

STEP 2

Bible Learning

15–20 minutes

Bible Basis:

Disciples gather around Christ (John 1:35-45).

Objective: That your students examine the early disciples' experience of meeting Jesus and telling others about Him.

Materials:

- Bibles
- The Rock*
- Pencils or pens, paper

Have your class read today's passage in the following creative way. Assign your students the people found in John 1:35-45: John the Baptist; two disciples (one is Andrew); Peter; Jesus; Philip; Nathanael. Assign one student the part of narrator. Students can double up on parts if necessary. As you read through the passage, each student will read the lines that his character speaks. The narrator will read everything that is not dialogue. (Tell the students to skip all the "he says," etc.) Before students begin, give the person who is reading John the Baptist's part a piece of paper. (A piece of notebook paper works well.) Explain the following instructions:

Whenever you read your part and find you are witnessing, tear your paper in half. Keep half of the paper for yourself. Give the other half to the person you are witnessing to. If you are witnessing to more than one person, tear your piece in half again, and repeat the process until you have enough pieces to give away.

Read through the Scripture passage, John 1:35-45, with each student reading his part and giving away pieces of paper as needed. This is what should occur—Verse 36: John the Baptist tears his paper in half, keeps one half, tears the other half in half, and gives the two pieces to the two disciples. Verse 41: Andrew tears his paper in half and gives half to his brother, Simon Peter. Verse 44: Simon Peter and Andrew tear their pieces in half and each give a half to Philip. Verse 45: Philip tears one of his pieces in half and gives it to Nathanael. After reading the passage, discuss the activity.

- ▶ **What does the piece of paper represent? How far can one piece of paper go? Will you run out of paper if you give someone just half of yours?**

Let students debate this.

- ▶ **How is giving half of your paper to someone like telling others about the Lord?** (You can witness over and over again. The message of the Gospel is like a gift—you give it away to others.)

Distribute *The Rock*, pencils or pens, and paper. Have students turn to the Bible study on pages 4 and 5. Have someone read the first paragraph.

▶▶ From *THE ROCK*—Chain Reaction

Meeting Jesus caused a chain reaction among the men who were to become His disciples.

Divide students into two groups and give each group two sections of the study: Group One—John the Baptist and The Two Disciples; Group Two—Simon and Philip. Each group will read and study the questions for its disciples in today's Bible study. Students will need several minutes to read and discuss the questions. If you have more than seven students, break into four groups, each group taking one disciple. When finished, have them report on their disciples.



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

John 1:35-45

³⁵The next day John was there again with two of his disciples.

³⁶When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

³⁷When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

³⁹"Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

⁴⁰Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). ⁴²And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated is Peter).

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

⁴⁴Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

JOHN THE BAPTIST—Read Matthew 3:1-6 for background.

- ▶ 1. What was unusual about John's clothes? Food? Surroundings? His way of witnessing? (*John wore clothes of camel hair and ate locusts and wild honey. He worked in the wilderness, away from normal village life. John baptized people who had repented to prepare them for the coming Messiah.*)
- ▶ 2. What would have happened in the story in John 1:35-45 if John the Baptist had failed to witness in the extraordinary way that God told him to? (*If John failed to witness, the whole story would never have happened!*)
- ▶ 3. What did John call Jesus? What does this tell you about John? About Jesus? (*John called Jesus "the Lamb of God," which showed he understood that Jesus would take away people's sin [see John 1:29].*)
- ▶ 4. Who did John tell about Jesus? (*He told his two disciples who Jesus was.*)

THE TWO DISCIPLES

- ▶ 5. How were the first two disciples convinced that they should follow Jesus? Can you identify one of these disciples from this Bible passage? (*John convinced them to follow Jesus by telling them Jesus was the Lamb of God he talked about. Verses 40 and 41 tell us that Andrew was one of the two disciples. The Bible doesn't identify the other disciple, but it may have been another John, who was to become Jesus' beloved disciple.*)
- ▶ 6. How did Jesus get to know these two disciples better? (*Jesus invited them to where He was staying.*)
- ▶ 7. What effect did Jesus have on these two? (*The two disciples originally called Jesus "Rabbi," meaning "teacher." Later Andrew called Jesus the Messiah, showing that he understood a lot more about Jesus!*)

SIMON

- ▶ 8. How did Simon meet Jesus? (*Simon met Jesus through the witness of Simon's brother, Andrew.*)
- ▶ 9. Jesus said Simon would be called "Rock." What good characteristics of a rock do you think Jesus was referring to? *Help students understand that Jesus' use of the word cephas, or "rock," probably refers to solid, unchanging strength of character. Simon Peter became one of the great apostles of the Church. So Andrew's witness accomplished far more than he could have imagined.*

PHILIP

- ▶ 10. What town was Philip from? Why is this important? (*Philip was from Bethsaida, the same town that Simon and Andrew were from.*)
- ▶ 11. What is the first thing Philip did after Jesus called him? (*The first thing Philip did after Jesus called him was to tell someone else about Jesus!*)

- ▶ **What do all the disciples in John 1:35-45 have in common?** (*All encountered Jesus—Nathanael does in verse 47. All were witnesses to Jesus.*)
- ▶ **Why do you think Jesus asked the disciples to follow Him?** (*Jesus wanted the disciples to get to know Him, learn from Him, and become like Him.*)
- ▶ **What do you think motivated these disciples to tell others about Jesus?** (*The disciples sensed Jesus was the Messiah. They probably felt loved in a way they never had before.*) *Help your students tie it all together. Witnesses for Jesus first meet Him and get to know Him. Then they can tell others about Him.*

STEP 3

Bible Application
(5–10 minutes)



Objective: That your students discuss ways to introduce their friends to Christ.

Materials:

□ *The Rock*

Have students turn to “Giving Away the Good News,” the feature in *The Rock*. Read through it together; then ask these questions.

- Have any of you ever witnessed in this way? What happened?
- Have you tried other ways of witnessing? What were they? What happened?
- If this article is right, witnessing to a friend might mean spending a lot of time with that person. What are the advantages of this? The disadvantages?

Some of your class will probably see that spending a lot of time with a person gives that person a chance to really get to know you, to see your faith in action. The friend would get to see you in many different situations and see that believing in Jesus changes every part of life. On the other hand, sometimes our time is limited. Or we may only see a person occasionally. In situations like this, we need to be particularly sensitive to opportunities to witness.

- ▶ **Part of our article reads, “And share more than words.” What are some things you could share with a non-Christian as part of your witness to him?** (*It could mean getting involved in someone else’s life and involving him in yours. Go to his house; invite him to yours.*)
- ▶ **If you were the non-Christian in these situations, what would these actions tell you about your friend? about Christianity?**
- ▶ **What principles for witnessing did you learn from the article?** (*Be a friend. Be yourself. Share your life. Talk about Jesus. Pray.*)

STEP 4

Life Response
(5–10 minutes)

Bible Truth:

People who find Christ introduce others to Him.

Objective: That your students identify how they are going to witness to friends in the coming week.

Materials:

- Pencils or pens, paper
- "Invitation—You're Invited!" from *Middle School Creative Teaching Aids*

Give one slip of paper and one "Invitation—You're Invited!" card to each student. You'll find the cards in your *Middle School Creative Teaching Aids* packet. (Separate cards before class.) Tell students that these invitations can be given to friends who need to know Christ.



Review the invitation with your students, answer any questions students have about it, and encourage each student to think of a friend that he or she can invite to a church event this month or in the near future.

Do you have a non-Christian friend who needs to be introduced to Jesus Christ?

Encourage students to actually write down a few names on a slip of paper.

Choose one name from your list. Think about the depth of your friendship with that person. Are you to the point where you feel you can talk openly with this person about Christ?

Have each student briefly respond in writing to the following statements:

- Describe your relationship with the person you have in mind.
- Describe this person's spiritual condition, as you understand it.
- Explain how you'll try to convince this person to come to a church event.

Now think of when it would be best this week to invite this person. When you've decided, write down what you want to do, to remind yourself to take this action.

Encourage your students to make a special effort to reach out to their friends. Close class in silent prayer, with each student praying for the non-Christian person he or she identified.

Have students read "What's Your Style?" on page 6 of *The Rock* at home. It will help them see the different styles of witnessing.

Remember to do your devotions this week. You may use the *Everyday Devotions* on the back page of *The Rock*.

TIP

Before class separate the *Middle School Creative Teaching Aids*: "Invitation—You're Invited!" cards.



the rack

Giving Away

the Good News



1. LEARN



it. Just about a



Don't forget the basics:



- John 3:16
- Romans 3:23
- Romans 6:23
- Romans 5:8
- Romans 10:9-10

Simply tell him how trusting Jesus affects that problem, need, or thing in common.



2. SHARE

Lesson 8

BE YOURSELF
Don't worry about being perfect. He needs to know you are human—and honest.



And share more than words—

"Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well!"
1 Thessalonians 2:8b.

Want help cleaning your room?



3. WAIT

If he doesn't become a Christian right away, you haven't failed.



God is still at work. As Paul put it . . .

"only God . . . makes things grow." 1 Corinthians 3:7.
"It is God who matters, because He makes the plants grow."

"For God so loved the world..."
Hmm-mmm



Pray for him, show him concern, and be patient. Pretty soon you just might meet a brand-new Christian.



Lesson 8

REACTION

Bible Study

MEETING JESUS CAUSED
A CHAIN REACTION AMONG
THE MEN WHO WERE TO
BECOME HIS DISCIPLES.

Lesson 8

Lesson 8

Photo: iStockphoto/Thinkstock

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Read Matthew 3:1-6 for background.

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2. What would have happened in the story in John 1:35-45 if John the Baptist had failed to witness in the extraordinary way that God told him to?
3. What did John call Jesus? What does this tell you about John? About Jesus?
4. Who did John tell about Jesus?

THE TWO DISCIPLES

5. How were the first two disciples convinced that they should follow Jesus? Can you identify one of these disciples from this Bible passage?
6. How did Jesus get to know these two disciples better?
7. What effect did Jesus have on these two?

SIMON

8. How did Simon meet Jesus?
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PHILIP

10. What town was Philip from? Why is this important?
11. What is the first thing Philip did after Jesus called him?



Your Style?

about Jesus, you can use your own style. Gifts and abilities that are uniquely you. You also share yourself. You don't have to do what you've seen someone else do. Whatever you do, ask God to help you share His truth and love.

Verse or two to help point the way to heaven are three items to have as you use

"bearing your light" by being a friend to someone in need and being there for

them. A tract to help make your point. If you're using a tract to share the Gospel.

Tip: This goes hand in hand with The Gospel. People might say, "I'll pray for you," but prayer is a good first step to talking

Tracts

Tracts can be reduced to a formula that is said at the end of the Gospel. He's my Savior. He died on the cross.

Without love or compassion to slam others in the face, remember here is love. Don't quote what

you're saying to someone a tract, but never taking the tract out of their hands. "Here's a tract! Whack!" Then off you go! . That goes for whatever technique you use

Has anyone ever asked you
"Who is Jesus?"
The man who is King of the Jews
And came to die to save us.

Did you simply give a sigh,
And let your shoulders shrug
Then walk on by
To give him someone else to bug?

Or did you stop and smile,
And put your business aside
To sit and talk a while
About why Jesus did truly die?

Did you tell him about God's love,
And His gift to all mankind?
How Jesus came from up above
To heal the sick and blind.

Not only did He perform
Miracles that only faith will receive
He made us all to be reborn,
Give love, and most of all believe.

Did you offer to pray
With your innocent new friend
So he too could surely say
He would be in heaven
at the end?

Or did you simply look away
And walk by fast
To let a friend slowly stray
Because you let the opportunity pass?

by
Kayla
Prestel

Dare to Share



every day devos

Use these daily devotionals to help you get in the habit of praising and thanking God for His kindnesses to you. God deserves our praise, and one of the best ways to do so is to tell others about Him.

I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD, the deeds for which he is to be praised.
Isaiah 63:7a

POWERFUL Praise

MONDAY Read and memorize Isaiah 63:7a. Why do you think praise is important? What do you think it involves?

TUESDAY Start by reading a psalm of praise, like Psalm 100, out loud. Then, in silent prayer, describe to God all the kindnesses He has shown you in the past week, month, or year.

WEDNESDAY Show God's kindness by doing something nice for someone. Give a word of encouragement, make someone cookies, whatever! Or go on a secret mission. Find out a need that someone has and do something about it without revealing yourself.

THURSDAY Think of one person you'd like to talk to about Jesus. Pray for this person and for opportunities to show God's love.

FRIDAY Think about prayers that were answered in your life or someone else's. If you haven't already, keep track of the answers to prayer. You won't run out of things to thank God for!

SATURDAY End the week by setting a praise goal. For example, you could decide to set aside time each day to devote to praise and worship. Then start today on your goal.

