

I Want to Know What Love Is

Bible Story: I Want to Know What Love Is (Paul in Athens/Unknown God) • Acts 17:16-34

Bottom Line: You can help others know Jesus.

Memory Verse: *God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift.* Ephesians 2:8 (NIRV)

Life App: Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Small Group

1. Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Explain that you will ask a question about today's Bible story.
- After each question, give kids an opportunity to explain their choice and share what they remember from that part of the story.
 - Did Paul ever tell people about Jesus? (Yes)
 - Did everyone Paul told about Jesus believe in Him? (No)
 - Did Paul and his friends ever have to leave a city because the people didn't want them to tell others about Jesus? (Yes)
 - Does God love people only if they believe in Him? (No)
 - Did some of the people in the town of Athens worship statues of animals and other things called idols? (Yes)
 - Did Paul tell the people of Athens how to make yummy mac and cheese? (No)
 - Did Paul tell the people of Athens that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead? (Yes)
 - Did Paul talk about Jesus to a man named Roger Lee Corn-Biscuit? (No)
 - Did Paul talk about Jesus to a man named Dionysius? (Yes)
 - Did Dionysius become a Jesus follower? (Yes)
 - Do we tell people about Jesus to help them smell better? (No)
 - Are there people you can tell about Jesus? (Yes)

What You Say:

"The Bible tells us that God loves all people everywhere. That means EVERYONE. Short, tall, large, small; God made each person who lives and He wants us to know how to be His friend forever. That's why He sent His Son, Jesus, to Earth. Jesus came to Earth long ago and showed us how to know and follow God. When He died on the cross, He took the punishment we deserve for all the bad things we have done. He didn't stay dead, though. He came back to life and lives in heaven with God. Who do you know that you can tell about God's love and share the story of Jesus? Remember, **[Bottom Line]** you can help others know Jesus."



READ ACTS 1:8

DAY 1

When Jesus gave the command to His disciples to share the good news that He had come to save the world, He started out first by reminding them that they would have the power of the Holy Spirit inside them. Then He moved on to challenge them to share in their own city, then to the next region, and then to one even further out, and so on, until the entire world has heard the good news.

Disciples and Holy Spirit → Jerusalem → Judea → Samaria → The world

What is the closest part of your world—maybe there are people in your house who you can help to get to know Jesus? Or your neighborhood or school? Make your own version of Jesus' challenge to the disciples:

_____ and Holy Spirit → _____ → _____ → _____ → The world
(Your name)

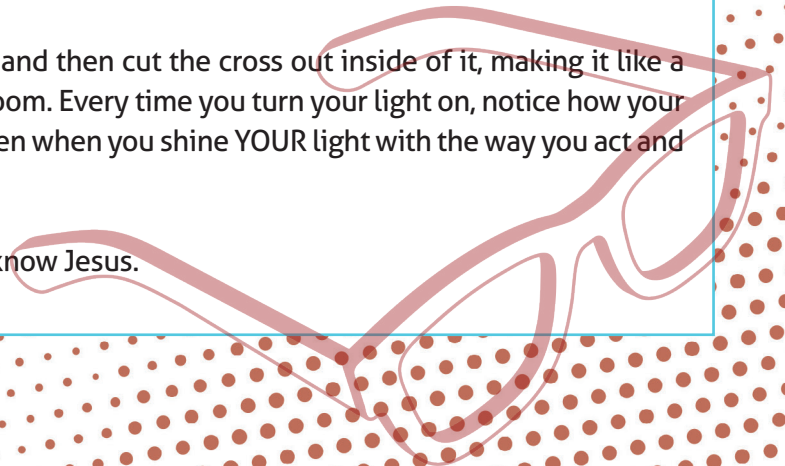
Ask God to help you share the great news about Jesus with others.

READ MATTHEW 5:16

Have you ever heard the phrase "actions speak louder than words"? When it comes to helping others know Jesus, this is also true. We need to tell others about Jesus, but we also have to make sure that the way we're living our lives shines His light to others. If our actions don't line up with our words, it will be hard for people to get to know Jesus.

Find a sticky note or index card. Cut out a square, and then cut the cross out inside of it, making it like a stencil. Tape the stencil to a light or lamp in your room. Every time you turn your light on, notice how your eye is drawn to the cross. The same thing can happen when you shine YOUR light with the way you act and show love to others, they will be drawn to Jesus!

Look for ways to shine your light and help others know Jesus.



READ MARK 16:15

DAY 3

Reading these words from Jesus may be a little intimidating. ALL the world? You may be thinking, **"I'm just a kid. How can I go into all the world?"**

The good news is that there are some people who are already out there sharing God's love and the good news about Jesus. We can be a part of what they're doing by praying for them, talking to others about the work they're doing, and donating money and supplies to help them.

With a parent's permission, do some internet research to find a missionary or organization serving in a part of the world that interests you. (Compassion International is a great one!) Find out what some of their needs are, and write them down so you can pray for them. And consider donating money or your time to help further their cause of helping others know Jesus.

Ask God how you can be a part of what He's doing in the world.

READ JEREMIAH 1:7-8

DAY 4

Yesterday you did some research and found out about some missionaries or organizations doing great work to share the good news of Jesus. Praying for those groups is great and super important! But God has more for you. He spoke to the prophet Jeremiah and told him no matter how young he was, God had a big plan for His life. He feels the same way about you! There are things you can begin doing today to help others know Jesus.

Make a list of talents and resources you have:

Now, how can you use those gifts to serve others and help them know Jesus? Maybe you can bake cookies to sell and donate the money to the organization you learned about yesterday. Maybe you could write a poem about how God's love has changed you and submit it to your school paper. Or maybe you could put your organizational skills to work and organize a neighborhood garage sale so you can donate the proceeds to a local shelter.

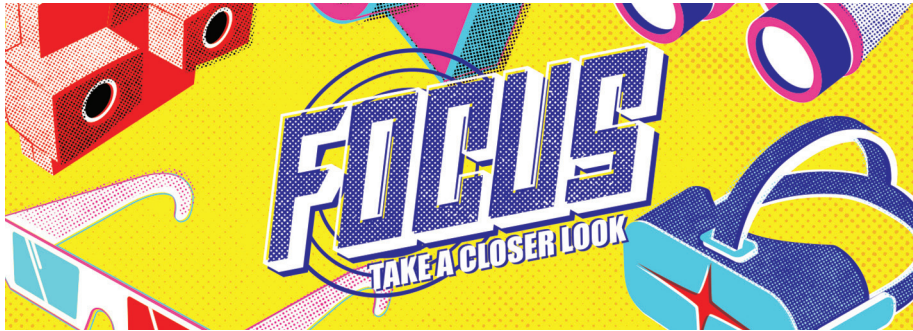
Look for ways you can share Jesus with others even though you're young!

**You can
help others
know JESUS.**



JULY 2020

ELEMENTARY



WEEK TWO

PAUL IN ATHENS / UNKNOWN GOD • ACTS 17:16-34



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OTHERS KNOW JESUS.



REMEMBER THIS:

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EPHESIANS 2:8, NIV



DO THIS:



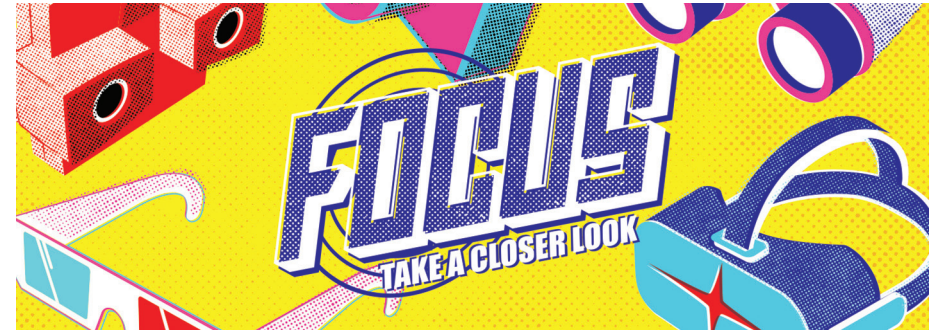
Q & A for kids: Why do you
think we give gifts?
Q & A for parents: What was
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as a child?

FAITH:

TRUSTING IN WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE
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FAMILY VOICE

By Carey Nieuwhof

There's this thing that I believe every family has. I don't actually know what to call it. If we were having a conversation, I wouldn't be able to imitate it.

But I know it when I hear it. I hear it in shopping malls, in crowds, when families get into and out of their homes and cars, at restaurants, and when I'm a guest in someone's home. I've heard it for years in my home. And I have one too.

What is it? This isn't the scientific name for it at all, but in my head I call it *family voice*. You know what I'm talking about. It's the tone of voice you would never use except around the people closest to you. It contains hints of expectation, exasperation, frustration, and quiet fatigue. Add in tones of command, whining and a touch of rudeness, and you've got family voice. Sometimes it's strong. Sometimes it's subtle. But all the time it's reserved for the people you live with.

If you used it at work, you'd be shunned or maybe even get fired. If you used it in your social circle, you'd have no friends. You're likely distant enough as a grown adult to not use it on your parents or siblings anymore. Chances are you only pull it out in the square box you inhabit with a handful of other people we call family.

And ultimately, it's disrespectful. That's

why you would never use it on other people. But somehow on the people we love most we feel free to pull it out regularly. I don't know why. We just do.

So if you want to increase the level of respect you show for each other at home, try this: eliminate your family voice. I know, it's hard. Because I'm convinced we don't even hear it in ourselves anymore after a period of years.

When I catch myself, this is what I do: I pretend my wife and kids are perfect strangers, someone from work, or a friend I haven't seen in a while. Why? Because then I'm kind, courteous, charming, and engaged. Which is what they deserve. Every day.

Try it today. Speak to your family as if they weren't your family. You might be amazed at what happens to the levels of respect and delight in your home. (And let us know how it goes.)

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