

Acts 26

Share the Gospel

Scripture: Acts 26

Memory Verse: Acts 26:17b-18 “...I [Jesus] now send you to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins...”

Lesson Focus: Fresh off of our celebration of Jesus’s death and resurrection, we will get back into Acts where we will see Paul give his defense of the gospel to yet another prominent character. After a short study of the text, we will walk the kids through a simple gospel-sharing tool to better equip them to share their faith with confidence!

Activities and Crafts: Share Jesus’s Love Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Find the Treasure Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for ALL Grades: 3 Circles Gospel Practice Sheet *

Starter Activity: Jenga and Humpty-Dumpty

Consider getting the lesson started with a Jenga tower setup. We will leave some Jenga blocks for you to use. * As you have the tower setup, invite kids to take turns and try to remove a block from the tower and add it to the top. Or perhaps just have the leaders take turns doing this. Eventually the tower will collapse and all should get a good laugh.

Afterwards, begin to transition into the lesson with a question:

Q: What one word do you think best describes this Jenga tower right now? *

A: BROKEN!

This reminds me of the old nursery rhyme that you all probably remember very well. * (**Teachers:** Consider saying the portion of the rhyme below **emboldened**, but then have the kids say the rest of it).

Humpty dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty dumpty had a great fall,
All the kings horses and all the kings men,
Could not put Humpty together again.

You know what else is broken? This world! Our lives! * And just like all of the king’s horses and all of the king’s men failed, we also fail to put ourselves and our world back together again (we can’t!). But there is Someone who can and who will! In fact, we just celebrated His resurrection and victory over death and brokenness last weekend. It’s Jesus! As we get back into the book of Acts a little bit today, let’s not forget this!

Bible Study:

This is now the fifth time since Paul was arrested in Jerusalem back in Acts 21 that Luke (the author of Acts) records him giving his testimony and defense of the gospel. * He is still under arrest, but before King Herod Agrippa and Festus (another governor).

Teachers: Please lead a quick study through v. 1-18 which you can use to springboard into the evangelism training using the “*3 Circles*” gospel tool (see next pages of lesson).

Acts 26:1-3: This Herod Agrippa is the son of the Herod we read about back in Acts 12 who was struck by God for his abominable pride! (see **Acts 12:23**)

Acts 26:4-5: Paul admits that he was a Pharisee before he was a Christian. These Pharisees were the Jewish religious leaders who conspired to put Jesus to death. *

Acts 26:6-8: The Jewish people, led by the Pharisees, knew that God had promised to send a Rescuer who would also usher in a new Kingdom. * They just didn’t believe Jesus was that guy! They thought He was still dead in the grave (but the tomb was empty!).

Acts 26:9-11: Paul also admits how fiercely he once persecuted the Christians as we saw back in Acts 8 (see **Acts 8:3-4**).

Acts 26:12: Paul begins to tell what happened then on his way to Damascus.

Q: What did happen to Paul on the road to Damascus? A: The risen and ascended Jesus Himself confronted Paul and changed him forever!

Acts 26:13-15: And thus we know that after this meeting with Jesus this fierce persecutor of Jesus became just as fierce a follower and champion of Jesus!

Acts 26:16: Paul now tells Agrippa what his new purpose was.

Q: What does it mean to do something “on purpose”? A: It means it wasn’t an accident but you did it intentionally and willfully, whether good or bad.

Q: What did Paul do “on purpose” right before he was a Christian? A: Persecute Christians and throw them in jail. * This is what he poured all of his passion and enthusiasm into! *

But let’s reread this verse and see what Paul’s new purpose was.

Q: What was it? A: To be a witness and minister of the gospel! And that is exactly what we have seen him do in the book of Acts!

Acts 26:17: Jesus both sent Paul out and promised to protect him. But now checkout WHY Jesus is sending him out as the text continues...

Acts 26:18: Wow! This is quite an awesome rescue mission!

Q: Why did Jesus send out Paul? A: That people would be saved! That people might be rescued from the darkness, evil, and **brokenness** of this world and brought into God’s wonderful Kingdom and family! * And that ONLY happens through people repenting and putting their faith and trust in Jesus’s death and resurrection for their sins.

Teachers: At this point, please spend the rest of the lesson teaching the kids that they (if they are believers) also are commissioned to spread the gospel and how they can do that.

Boys and Girls: If you are a believer in Jesus, you also play a role in this rescue mission! You have a new “purpose” to share this good news to people that are lost in darkness and **brokenness**. For the rest of our time together we will teach you a simple way to do that!

This way is called the “**3 Circles**”. All you need is a pencil and paper (or even just a napkin) to share it with your friends. Let me first share it with you!

Teachers: Please take the kids through the “**3 Circles**” gospel presentation. You can see a snapshot of the basic diagram on the next page of the lesson. Referring back to our starter activity, remind the kids about the **brokenness** of this world, and start with that circle. There is an excellent short YouTube video (< 2 minutes) that walks you through it [here](#). See also [here](#) for tons of other resources, including a simple app that you can download to your phone! We will also provide [these prayer cards](#) for the kids to take home that you can refer to. *

After sharing this with your kids, give them an opportunity to respond! There may be some kids in your class today that may respond to the Lord for the first time!

Q: Remember what purpose Jesus gave Paul (**Acts 26:18**)? A: To go and tell others the good news that they may also be saved from sin, darkness, and **brokenness**.

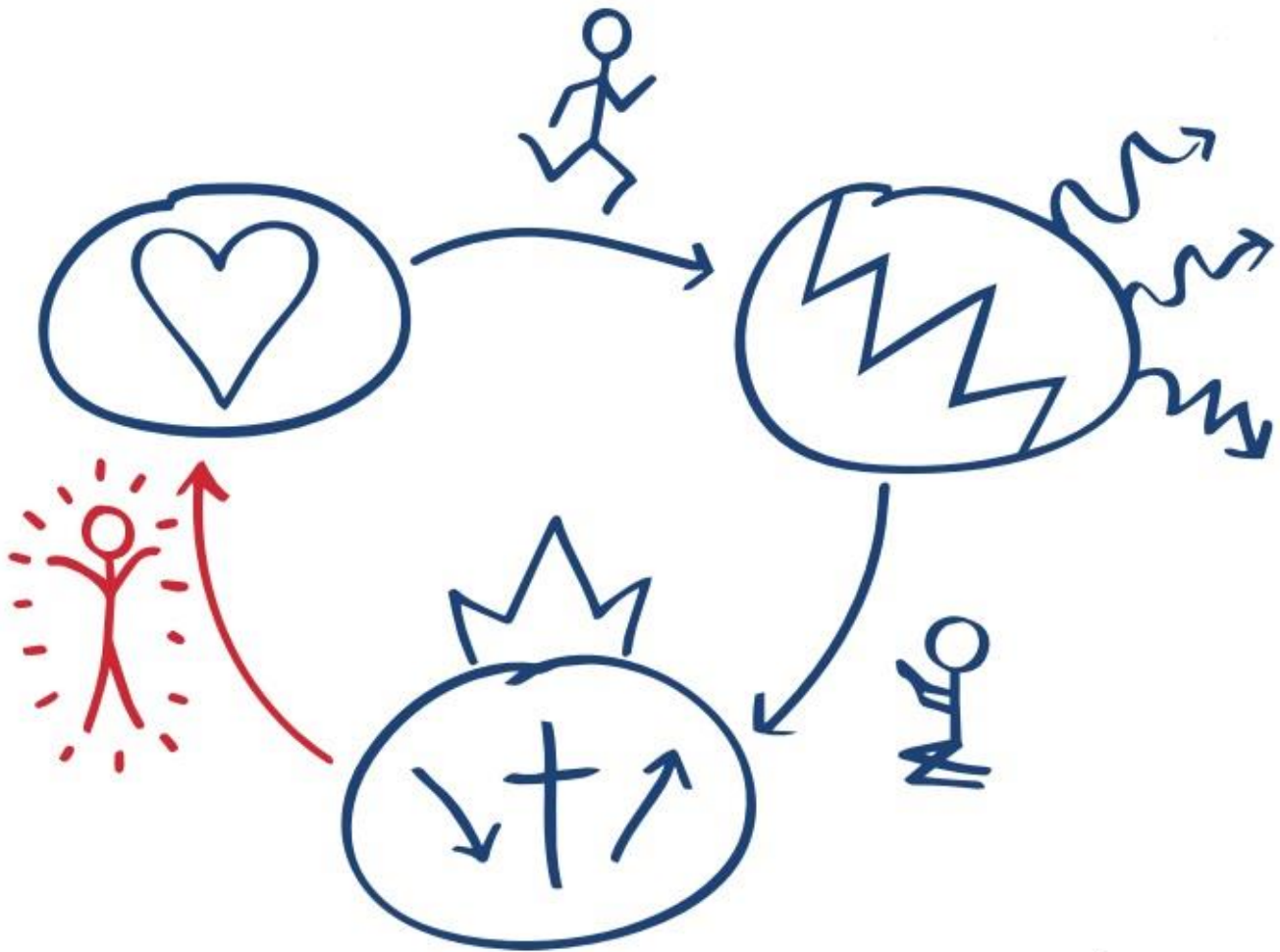
Key Point: If you’re a believer in Jesus, He has a very similar commission for you. While as a young boy or girl, you aren’t being sent (at least not right now!) to another country to share the gospel like Paul was, but you are commissioned to share it with your friends at school, in your neighborhoods, and on your sports teams! *

The rest of our time together, we want to train you to share this “**3 Circles**” gospel tool. If you have any friends that are experiencing **brokenness** (sickness, sadness, suffering, etc.) they might be ready to hear God’s plan to restore them and respond! They might be broken just like Humpty-Dumpty was yet trying all of the wrongs things to put their lives back together again. But only Jesus can do this and He wants you to tell them!

Leaders/Teachers: Please spend some time helping kids get familiar with the “**3 Circles**”. You can pass out the prayer cards that we will supply that they can reference and take home. We will also have a take home practice sheet with a faded version of the diagram for you all to color in together. Consider using that as a way to get the kids to practice drawing out the diagram. Perhaps even invite a couple of kids up to teach it! *

Another thing to practice with them is a simple conversation transition statement into the gospel. When a friend shares a problem or issue, having a well-practiced transition statement ready will equip them to then share the “**3 Circles**” gospel tool. Something like, “*That sounds hard and I’m sorry. I have gone thru hard things too. Can I share something with you that has really helped me?*” Now you share the “**3 Circles**”! Consider having the kids practice saying such a transition statement too!

THE GOOD NEWS IN 3 CIRCLES



FIND THE TREASURE



Read Acts 26:17-18
What purpose did Jesus
have for Paul?

PARENT CHALLENGE
Ask your kids to show you the "3 Circles"
gospel-sharing tool they learned.

Read Matt 28:18-20
What purpose does Jesus
have for believers like you
and me?

