

# Series: Share It

## Lesson 1—Talk It

### OVERVIEW

Background Bible Passage: Acts 26:1-28

Key Verse: Revelation 12:11—“And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.”

### BEFORE CLASS

**Preparation:** *Your preparation will determine the direction your class will go.*

- Consider your personal salvation testimony.
- Consider the power your personal testimony has to help turn others to God.
- Consider other testimonies you have concerning God’s goodness.
- Study and prepare your lesson so that you are familiar with the teaching outline.
- Use the Contact 1-2-3 system to the right to follow up on students who have recently missed Sunday School.
- Pray for each student by name.
- Challenge students who have made recent decisions to continue following and growing in Christ.

#### **CONTACT 1-2-3 SYSTEM**

*The first time a student is absent, give them a call. Following the second absence, send them a postcard. The third week they are absent, pay them a visit.*

*Think about it: What does it say to a student when they miss multiple weeks in a row and are never contacted? It says, “It really doesn’t matter if you’re here or not.”*

*Small things communicate great messages. Let the three “small” things above communicate that you care and miss your students when they are absent.*

## OPENING ACTIVITY

### Discussion

- *What are you looking forward to this new school year?*
  - *Is there anything that you are dreading?*
  - *What's your greatest goal this school year?*
- *What would you like to see God do in your school this year?*
- *What would you like to see God do in your life this school year?*

*SAY:* As you begin school this week, realize that you are entering the greatest mission field in America today. Every day and in every class you will be surrounded by students who don't know what you know, who don't have the assurance of salvation that you have—students who may know about Christ but have never met Him personally. There will be people that God will put in your classes, sitting next to you or at some point partnered with you for a project, specifically for the purpose of you being able to show and tell them about the love of Christ. If you are willing, God will set up “divine appointments,” situations and encounters where you will have the opportunity to share His Gospel. The purpose of today is to help you be prepared when the time comes.

## BIBLE LESSON

### Turn to Acts 26.

*While they are turning, SAY:* Here's the background of what we are about to read. The apostle Paul had just returned to Jerusalem after his third missionary journey. He went up to the temple to worship where some of the Jews, who believed against Christianity, attacked and began beating him for having spread the good news about Jesus. He was arrested and falsely accused by the Jews, so the Romans sent him to another town where he remained imprisoned for more than two years. When King Agrippa visited the area Paul was allowed to make a defense for himself.

*Choose a volunteer to read—Read Acts 26:1*

*Choose a volunteer to read—Read Acts 26:28*

- *What do you think Paul shares in the verses we skipped to bring the king to the point where he was almost persuaded to become a Christian himself? (Paul shares his personal testimony.)*
- *Who remembers who Paul was and what his salvation testimony was like? (Summarize his testimony as seen in Acts 9:1-18, also as he shares in Acts 22:1-18 as well as in the verses skipped here, Acts 26:2-20.)*
- *Why do you think Paul was always so ready and willing to share his salvation testimony? (Paul shares in his testimony in Acts 22:1-18 as well as in these verses*

and he also shares a testimony in Philippians 3. He used his testimony because he understood the power of a testimony.)

- *Why do you think your personal salvation testimony is so powerful?* (It is the story of what God has done in your life. Your testimony is the second most powerful tool you have in presenting or defending the Gospel. The Bible is the most powerful tool you've been given because it is the living, inspired Word of God, but despite its power, people can try to argue Scripture. People cannot, however, argue your personal experience with Christ.)

SAY: There are three basic parts of a salvation testimony. These are: (1) What started you to thinking about giving your life to Christ, (2) What did you do about it—i.e., did you talk to someone? When did you pray to give your life to Jesus? (3) What difference did it make—i.e., “Because of this I know for sure I’m going to heaven, how about you?”

- *When you want to share your salvation testimony with someone, who knows the best way to create an opportunity?* (Ask, “Can I tell you about the greatest thing that even happened to me?” If they say, “no,” don’t be offended—it may just mean that it’s a bad time.)
- *Who knows the best way to end your testimony?* (“Because of this I know for sure I’m going to heaven, how about you?” This “puts the ball in their court” and will help you to understand where they stand with Christ.)
- *Who knows what a good length of time is for sharing your testimony?* (A minute or less—Remember that you are simply sharing about how you know Jesus, not your entire life story.)
- *Who would like to share their salvation testimony with our class?* (Encourage as many to share as they like—Take time for this. This is the best arena for practice.)

Here’s an example of a testimony:

A young man named Roger Hester has cerebral palsy and cannot speak. Written on a card Roger shares everywhere is this message:

“Hi, I’m Roger Hester. I’m sorry that I cannot talk to you, but I can understand anything you say. Would you allow me to share something with you? I grew up in a Christian home, but it wasn’t until I was 12 years old that I became aware that I was a sinner. I knew that God loved me in spite of my handicap, because He helped me cope with it. I even thanked God for my handicap. Several years ago, I gave my life to Jesus Christ, and I have put Him first in my life. My life since then has been great! God has helped me and continues to be with me always. I’d like to share my happiness with you. You, too, can ask Jesus to come into your heart and become a Christian. I’ve got a booklet I’d like to share with you. It is yours to keep and study. If you want to read it out loud, I’ll go through it with you now. Otherwise, I hope you’ll take time to read it later on today.”<sup>1</sup>

*SAY:* Some people feel like their testimony isn't as good or interesting as someone else's, especially if they accepted Christ when they were young and never did anything really bad. But realize that there is no such thing as a "bad" or "boring" testimony. This is the story of how God saved you—what could be more exciting than that!

### Project 14:6

*SAY:* Also realize that the more you share your salvation testimony, the easier and more natural it becomes. That's the reason that we are challenging you to take the Project 14:6 Challenge—to make the decision to share your testimony, either every day, every school day, or at least once each week. You can share it with a saved friend, a lost friend, a teacher, a family member—anyone you desire. You can even just practice it in a mirror, but the more you share it, the easier it will become.

### KEY VERSE

*Choose a volunteer to read—2 Timothy 1:7-8*

- *What has God not given you? (A spirit of fear or timidity.)*
- *What has God given you? (Power, love, and discipline.)*
- *Because God has given you power, love, and discipline, what can you do? (Not be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord.)*
- *How does power, love, and discipline from the Lord help you in not being ashamed and in sharing your faith?*
- *What does the word testimony mean? (According to Webster's Dictionary, a "testimony" is "evidence, witness, firsthand authentication of a fact, an outward sign, an open acknowledgment, a public profession of religious experience." <sup>2)</sup>*

*SAY:* Sharing a "testimony" doesn't always mean telling someone about when God saved you. You would actually call that your "salvation testimony." There are many other types of testimonies you can share:

For example:

Someone share a testimony about a time when God took care of you.

Someone share a testimony about a time when God answered prayer.

Someone share a testimony of something else God has done in your life.

SAY: There are many ways you can testify concerning how God has moved in your life, but all “testimonies” should have one thing in common—A true testimony should all always brag on God, not you.

Choose a volunteer to read—Revelation 12:7-12

- *Who is the accuser, the great dragon and the serpent referred to here?* (The devil.)
- *How did they (believers) overcome him?* (By the blood of the Lamb, the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.)
- *How is the devil overcome by the blood of the Lamb?* (Christ’s sacrifice defeated the devil, death and hell once for all.)
- *How is the devil overcome by the word of their testimony* (Christians who testified to who God is and what He has done overcome Satan by their constant and faithful witness to Christ.)
- *How is the devil overcome by those who love not their lives even to death?* (Christians overcome him and his temptations when they are completely surrendered to following Christ in every area of life, no matter what the cost.)

SAY: I want you to silently compare your life to this verse:

- *Have you overcome the devil in your life?*
- *By the blood of the Lamb—Have you given your life to Christ?*
- *By the word of your testimony—Are you not ashamed to brag openly on God and what He has done and is doing in your life?*
- *Are you willing to live for Christ even to the extent of losing your life for Him?*
- *If this is the character of a person of passion for God, on a scale of 1 to 10, how do you measure up?*

## **WRAP IT UP**

SAY: Never be ashamed of the testimony you have concerning Jesus. Live for Him and never be afraid to talk about Him.

## **Prayer Time**

*Pray specifically today that your students will have a boldness and willingness to continually testify to the great things God does in their lives.*

List prayer requests below and on the back of this page and pray for your students throughout the week. *Ask if any of your students want to pray today.*

## Prayer Requests

<sup>1</sup>*One Thousand Illustrations: Stories for Life*, (Texas: Student Discipleship Ministries, 2000) CD-Rom.

<sup>2</sup>*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition*, (Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003), 1291.