


Scripture Text: Ephesians 4:1–16


Memory Verse: “He has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ.” Eph. 4:7 NLT


Biblical Truth That Will Be Learned: God has called each one of us to make a difference in our world. With that calling, He has given us the power, the abilities and the courage to win others to Christ.

Biblical Characters: Noah, Joshua, John the Baptist, and Mary

SMALL GROUP/SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

 **1** Have the students think of all the things that have to do with the number “one” (i.e. “being number one, the number one, we only get one life, etc.). Have the kids write these down on cards and then post them on a large “one” cut-out.

 **2** Have the kids sit in a circle and toss a beach ball around the circle in the air. After five hits, the child with the ball gets to say something he/she wishes they had “one” of, such as, one candy bar, one corvette, one ipod, etc. Continue until every child has had a turn.

 **3** In this activity, help the children make up a story about the number “one.” Have the first child begin the story by saying “One day ...” The next child will continue with “there was one...,” or “one of these,” and so on and so on. Guide them in the story and have each child add one more character or one more event or one more thing. Make it a humorous story and try to keep them from making it negative or violent.

1. Our God-Given Power

Materials: links of a chain, a 3-4 ft. length of chain, a link made from paper or something that can easily be broken

Ephesians 4 tells us that God has called each one of us for a purpose, even down to the smallest person. It is important that the children understand that they do not have to wait until they are adults to make a difference in the life of someone. God has called them and has given them power to evangelize, sometimes more effectively than adults. In this activity, the kids will see the power and effect of “one”.

Explain and demonstrate the power of a chain (the bigger, the better). Let the children pull on the chain and see what happens. Explain that the links, separately, are not very powerful and can’t accomplish much. But together, they become one chain and become powerful enough to accomplish many tasks. Explain that the chain is like the kingdom of God; Christians working together for one purpose- to bring more people to Christ. Each person is very important in this purpose; just like each link is very important in the chain. If one link is weak, it affects the power of the chain and its ability to work.

Take out one of the links in the chain and replace it with a paper link or a link made from a “twist tie” or something similar that will obviously not hold its strength. Ask the children to pull on the chain and see what happens to the chain. It has lost its power to perform simply because of one link. Discuss the importance and the power of one.

Make the connection and help the children understand the power of one person in winning people for Jesus. If we don’t ever talk about Jesus, or we don’t invite people to church, or we fail to “live” like a Christian, we become the “weak” link in the purpose of winning people to Jesus.

Reemphasize the point of the power of “just” one by reminding the kids of:

- Noah and how he made a big difference in his world by obeying God.
- David being only one small boy, obeying God and defeating the giant.
- Mary, a young woman chosen by God to give birth to His Son and how He changed the world.

2. Giving Our Abilities



Materials: a wrapped gift box with a removable lid; small pieces of paper with “gifts” God has given each of us written on them, such as: happiness, singing ability, humor, caring for people, speaking up, etc.

Show the gift box to the kids without opening the lid and discuss the enjoyment of getting gifts. Ask each one of them what their favorite gift they have ever received was. Talk about how they feel when they receive gifts.

Explain to the children that God has given each one of us special gifts that we can use to build His kingdom and bring other kids and adults to Jesus. Open the gift box and pull out the cards that have these “gifts” written on them. For each “gift,” have a child give an example of how to use that gift to reach out to people who aren’t saved. For example, if one of the God-given gifts was friendliness, an example could be of a child who is friendly and reaches out to a new student at school, becomes friends with them, then invites that new student to his/her church.

Explain to the children that as God gives us these gifts, we should use them for His glory. Ask, “If you got a really cool gift, would you put it in your closet and never play with it or use it?” The same goes for our gifts that God has given us. As a measure of our gratefulness to Him, we in turn give it back to Him and use it for His glory.

*This would be a great place to introduce the memory verse for this lesson, Ephesians 4:7.

3. Courage



To be able to talk to other kids about Jesus or invite them to church sometimes takes a lot of courage. Discuss with the children that this kind of courage comes from God and all we have to do is ask Him for it. There are many resources you can use to illustrate the extraordinary courage that God gives us. Here are a few ideas:

- Tell and discuss the story of Daniel from Daniel chapter 6.

- Show the “Courage” video clip from the Odyssey video series.
- Cut out stories of courage from magazines or newspapers and make a board of the stories to share with the class.
- Talk about historical figures that have had extraordinary courage and changed the world.
- Share a personal story of someone you know who has incredible courage, and then let them share a story of someone they know with courage.

Remind the kids to ask God for His help and for Him to give them courage throughout the month to talk to other kids about Jesus. Have them make a commitment to:

1. Be a powerful link in God’s kingdom.
2. Thank God for His gifts to them and use those gifts for His glory.
3. Be strong and courageous in talking to others about Christ.



Prayer:

Dear Father, even as small children we understand our part in fulfilling Your purpose of bringing others to Christ. We ask for Your help in using our gifts to reach out to others and share the love of Christ. Amen.



Take It Home:

Make up a card or visual that the kids can take home with them to remind them of their commitment to reach others for Christ.