Full Circle: Share

Christian Basics – Evangelism Emphasis

Scope and Sequence

Students will be encouraged to build on the foundation of prayer and care and effectively share the Gospel message with others.

Lesson Objective

**Share the Gospel – out loud, with words.**

Sticky

Statement

Luke 5:18-24; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Key Verse

1. A PowerPoint is available for this lesson.

Checklist

1. Video projection equipment (Lesson Content)
2. A *4 Minute Crash Course in Sharing Your Faith* <https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS19/48-1/> (Lesson Content)
3. Masking Tape (Hook)
4. Two small prizes for game winners (Hook)
5. LOW TECH OPTION: <https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS19/48-2/> and [www.dare2share.org/worldviews](http://www.dare2share.org/worldviews). (Connection)
6. Dare 2 Share mobile app (Next Steps)

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Resources

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References

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References

Lesson Overview

**Share the Gospel – out loud, with words.**

Six simple truths **summarize** the “big picture” story of the entire Bible.

**G**od created us to be with Him. But…

**O**ur sins separate us from God. These…

**S**ins cannot be removed by good deeds. But…

**P**aying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again. So that…

**E**veryone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life. And this…

**L**ife with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.

**Share the Gospel – out loud, with words.**

Hook

Teacher’s Note: *Begin by setting the course for a “Double Roll Race.” In a large open space, mark off a starting and ending line for your racecourse using masking tape. Recruit 4-8 players for this activity, depending on your space restrictions. Pair players up with a partner. Instruct each set of partners to lie stretched out on the floor with their feet touching at the starting line. The players must then roll the designated distance over the floor with their feet in permanent contact. (Assign an adult judge to each pair of players to keep everyone honest about staying in contact.) If you don’t have the space for every team to compete all at the same time, use a stopwatch to see which team can complete the race the fastest. The point of the activity is to demonstrate that communicating out loud, with words, will yield better results than just hoping the other person will “get” what they’re supposed to be doing through body language, hints, or, inference. Award a small prize to the winners.*

Before we get into the final part of the Cause Circle today, we are going to play a quick game called “Double Roll Race.” The aim of this game is for both partners to communicate with each other, so they can remain touching from the start to the finish line. If you lose contact, you must go back and begin again. The body part that much be touching at all times is the bottom of your feet. The bottom of your feet must remain in constant contact with the bottom of your partner’s feet. In order to make this happen, you must both lie down on your back with your feet touching and roll to the finish line. The partners that complete the roll the fastest will be our winners.

Teacher’s Note: *Play the “Double Roll Race” game. After the game, settle the students and ask the questions listed below. Allow the students time to respond to each question.*

● For those of you who were competitors in the “Double Roll,” what challenges did your assignment present you and your partner?

● What was easy and what was hard about this activity?

● For those of you who were spectators, do you have any observations about why the pair who finished first in the “Double Roll” won?

Communicating clearly, out loud, with words, tends to work better than relying on inferences, hints or assumptions, doesn’t it? This communication principle is true in games, it’s true in relationships and it’s true in life. It’s also true when sharing the Gospel, which brings us to the final week of our series about the Cause Circle—Share. For the past few weeks we’ve been learning about the Cause Circle of Prayer, Care and Share. Before we dig into the Share component of the Circle, does anyone have a story about what they did (or tried to do) to demonstrate Care for someone in their Cause Circle since we met last time?

Teacher’s Note: *Allow time for students to share their stories. Stop and pray after each story for both the student sharing and their friend. Wrap this sharing time up by praying for today’s lesson.*

Lesson Content

We’ve been using the story in Luke 5 about Jesus healing the paralyzed man to get a snapshot of how He modeled Prayer, Care and Share in His life and ministry. So, this week, let’s bring a different lens to these verses and look for how He is sharing the core of His Gospel message here with the people He’s interacting with. Could I please have a volunteer read Luke 5:18-24 aloud for us? *[Allow a student to read Luke 5:18-24.]*

Last week we talked about how Care was demonstrated in this situation, but this week let’s focus in on Jesus’ sharing the truth of His message out loud, with words.

Teacher’s Note: *Ask the following questions to the students. Allow time for responses from the group.*

● What did Jesus say that got the Pharisees, the religious teachers of that day, so worked up?

● How do you think Jesus knew what they were thinking?

● Why do you think Jesus chose to bring their silent, simmering questions and skeptical thoughts out into the open to talk about them out loud?

● What is Jesus’ main point here that He’s trying to get across to them?

● How does His main point relate to the core message of the Gospel?

So, we see Jesus moving beyond Prayer and Care to Share. He’s sharing the truth of His message with those who didn’t believe He was the Son of God with the power to forgive sins. Jesus infused some serious theology and spiritual clarity into the conversation, didn’t He? And that’s really the essence of what the Share part of the Cause Circle is all about. We too are called to carry this message of who Jesus was and why He came to our unreached friends in a clear, compelling, caring way. We should **share the Gospel – out loud, with words.**

Could someone please read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 out loud for us? *[Allow a student to read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21.]*

When you stop and really think about it, nothing else in this world compares to this hope the Gospel message brings; this message that you and I as Christians are called to carry to others.

The truth is that sharing Jesus’ message is the most impacting thing you will ever do, because the Gospel can change someone’s life at the deepest level; both now and for all eternity. Nothing else you could ever offer your friends could be more powerful and permanent than that! That’s why it’s so important that we learn what to **share the Gospel – out loud, with words**.

Teacher’s Note: *Ask the following questions to the students. Allow time for responses from the group.*

● What is the core of the message of the Gospel? If someone asked you, how would you answer the following question: “Since the Bible’s such a big book, can you just give me a summary of what its main message is?”

● Has fear about not knowing what to say ever kept you from sharing your faith with others?

Being able to explain the Gospel to someone in a simple, clear, concise way is so foundational that we’re going to spend some time now learning (or reviewing) how to do it by watching a short video called “*A 4 Minute Crash Course in Sharing Your Faith.”*

Teacher’s Note: *Show the video “A 4 Minute Crash Course in Sharing Your Faith.”* [*https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS19/48-1/*](https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS19/48-1/)*. After the video ask the following questions and allow the students to answer.*

*The Gospel acrostic [a.k.a. Life in 6 Words] is short, clear and easy to remember. These six simple truths summarize the “big picture” story of the entire Bible. This acrostic isn’t designed to be a “presentation.” Think of it more as an “outline” that will help your students cover the core truths someone needs to understand in order to make an informed decision about trusting in Christ.*

*God created us to be with Him. But…*

*Our sins separate us from God. These…*

*Sins cannot be removed by good deeds. But…*

*Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again, So that…*

*Everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life. And this…*

*Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.*

*For a more comprehensive youth group curriculum on the GOSPEL acrostic, check out Dare 2 Share’s Life in 6 Words: The GOSPEL Explored. For a tutorial on how to use the Life in 6 Words Mobile App, view the video here:* [*https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS19/48-2/*](https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS19/48-2/)*.*

● How does the “Ask – Admire – Admit” approach described in the video help you start a Gospel conversation?

● Do you think that mastering the basics of the GOSPEL acrostic would give you more confidence and help free you up to have more focused and informed conversations about Jesus’ message? Why or why not?

Teacher’s Note: *If you would like to spend more time training your students on the GOSPEL acrostic, feel free to use the GOSPEL acrostic training slides located in the PowerPoint on Teacher Source.*

● Which do you personally think is more challenging: bringing up the Gospel in a conversation or wrapping up the conversation with an invitation to trust in Jesus?

Now we’re going to spend a little time pairing off and role playing having a Gospel conversation with a friend. Yes, we want you to **share the Gospel – out loud, with words.** Please find a partner. Be sure to pair up so that at least one of you has the Dare 2 Shareapp. Once you are paired up, open your app and pull up the “Share Now” section of the app. There are several faith sharing tools in this part of your app that can help you initiate spiritual conversations with someone who isn’t a Christian. Some of these are short videos, some are images. And there’s also the screen that we used a couple weeks ago that lays out the 6 Words of the GOSPEL acrostic point by point. *[Allow about a minute for the students to find a partner.]*

I’m going to give you some time to explore this part of the app in pairs. After you get familiar with these faith-sharing tools, I want you to each pick one video or image and role play with your partner how you might use it to initiate a spiritual conversation. Take turns with one of you role playing that you are a friend who isn’t a Christian, and the other initiating a spiritual conversation. Also practice explaining the GOSPEL to the other person in this conversation. You can use the 6 Words screen in your app, if you need help explaining the GOSPEL.

Teacher’s Note: *Allow about 10-15 minutes for the students to practice before calling them back together and asking a few questions.*

Now that you have had a chance to practice, let’s come back together for a few minutes before we dismiss to your small groups.

● How did it go?

● Which one of these conversation starting tools did you like the best?

● What did you learn from your role playing?

Perhaps you’re here today and heard the guy in the video explain the Gospel. Or maybe you listened as your partner told you the Gospel during the role-playing time and understood it for the first time. If that’s true for you and you’re ready to put your trust in Jesus and receive His free gift of eternal life, I invite you to do that right now.

If you’ve just made that decision in the quietness of your own heart, please pray this prayer silently along with me right now. While saying a prayer isn’t what opens the door to this life-transforming relationship with God, prayer is one way for you to express your thanks to God for His free gift of eternal life. So, with every head bowed and every eye closed, let’s pray:

GOD, I know You created me to be with You forever. I understand OUR sin—my sin—separates me from You, Lord. I know my SINS cannot be removed by my good deeds. I realize now that PAYING the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again for me. Absolutely EVERYONE that trusts in Him alone has eternal life, and I want that! I know You are the giver of LIFE and that eternal life with You starts now and lasts forever and ever. Thank You for this free gift. I want to be a part of sharing this life-giving Truth with others, too! Amen.

Teacher’s Note: *Invite anyone who trusted Christ to come see you after the meeting, so you can follow up with them.*

Connection

Now that you’ve gotten familiar with some of these spiritual conversation starting tools and you’ve had a little role-playing practice using them, it’s time for the real deal. Think of a friend in your Cause Circle. Now, pull out your phone and get ready to share one of the videos or images or simply write your own text that kicks off a Gospel conversation with your friend.

Before we all hit “send” together, we’re going to pause and pray together for these 7messages we’re about to Share. So, cue up your message now, but wait to send it until after we’ve prayed together.

Teacher’s Note: *Pause briefly to allow your students time to cue up their messages. If you have students who do not own a smartphone, encourage them to share the video “Life in 6 Words” with someone in their Cause Circle within the next 48 hours. The video can be viewed at* [*https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS19/48-2/*](https://teachersource.wol.org/resource/SBS19/48-2/)*. While the students are cueing up their phones, place two empty chairs in the center of the circle. Have two more chairs available to add to the circle.*

Is everyone cued up and ready? Then let’s circle up to pray. Bring your phones with you as we all gather in a large circle.

Like you did last week in your small group, tonight I want you to imagine a friend sitting in one of those chairs. They may be hurting, or they may be happy and not even realize that they need a relationship with God to find deeper joy, greater purpose and eternal life. Either way, just picture your friend sitting there.

Next, visualize yourself in the second chair sitting next to them having a spiritual conversation. You’re listening and sharing—engaged in a real conversation about God and why He’s the most important thing in the whole world to you.

Now I’m going to add a third chair. [*Arrange the three chairs in a circle facing each other*.] Now I want you to imagine Jesus sitting in this third chair. Visualize Him right there beside you in the midst of your conversation with your friend as you do your best to introduce your friend to Jesus. God is right there beside you in the midst of this whole Prayer, Care, Share process. He has promised He will be with us always and He will be your source of strength and spiritual power as you Share the Gospel with your friend.

But wait, there’s more! Now imagine that your friend has made a decision to put their trust in Jesus! What joy! The angels in heaven are having a party! And once someone becomes a believer in Jesus, you need to help them get plugged into a youth group, so they can grow deeper in their faith.

Now I’m going to add a fourth chair, because this is where the Cause Circle process goes “full circle.” [*Arrange the four chairs in a small circle*.] When someone trusts in Christ, it doesn’t end there, you also need to help them grow deeper in their relationship with God and commit to The Cause, too. They need to understand the Prayer, Care, Share process too, so they can begin to engage with their friends about Jesus. So that one day that fourth chair will be filled with someone who they lead to Christ. And on and on the cycle goes. This is what it looks like to make disciples who make disciples who make disciples. But how can they become believers in Jesus, if no one shares the Gospel with them? So right now, let’s pray together over these messages we’re about to send to our friends…

Dear God, we pray for our friends who are going to receive these conversation starting messages from us. Soften their hearts and give them a thirst to know You personally. We pray they will be open to hearing about Jesus and that they will put their trust in Him and receive Your free gift of eternal life. Help us be brave and clear as we Share. Help us engage in this full circle of Prayer, Care, Share and continue to pursue others just like Jesus pursued us. We want to be disciples who make disciples who make disciples. Help us do that. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Choice

Okay, let’s all hit send! And let’s all come back next week ready to share what happened as a result of what we just sent off to our friends.

If you’re concerned that you don’t fully understand everything you might need to know when you get into a deeper conversation with your friend, just remember the phrase “That’s a great question, I don’t know, but I’ll do my best to find out. Let’s meet again to talk again soon.”

Next Steps

This week, I also want to encourage you to watch the videos on the Dare 2 Share app in the “What 2 Share” section. They walk you through each point on the GOSPEL acrostic in greater depth and will help you understand each point more fully. Also, *A 4 Minutes Crash Course* *in Sharing Your Faith* is also on the app in the “How 2 Share” section, so you can watch it again, if you’d like. After you do, make a point to **share the Gospel – out loud, with words.**

Prayer, Care, Share. During these four weeks, we’ve learned a lot about sharing the Gospel with others in a prayer-soaked, loving, clear way! As you engage with your friends this week, I want you to know that I am praying for you!

Teacher’s Note: *Pray for the students before moving to small groups*.

Small Group Discussion Questions

**1. Tonight, we gave you the opportunity to share the Gospel with a friend. What emotions were you feeling as we were preparing to hit “send” and share the Gospel with your friends?** (*Allow the students to talk about emotions that they might have had. If the idea of joy or excitement about sharing the Gospel comes up, cultivate that idea to help encourage the students to repeat the process. If it does not come up, follow up with a question like: “How does did it make you feel to know your friend knows the truth about Jesus Christ?”)*

**2. You were encouraged at the end of the lesson to watch the videos in the Dare 2 Share app. When will you watch those two videos for review?** (*Ask each student to make a commitment to watch those videos on a specific day. Secure the permission of each student to follow up on the day they chose to watch the videos. Be sure to set a day when you will watch the videos as well.)*

**3. Who will be the next person you share the truth of Jesus Christ with?** *(As the students share the names of friends, be sure to write them down so you can pray for them. Be sure to share the name of the next person you will be sharing with.)*