

SHARE YOUR STORY
ACTS 4:1-21

LESSON PREP

When we become followers of Jesus, we have the opportunity to share that amazing news and gift with others. Many of us want to share why we believe what we believe, but we lack the courage or drive to do so. This lesson will help students explore some of the reasons they ought to share our faith and what it takes to prepare their minds and hearts to stand for what they believe in—an important element in apologetics. Help students understand that Jesus promises to be with them as they talk to people about their faith and what they believe. Make sure they understand that the first ingredient to being an effective witness is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

PRE LG TEXT

MESSAGE QUESTIONS

What's the most important thing someone said to you in the last week? Get ready for great conversation at small group tonight.

What things prevent you from sharing your faith? Tell us about those things when the group meets tonight.

SCRIPTURE

MEMORIZATION

1 Peter 3:15

1ON1 FOLLOW UP

Spend time sharing about the reasons for the hope that you have in Christ. Reflect on the different ways you have experienced God's goodness in your life.

INTRODUCTION

- What are some specific songs, movies, or TV shows that have prompted spiritual conversations with your friends?
- Are you more or less likely to engage in a spiritual conversation when it involves an element within our culture? Why?
- When do you feel most confident talking to other people about your faith? When do you feel least confident?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *When it comes to talking with other people about our faith, many of us shrink back in fear. But as we read through the Bible, we learn about people who were unsure yet stepped out in faith and shared the story of God with others. Their experiences can inspire us to move beyond our fears and tell people what we believe and why we are Christians.*

1. You have something to share

- What are some of your biggest fears in life and when do these fears hold you back and inhibit you?
- What are some reasons that you may be hesitant to share your faith or to have spiritually focused conversations?
- In this passage from Acts 4, why would the fact that these men had been with Jesus have any significance?
- Look at verses 19-20. What are some specific things you have seen, heard, or experienced as a follower of Jesus?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Peter and John were continually sharing the truth about Jesus because they had experienced life with him and had witnessed his resurrection. These men were not properly trained in the Scriptures and lacked the perceived educational qualifications for ministry, but they possessed the greatest tool for sharing their faith: a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. What about us? Do we have the same mandate to share our faith? What will happen if we don't share our faith? Let's see what the Apostle Paul says about this.*

- Read Romans 10:11-15. Summarize the big idea Paul is sharing in these verses.
- How has Jesus "sent" you out to tell people the good news?
- Read Luke 15:4-10. What do these parables tell you about Jesus' desire for you—and for everyone else in this world, too?
- How can you be a part of "finding the lost"?
- Read Matthew 5:13-16. What does it mean to be the salt of this world?
- What does it mean to shine your light for people to see? What might this look like in your sphere of influence?

2. Be prepared to share your story.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *If you have every gone on a long hike, you have experienced the need to prepare well. Preparation can be the difference between enduring an extensive hike on a backwoods trail and falling victim to malnutrition or extreme elements. When we share our faith, the Bible teaches us that preparation is just as important.*

- Think about the specific reasons Peter and John were prepared to share in Acts 4. How might their process of preparation translate to your life today?
- How does our commitment to sharing our faith connect us with the life Jesus lived?
- Read 2 Timothy 3:15-17. Knowing what you know about the Bible, how does the Bible teach what is true and point out faults in our lives?
- What are some specific ways you study or could study Scripture to prepare yourself to talk to people about your faith?
- Read Acts 17:22-29. How did Paul use illustrations from the Athenian culture to talk about God?
- How can you use these to talk to your peers about God and faith?

APPLICATION

How can you develop greater passion for sharing the good news of Jesus?

