

for use as
STEP 1 

Lesson 5**Focus:**

The Holy Spirit helps us speak boldly about Jesus.

Lesson 5**Bible Basis:**

Acts 13:2-5a, 14, 42-46

Lesson 5**Memory Verse:**

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
—Acts 1:8

Students explore the value of speaking things out loud and will be encouraged to use their voices to speak out boldly about Jesus.

Materials:

None

At one point or another, most of us have forgotten someone else’s name. Until we’re more familiar with a person, it can sometimes be difficult to remember their name. I’m sure most of us have had someone else forget our names.

➤ **Have you ever had someone else forget or incorrectly say your name? How did that make you feel?** (Accept all reasonable answers.)

➤ **Has it ever been important to you that someone said your name? Tell about that.** (Accept all reasonable answers. It might be a correct pronunciation of a name that means the world, or being identified by your own name rather than in relation to your parent or older sibling. It might be that someone you like or respect knew your name, or your name was called as a winner, or you felt known in a new place when a new friend addressed you by name.)

There is power in saying things out loud, including names.

➤ **Has saying something aloud ever helped you work out a situation? Tell about that.** (Accept all reasonable answers. Sometimes an unfamiliar word or working out a word problem aloud helps with understanding. Practicing lines, or a speech, or an important message you need to share is best done aloud. Often in counseling giving words to what we are feeling or experiencing is helpful.)

➤ **Have you ever used your voice to speak out for others, or share something you believe in? What was that like? What inspired you to do that?** (Accept all reasonable answers. Students may have stood up for themselves or someone else when encountering a bully. Perhaps students have helped advocate through fundraising or through a church or community

organization. Maybe they've shared their testimony in front of others or with a friend. These experiences may have been difficult, or exciting, or meaningful. Often these acts will have been done for the good of others.)

Part of being a Christian is using our words to speak boldly about Jesus. This takes wisdom and courage, but the Holy Spirit helps us to do this.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

middle school



Lesson 5 / January 3, 2021

Speak Up!

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 5

Focus:

The Holy Spirit helps us speak boldly about Jesus.

Lesson 5

Bible Basis:

Acts 13:2-5a, 14, 42-46

Lesson 5

Memory Verse:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

—Acts 1:8

Materials:

- Index cards (1 per student)
- Pens/pencils (1 per student)

If your class is meeting online, invite them to bring index cards and pens/pencils with them to class.

➤ **When do you find it easy to speak up/share your thoughts?** (Accept all reasonable answers. Some students will naturally feel comfortable sharing; others will not. Most of us feel more comfortable speaking up when we think our words will be well received or when we are very comfortable with the setting.)

➤ **When do you find it hardest to speak up/share your thoughts?** (Accept all reasonable answers. The reverse answers from above will apply.)

Sometimes you might feel like you have something to say, but don’t know how to put it into words. Sometimes this might be the case when sharing about Jesus and your faith. Today we’re going to try the simple practice of listing names to help us to tell others about Jesus.

Hand out index cards and pens/pencils. If your class is meeting online, invite students to have their cards and pens/pencils ready. On one side of their index cards, have students list the names of all the people on their hearts and minds today—those they want to pray for, those they care about, those who are hurting, those they struggle to love, etc. On the other side of their cards, have students list all the names for Jesus (or God) that they can think of.

If this is more challenging, you could do this as a group, and write the names on a board for everyone to copy down. Examples include: Savior, Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend, King, Lamb of God, Teacher, Light of the World, Prince of Peace, God with Us, Mediator, Rock, The Way, The Truth, The Life, etc.

Challenge students to match each person's name in the first column with one name for Jesus in the second column. Who needs to know that Jesus is our Good Shepherd? Who needs to remember that Jesus is God with Us?

When students have had some thinking time, have them pick one pair. This week, challenge them to find a way to share with that person the truth about Jesus that they need to hear. They might send a song, write a note, share a story, or communicate in some other way.

Close in prayer.

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