

Series: Share It

Lesson 3—Live It

OVERVIEW

Background Bible Passage: Acts 28:1-10

Key Verse: Acts 1:8—“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 in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

BEFORE CLASS

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

- Consider what kind of a witness you are.
- Consider how the Holy Spirit moves in your life to affect the lives of others.
- 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.

OPENING ACTIVITY

Get to Know You

As students enter, spend a few moments just chatting with them about what is going on in their lives, about where they go to school, about how school is going, etc. Don't spend a great deal of time on this, but be genuine in your interest and desire to get to know each of your students.

“Fear Factor” Survey

Give each student a “Fear Factor” Survey. Have your students write in responses as you discuss the questions with them. Then have your students turn these pages into your youth minister. These pages can be very helpful in putting together an entire series or event on dealing with fear.

BIBLE LESSON

Discussion

- *Is anyone afraid of being bitten by a poisonous snake?*
- *Is anyone afraid of being wrongly accused and imprisoned?*
- *Is anyone afraid of traveling by boat in bad weather, getting lost at sea and spending days without food?*
- *Is anyone afraid of being shipwrecked and found by the native inhabitants of an island?*
- *Would you be afraid if all these things happened to you at the same time?*

SAY: In brief, this is what happened to Paul. He was falsely accused and imprisoned and then shipped to Rome under a centurion's guard. While sailing to Rome he advised the centurion not to sail during the dangerous season but the soldier ignored him. The ship (carrying 276 people) encountered the "hurricane force" winds of a storm and wandered off course for fourteen days while the food was rationed. On the fourteenth night the sailors detected land but the bow of the ship stuck in a sandbar while the stern was broken to pieces by pounding waves. At first the soldiers wanted to kill all the prisoners to prevent any from escaping but the centurion with Paul kept it from happening. They all swam and floated to shore. Listen to what happened next:

Turn to Acts 28.

While they are turning, ASK:

- *Who remembers why the book of Acts is called "Acts"? (It contains the history of the "acts" of the early apostles and how the Gospel spread to Rome, the center of that day's world.)*
- *Who knows who wrote the book of Acts? (Luke wrote it. He was with Paul when today's story happened. Listen for him to refer to "us" in the verses we are about to read. Throughout Acts, you can always tell when Luke was with Paul because he writes about "us" instead of just "him" or "them." This is also how we know the timing of when Luke, who was a gentile, a physician, and *NOT* one of the twelve disciples, first met Paul in Acts 16:10-11.)*

Choose volunteers to read—Read Acts 28:1-10

- *How did the people notice there was something different about Paul? (By the things he did and how he responded to situations. By the fact that God's hand was on him.)*
- *Do those you spend time with see that there is something different about you? Why or why not?*

- *How do you think you would have responded in Paul's shoes? When a poisonous snake bit you? When the people thought you were a god? When Publius' father was ill? When all the sick were brought to you?*
- *Why do you think Paul was so different than many Christians today? (Paul gave up everything to follow Christ. He not only lived a life of total trust and complete surrender, but he had spent his life studying God's Word.) Do you think this is a lifestyle that many believers today have chosen? Is it a lifestyle that you have chosen?*
- *What do you think stops many Christians from living fully for Christ?*

SAY: In this story Luke didn't write about Paul explaining the Gospel to the islanders or how many people accepted Christ. This wasn't Luke's purpose in writing the book of Acts (His purpose was to show how the Gospel spread to Rome) but from seeing the things Paul did elsewhere and comparing these circumstances to similar situations in the book of Acts, you can trust that both of these things happened. That Paul had told them about Christ and healed their sick is probably also one of the reasons for the islander's hospitality in giving provisions. (**NOTE:** "Islanders" could also be translated as "barbarian," not because they were savage but because they were non-Greek speaking which meant they were "uncivilized" in Paul's day.)

KEY: The way Paul lived and the things he did gave him opportunities to share Jesus with others.

KEY VERSE

Choose a volunteer to read—Acts 1:8

- *What does this verse say you will become? (Witnesses. Notice that this doesn't say, "You shall do witnessing"...but "you will be witnesses." Being a witness is not something you do, it's something you become.)*
- *What happens before you become a witness? (The Holy Spirit comes on you.)*
- *When does the Holy Spirit come on a person? (The moment a person commits his or her life to Christ. As a Christian the question isn't, "How much of the Holy Spirit do you have?" because you have all of the Holy Spirit you will ever have from the moment you are saved. The real question is, "How much of you does the Holy Spirit have?" In other words, who "calls the shots" for your life? Are you fully surrendered to God's plan and direction?)*
- *When the Holy Spirit came what would He bring with Him?" (Power. The Greek word here is *dunamis* from which we get our English word "dynamite"—Now that's power! The power to make an impact.)*

SAY: The power of knowing Christ, as lived out in your life will always affect others. It's like setting off an explosion. You can't blast with dynamite without something beyond the stick of dynamite being affected.

- *What do you think Jesus meant by “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth?”* (They were in Jerusalem, which was a part of a larger area called Judea, to the north of which was Samaria and on and on. In other words witnessing begins right where you are, right where you live, and progressively moves outward.)

Illustration

Imagine throwing a rock in a pond. Where the rock lands would represent “your” Jerusalem, right where you are with the people to whom you are closest. Then the ripples moving out from that spot would represent Judea, the next closest to you, then Samaria, further away, and on and on until the end of the world.

- *Using this line of thinking, what would your “Witnessing-Jerusalem” be?* (This might be your family. This might be your closest friends at school. It's where you are, where you live.)
- *How can you be a witness to these people?*
- *What would your “Judea” or the next ring of that ripple-effect be?* (Perhaps friends but not best friends, people who sit next to you in class, people you used to be close to, etc.)
- *How can you be a witness to these people?*
- *What would your “Samaria” or the next ring of that ripple-effect be?* (These would be people that are “further” from you than the people in the last questions—It could be an acquaintance or a student who sits by himself in the cafeteria or even a guest at church. It could also represent people who are different from you since Samaritans were different than the Jews.)
- *How can you be a witness to these people?*
- *What would “to the end of the world” or the next ring of that ripple-effect be?* (This ripple includes everyone else in the world that is not already included in your Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria. These are people you don't know, like the cashier where you or your parent's get gas or that person you pass at the mall—these are people you have no connection with unless you create one—unless you go to where they are.)
- *How can you be a witness to these people?*

WRAP IT UP

SAY: When it comes to witnessing, don't just talk it and don't just share it, live it.

- *Do you believe that you are a witness everyday?* (Answer: By how you live you *are* a witness every day—either for Christ or against Him. You are either a good witness or a bad witness, but either way, you are a witness. So live what you say you believe.)

Prayer Time

Pray specifically that your students will be a good witness for Christ every day.

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

FEAR FACTOR

Survey

Name: _____

Questions:

(1) What do you fear the most?

(2) How long have you had this fear?

(3) How do you deal with this fear?

(4) What specifically do you do to avoid facing this fear?

(5) Do you have any other fears?

(6) On a scale of 1 to 10, how often do you let fears guide your decisions? (1 = never; 10 = all the time)