

Whether it is good or bad, news just has to be shared. Every day we have conversations that begin with “Did you hear about...?” When Jesus was born, the angel just had to tell the shepherds and the shepherds had to check it out. Then they ran home to spread the news.¹ In Luke 7, John the Baptist sent men to Jesus to ask Jesus if he was the Messiah. Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.”²

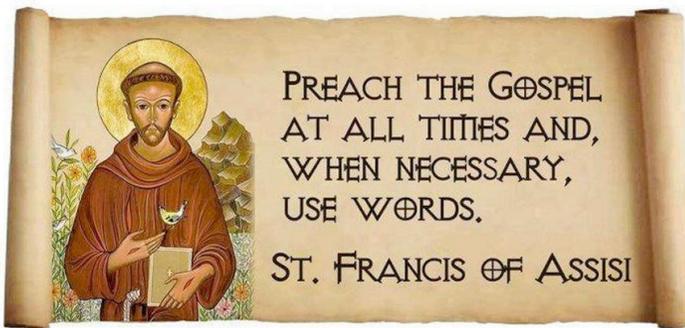
Q1: What is the good news Jesus spoke of? If it is good news, who is it for?

Read Acts 1:8

Q2: What does it mean to be a witness?

When God does something good in our lives, we often can’t help but talk about it.

Q3: Have you ever shared with someone something that God has done in your life? If the Gospel is really “good news,” why are we so hesitant to share it with and tell others about it?



Q4: Christians often get a bad reputation for sharing about their experiences and beliefs. Why is that?

Read John 8:1-11

Q5: What is the good news that Jesus shares with this woman and how does Jesus share it?

Read Matthew 28:18-20

Q6: How should we respond to this passage? What are some ways we can share the good news?

When we read the Gospels, we see that Jesus is truly God with us. The way Jesus spoke and the way he acted showed people what the love of God is like. And that’s how we are to live, too. Because Jesus cared for the poor, we also are to demonstrate God’s active love for them. Because Jesus spoke God’s truth, we are to proclaim God’s word in a very confused world. Because Jesus gave his life for the sake of the world, we are to live sacrificially. When we live like this, we bear witness to God’s love for the world in Jesus Christ.³

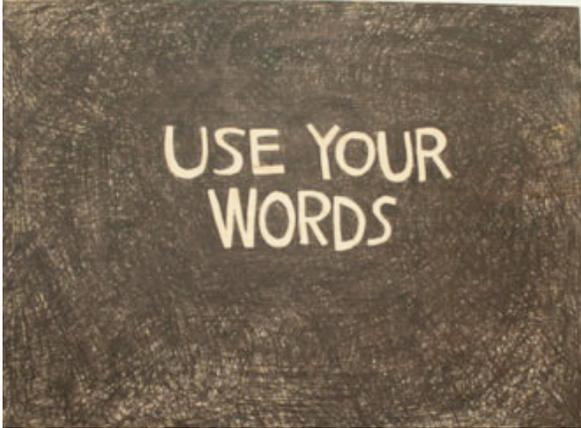
Q7: St. Francis of Assisi once said “Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.” What do you think that means? How does that relate to the quote at the bottom of lesson?

¹ From Professing Our Faith, Meg Rift and Eunice McGarrahan, Congregational Ministries Publishing, Louisville, 2005.

² Luke 7:22

³ From Professing Our Faith, Meg Rift and Eunice McGarrahan, Congregational Ministries Publishing, Louisville, 2005.

Evangelism is more than just telling others about Jesus; it's also about living the way Jesus taught us to live. Who would believe the good news if there was no evidence in our lives to back it up? What good is 'talking the talk' without 'walking the walk'?



Read James 2:15-17

Q8: What does this passage have to say about how we share our faith?

Still, the temptation is often to practice faith but never share it. That is, it may be easier for us to serve and share the gospel with our lives, but when was the last time you actually told someone about the love of Christ? When was the last time you invited others into our faith community or youth ministry? When was the last time we told someone about the hope that is in you? (1 Peter 3:15)

Q9: Think about a time when you had an opportunity to share your faith. What did you say? How did you feel?

Read Acts 2:1-8

Recall Acts 1:8. When Jesus told the disciples that they would be his witnesses to the entire world, he also promised them that the Holy Spirit would come on them. When Jesus sends us out together and in the power of the Holy Spirit. God does not send us anywhere without giving us what we need to share, in word and deed, the good news that now there is hope for a broken world. How could we keep that news to ourselves?⁴

*“The Church bears witness in **word and work** that in Christ the new creation has begun, and that God who creates life also frees those in bondage, forgives sin, reconciles brokenness, makes all things new, and is still at work in the world. To be members of the body of Christ is to be **sent out to pursue the mission of God and to participate in God’s new creation, God’s drawing the present into itself.**”*

PCUSA Book of Order F-1.0302 p. 4

⁴ Adapted from Professing Our Faith, Meg Rift and Eunice McGarrah, Congregational Ministries Publishing, Louisville, 2005.

The Apostle's Creed was adopted by the early church in efforts to convey what they believed about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the church, and other elements of the faith. It is a *creed*, or confession of faith, which we still recite today. *The creed is a communal "confession of hope" (Hebrews 10:23)*. Throughout the year we will work on understanding this beautiful tradition within the community of Christian faith.

Read begin to memorize the Apostles Creeds which describes what the church believes about God.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.



Lesson 2.7: Do You Want to Hear a Story?

Student Response Sheet

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