

Get Ready!**Plug into the Power**

By: Judy Myers

**Text**

Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:1-8; Acts 2:1-13, 14-41

Key Quest Verse

“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.” Act 1:8

Bible Background

In our texts, we see examples of early Christian evangelists that were effective because they received the power of the Holy Spirit. They chose a lifestyle, not just spontaneous acts, of making others disciples of Christ, depending on the Holy Spirit for the ability to witness. In Acts 2, a diverse group of people were gathered in the city of Jerusalem for Pentecost which became the setting for 3,000 people to respond to Peter faithfully proclaiming the truth. As believers we too are called to be witnesses, not just do witnessing. We can trust today, just as the early leaders of the church trusted, in the power of God to “cut to the heart” of those who hear.

Adapted from The Word in Life Study Bible 1996, NKJV, Thomas Nelson Publishers

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

Know: They have been empowered to go to the people in their families, their schools, and their communities and tell them of God and His son, Jesus.

Feel: With God’s power they are equipped to boldly share the Good News.

Do: Give of their time, talents, money and service as a home missionary.

Leader’s Devotion

The story is told of a little boy who wore a ragged coat and worn-out shoes. One day as he struggled through the deep snow, some other children began to taunt him. “You call yourself a Christian. If your God is real, why hasn’t He told someone to give you a warm coat and some good boots?” The little boy looked his tormentors in the eyes and replied, “I think He has, but no one is listening.” How often does God give you little nudges that you don’t respond to? How often, after the opportunity is gone, do you wish you had said something to bring comfort or show support to someone in need? Spend some time this week looking at and listening to your family, your friends, your community and your world. Look deep, listen intently, read body language and then search deep into your heart and pray for God to use you to bring strength, comfort and peace. He has promised to empower you to serve Him. “I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.” (Philippians 4:13) Claim that promise with boldness.

Get Set!



Option A

Materials: Flashlight (battery); cell phone (battery); power tool or appliance (electricity); tire pump (muscle power, balloon (air power)

Each thing that I have here requires help to make it work as it was intended to work. What does the flashlight need? (Battery) The cell phone? (Battery) The tool or appliance? (Electricity) Tire Pump? (Our strength to make it inflate the tire) Balloon? (Our air blown into it) (As you mention these, add the battery to the flashlight, plug in the tool or appliance, etc. to show that they work.) All of these items need something extra to make them work as they are intended to work. A flashlight without the battery doesn’t do anything, does it? In our story today we will learn of a very special power that we are given to do the work we have been asked to do.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: Older youth or adult.

After your class has begun, have an older youth or another adult come to your room. Have them do a variety of things: give you something, tell you something, show you something and either shake your hand or give you a hug and then leave the room. Ask your students: **What just happened? What did you see, what did you hear? You have witnessed something here this morning and you have shared what you saw and heard. That makes you a “witness.” Today in our lesson, we will look at a man who became a great witness and see for ourselves the message that he had to share with others.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Advanced Preparation: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles. Have a Bible map of Jesus ministry available to look at.

Following Jesus’ resurrection He appeared to His disciples over a period of 40 days talking to them about the kingdom of God. On one of these occasions He gave them some special instructions while they were eating together. His instructions were that they were to remain in Jerusalem until they received the special gift He had told them would be sent to them by His Father. That promised gift was God’s power or His Holy Spirit. Once they had received that power, then they were to be witnesses. They were to begin in Jerusalem and then move out into Judea and then Samaria and finally to the ends of the earth. On the map show Jerusalem, then the areas of Judea and Samaria, pointing out that they were to begin where they were and then move farther and farther out until they witnessed to the whole known world. The disciples did as Jesus instructed them and on the day of Pentecost, as they were together in one house, they heard a violent wind. This sound filled the whole house and then they saw what appeared to be tongues of fire coming down and landing on each one of them. They began to feel different, they were full of energy, they began talking in languages that were not their own, languages they had not learned and had never spoken before. The gift that was promised them had come and filled them up! Wow! Can you even begin to imagine speaking another language that you had never spoken before? At that time there were others in Jerusalem who believed in Jesus and who loved and worshiped God. These people were from all over the known world and each group spoke a different language. All of a sudden, they heard the disciples speaking in their languages and they could understand the message that they were hearing. They were utterly amazed and spoke to each other asking what had happened to these men. They knew that all of them were from Galilee and had only spoken their own language before. They really wondered what all of this meant. Some people, however, thought that they were drunk. Peter then boldly stood up and began to speak with the crowd. He shared that it was early morning and they had not been drinking. He told them that they should listen carefully to what they were about to hear. He went on to speak to them about what would happen in the last days and how important it was for all to repent and follow the Lord. He shared what he had seen and heard during the time that he had walked and talked with the Lord before He ascended into heaven. That day with the spirit God placed within Peter and the others, they spoke out without hesitation about Jesus and things to come. Peter warned them of what would happen if they didn’t believe. He also let them know that if they repented and were baptized that they too would receive the Holy Spirit to help them share with others. That day, about three thousand people were baptized and joined the church. If you are part of God’s family you also have been given His spirit, His power so that you can be his witnesses and share all that you have seen and heard as you study His Word.

Go!**Bubbling Power****SCIENCE**

Materials: Clear plastic cup, pitcher of water, two 6-inch squares of cheesecloth (each one doubled as it comes, works best), paper plate, rubber band.

Quest Connection

If we are going to be home missionaries we need to feel God’s Spirit in our lives so that we can boldly share our joy and faith with others who may not yet know of Jesus and how He died so their sins could be forgiven. Today we are going to do an experiment which will show us what God’s Holy Spirit working within us can do.

Procedure: Fill the cup $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water. Place the two pieces of cheesecloth over the top and secure with the rubber band. Wet your hand and rub it over the top of the cup and then quickly turn the cup up side down over the paper plate. A little bit of water might escape but it will stop immediately. Be sure to practice this several times at home to be sure that you have it mastered.

The Holy Spirit gives us the “power” to serve God as Jesus commanded us to do. Have a child gently push on the cheesecloth as you slightly push downward while holding the cup. Bubbles should begin to roll up like boiling water. **With the power of God within us, our lives can bubble up with joy and boldness as we share with our friends what God and Jesus are doing in our lives.** When the bubbling stops, set the cup right side up on the paper plate.

Close

As we read God’s Word each day, He will give us things to share with others. He speaks to us through His Word. It is important for each of us to listen daily to what He has to say to us. As we are filled with his love and his word, our lives can be bubbling over with joy.

Go!**Awesome Power****SCIENCE/OBJECT LESSON**

Materials: Nickel, toothpick, plastic straw, washcloth

**Quest Connection**

Procedure: Stand the nickel on its edge on a tabletop. You may need to use a little play dough or clay to help it stand. Lay the toothpick across the top of the nickel. While holding the washcloth and putting pressure on the straw, run the straw several times through the washcloth to cause static electricity. Then holding the straw above the toothpick a couple of inches, move it. That should cause the toothpick to move and fall off of the nickel.

In our Bible story the disciples saw God’s power coming in the form of tongues of fire. We don’t see His power come on us in that way but we know that it is there to all who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. Today we will look at an illustration that will help us understand His unseen power a little bit better. Do the procedure as explained above. **Did you see the power that caused the toothpick to move? We cannot see it but we witnessed the fact that there was a power that moved it. God’s power is the same in our lives. Even though we do not see it, it is there giving us the power to make a difference in another’s life.**

Close

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for your power at work in my life. Help me to share Your love with my friends and family this week. Amen.

Go!**Sweet Message****ART/CRAFT**

Materials: Bags of the various candies such as, Hershey Hugs, Hershey Kisses, Individually wrapped Lifesavers, Reisens, small Snicker bars, Dove Promises, Treasurers, small Payday candy bars, small plastic or cellophane bags

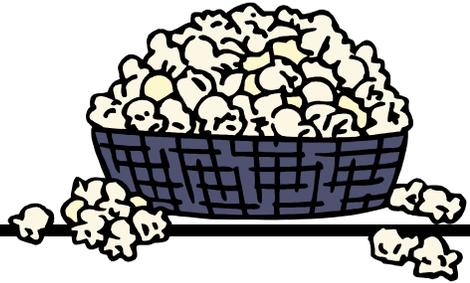
Quest Connection

Today we are going to make some gifts up that we will share with others. Jesus left us instructions to be His witnesses. We can use this gift bag as a way of sharing his love.

Procedure: Make up bags with one (or more) of each of the candies. Put an individually written message by each student inside each bag or punch a hole in the top of the bag and tie the message on with ribbon. Use these to give to shut-ins, nursing home residents, homeless shelters, or give to friends. This can be used as a witness to those in your home area.

Close

Prayer: Thank You Father for Your many blessings. We ask that as we deliver our Sweet Messages from Your Word that you will use them to bring glory to Yourself. Help us to share Your love with our friends and with those who don’t know You or Your son, Jesus. Amen.

Go!**Do Your Part****OBJECT LESSON**

Material: 128 pieces of individually wrapped candies (or popped kernels of popcorn) in a brown paper bag

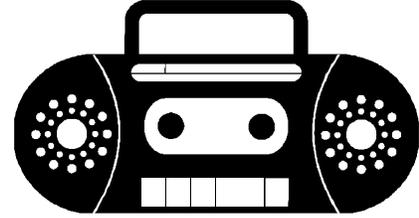
Quest Connection

Before class put the candy (or popped corn) in the paper bag. This will demonstrate how the church could grow if each person did his/her part in inviting others.

In our lesson today we have learned that we are to be witnesses for Jesus. Take one piece of candy out of the bag. This piece of candy represents a person who did what Jesus asked. He went out and invited one of his friends to come and learn about Jesus. Take a second piece of candy out and place by the first piece. That week, both people invited someone else to learn about Jesus. Take out two more pieces and place by the first two. These four went out and shared the message with one of their friends. Take out four more pieces of candy. Now we have 8 people who are sharing about Jesus. They each invite someone else. Take out 8 more pieces of candy. How many do we have now? That's right, we have 16. Each of these 16 shared the Gospel message with a friend. Take out 16 more pieces of candy. Now we have 32 who are sharing the message. Take out 32 more pieces of candy. Now 64 have heard the Good News and are doing what Jesus instructed. Dump the rest of the bag of candy. If everyone would share with one person each week, in just 8 weeks, a group could grow from 1 to 128. Will you be a witness for Jesus this week?

Close

We live in a world where lots of people are seeking happiness and purpose for their lives. Ask God to give you the boldness to invite unsaved friends to come to church with you. Invite them to share the joy you have found in walking with the Lord.

Go!**Can You Sell It?****CREATIVE WRITING**

Materials: Paper, pencils, tape recorders, blank cassette tapes.

Procedure: You may either have your class work in pairs or divide into teams. Give them the choice of which activity they would like to do. After they are finished, show or listen to their messages.

Quest Connection

There are many ways that we can share the good news of what God has done for us. Two of these ways might be to run an advertisement in the local paper or do a spot announcement on the local radio station. Today you have a choice of writing a newspaper ad or taping a radio announcement. Put your creative juices to work and come up with a catchy ad or announcement, and then we will share them with each other. If they need suggestions to get them started one might be: “Is school getting you down?” “Are you sick and tired of your dull life?” “Are you fighting way too often with your parents?” “Do your parents understand what you are going through?” If you have answered “yes” to any of the above, then have we a deal for you. Answers to all of life’s problems are found in the Word of God, the Bible. At the (church name) the answers you are seeking can be found in morning worship at (appropriate time). Come join us and put joy and happiness in your life.

Close

How do you think your classmates and friends would react to the message that you wrote? Do you have friends or classmates that need to find answers to the daily problems they live with? Will you reach out with the power God has put within you to make a difference for them? Who can you invite to come with you to class next week?

Go!**Lines and Lyrics****MUSIC/CREATIVE WRITING****Materials:** Paper, pencils**Quest Connection**

Music often can be used to witness to others. Today we will work on writing music words to fit familiar tunes.

Procedure: Have the class work together, in teams, or individually to write words to familiar tunes. For an idea to help them get started, check out www.kidssundayschool.com They have a song entitled, “Sow the Word” to the tune of “Row Row Row Your Boat.”

Another idea to get them started might be this to the tune of “Mary Had A Little Lamb”

Jesus has a job for me, job for me, job for me
Jesus has a job for me
His love to others show.

With God’s spirit within me, within me, within me
With God’s spirit within me,
This job I’ll boldly do.

I will witness what I’ve seen, what I’ve seen, what I’ve seen,
I will witness what I’ve seen
Until the whole world knows.

Thank you for your special power, special power, special power
Thank you for your special power
That is at work in me.

Close

Prayer: Thank you God for music and the way that it touches lives. Amen.

Go!**Lots of Laughter****GAME****Materials:** None**Quest Connection**

Being a part of God’s family and being filled with His spirit brings a life of joy and laughter. We are going to play a little game to express our joy in being part of God’s family.

Procedure: Divide the class into two teams. One at a time, each team sends a comedian to the opposite team to try to make them laugh. He/she may tell jokes, make funny faces or just begin to giggle. The team whose comedian is trying to make the other team laugh must remain silent. The teacher counts off thirty seconds. If the comedian has not made anyone on the team laugh, he/she must join that team. At the end of the designated time, the team with the most members wins as the most joyous followers.

Close

It is good to laugh and have a good time as long as we are not making someone else feel badly with what we are saying or doing. The Bible tells us that “A happy heart makes the face cheerful” and “A cheerful heart is good medicine.” (Proverbs 15:13b, 17:22a) This week let’s show our joy to all around us.



It is important for us to spend time each day in reading God’s Word and in prayer. We cannot be missionaries to those around us until we have a message to share with them. As we read and study the Bible, God speaks to us about how he wants us to live. We can find the answer to everything that we need through his Word.

Take this page home this week and as you read your Bible, record what you have read and what God said to you. Record a prayer request and then mark a date when God answers. Bring it back with you next week.

Day	What I Read	What God Said to Me	I Prayed For	God Answered
Monday				
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
Thursday				
Friday				
Saturday				
Sunday				

“He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.’”

Mark 16:15-15

Jesus said to go to the world and “teach them to observe all that I have commanded.”

Write down one teaching of Jesus that you are sharing with your friends?

What difference has your sharing with them made in their life and in yours?

Which of Jesus’ teachings do you claim as your special message from Him?

“He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.
Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved,
but whoever does not believe will be condemned.’”
Mark 16:15-15

FOLLOWING EXAMPLES

While Jesus was still here on earth, he washed his disciples' feet. He then told them that it was an example for them. (John 13:15) What kind of an example do you think Jesus set by doing this?

What can we learn from that example? _____

Under Moses leadership, God brought the children of Israel out of Egypt. Along the way, they behaved badly on many occasions. For examples, look up the following verses and write down what they did that was displeasing to God. Exodus 16:2; Exodus 32:1-6, 25-29,33-35; Leviticus 10:1-3, 24:10-14, 23.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:5-6. Why do you think stories telling of the wrong things that were done by the children of Israel were included in God's Holy Word?

Scripture tells us that Jesus set a good example for us to follow and that the things the children of Israel did that God was displeased with were to be an example that we not follow.

Read 1 Timothy 4:12-13.

What does it say you are to be? _____

How can you be an example to others this week in the way you speak? _____

in giving to help others? _____

in the way you treat others? _____

in pure living? _____

and in your study? _____

Imagine you were there on the day of Pentecost, you were able to see all that happened.
You were a **witness!**

Now it's time to **tell your story** to others so that they too can know what happened.
Retell the Bible story in your own words in the space below.
Hold onto this paper, you never know when it could come in handy as a way to **witness to others.**

