

Lesson: But I Have to Tell

Lesson

Say:

- There is a story in the Bible about two men who were told not to teach or preach about Jesus any more.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- What do you think they did?

Say:

- We are going to talk about Peter and John today.
- They were going to the temple one day, and they saw a man who was about 40 years old.
- He had been lame from the time that he was born, and he was outside of the temple asking for people to give him the things he needed: money, food, clothing, etc.
- When the man saw Peter and John, he thought they were going to give him some sort of material item, but they gave him something much better.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- What do you think they gave him?

Read: Acts 3:6,7 (NIV) “Then Peter said, ‘Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.’ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong.”

Say:

- Peter, through faith in Jesus, commanded the man to walk; and he did.
- The man was healed.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- How amazed would you be if you saw this happen?

Say:

- There were a lot of amazed people around them.
- After the man was healed, Peter preached to the people that gathered together.
- At the end of his preaching, about five thousand people believed in Jesus and what He had done for them.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- Do you think everyone thought it was a great thing?

Say:

- There was a group of people called the Sanhedrin, and they were not happy about Peter preaching in Jesus’ name.
- They wanted Peter to stop preaching in Jesus’ name,

so the news of Him would not spread.

Read: Acts 4:17,18 (NIV) “‘But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name.’ Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.”

Say:

- This group of people that told them not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus was a council that could punish Peter and John.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- What do you think you would do if you were Peter or John?
- What do you think Peter and John said to them?

Read: Acts 4:19-22 (NIV) “But Peter and John replied, ‘Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.’ After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.”

Say:

- Peter told the council that he couldn’t help but tell what he saw and heard.
- The Holy Spirit gave them the words to say to the Sanhedrin council.
- Peter and John knew telling the man to walk, in Jesus name was what healed him.
- They knew Jesus died and rose again so men could be saved from their sins.
- Peter and John knew they had been given The Great Commission and that Jesus expected them to tell other people about Him.
- Peter and John knew they had to tell what they knew, even if it meant the council didn’t want them to.
- Doing what God tells us to do is the most important thing we can do.

Final Thought: God expects us to tell other people about His Son. Jesus expects us to tell other people about the things He did and said while He was on Earth. The Holy Spirit helps us tell other people and share what has been done for us. Are you like Peter and John? Do you have to tell also? Telling one person about what we know is the beginning of a lifetime of telling everyone around us about how wonderful Jesus is.

Activities: But I Have to Tell

Craft: Good News Scroll

Items Needed:

- General: Crayons or Markers
- Per Child: Several Pieces of Candy, 1 Paper Towel Roll, 2 Sheets of Tissue Paper, 2 Rubber Bands, and 1 Sheet of Paper

Instructions:

- Give each child a paper towel roll and a sheet of paper.
- Tell them that they will each create a scroll and a case for it to give to someone who needs to hear the Good News about Jesus.
- Have them each decorate the scroll case (paper towel roll), cover the end of the scroll case with the tissue paper, and attach the tissue paper onto the scroll case with a rubber band.
- They will write John 3:16 on the scroll (piece of paper) and decorate it.
- Tell them to roll up their scroll and place it in the scroll case.
- They will place the candy in the scroll case with the scroll and attach the other sheet of tissue paper onto the other end of the scroll case with a rubber band, so that both ends hold the scroll and candy inside the case.
- Have the children talk about whom they will give their scrolls to and why they need to hear about Jesus.



Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from The Holy Bible : New International Version, 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

Indoor Activity: Pass the Word Relay

Items Needed:

- 2 Baskets, 2 Bowls, Index Cards

Instructions:

- Tell the children that telling others about Jesus is important, because the people we tell can tell others, and then those people can tell others. The Good News can be spread to many people this way.
- Write one or two words on each index card from John 3:16.
- Split the children into two teams and have them line up side by side.
- Place one bowl at the end of the line, so the last child can place the index cards in it.
- Give the first child in each line a basket and the index cards.
- The first child in each team will place one index card in the basket and pass the basket to the next child in line.
- Each child will pass the basket with the index card down until it gets to the last child in line.
- The last child will take the index card out, place it in the bowl, and pass the empty basket back to the front of the line.
- The first child will place another index card in the basket and pass it down again.
- This will continue until all of the index cards are in the bowl and the basket is returned to the first child in the line.
- The first team to have their index cards in the basket and the empty basket returned to the first child in line wins the game.

Outdoor Activity: Pass the Word Tag

Instructions:

- Tell the children that telling others about Jesus is important, because the people we tell can tell others, and then those people can tell others. The Good News can be spread to many people this way.
- Choose one child to be the “Spreader of the Word.”
- The “Spreader” will tag the other children as they run to get away.
- When another child is tagged, he or she becomes a “Spreader” as well, and he or she will be to help spread the word by tagging the other children.
- Once all of the children have been tagged, choose another child to be the “Spreader” and play again.