ministries/goodnewsclub/>

Provide a **12-week Bible course** and Bible to a child around the world or in the USA for only \$6. The curriculum teaches the kids how to share the gospel:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/the-greatest-journey/>

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