

eyewitness NEWS

Eight sessions on Evangelism



**Primary
School**



Lunchtime Group Resource

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Eight sessions on Evangelism



The Crusader Union is a Bible-based, interdenominational Christian youth organisation, whose vision is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to students in the Independent Schools of Australia, to nurture Christians and to encourage church membership.



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WELCOME

This resource has been specifically written with school groups in mind but can be adapted depending on your needs. It is based on the group running for approximately 30 minutes each meeting.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- **8** sets of leader's notes for regular meetings. The leader's notes provide an aim, fun activity, guidelines for an interactive talk as well as prayer, memory verse and song ideas.
- **2** colour advertising posters designed to grab the attention of students and help increase awareness of your group. There is space for you to fill in your group name and where you meet. We encourage schools to use the 'CRU School Groups' logo when promoting their group so as to link students with the work that God is doing in other schools.

BEFORE YOU START

- Please note that all pages in this resource can be photocopied but Crusaders requests each school purchase at least one original.
- Whilst this resource is aimed at easing the load for the group leader, it is vital that time is spent adapting it to the specific needs of your group. Time also needs to be spent on working through the Bible passage and talk before the group meets.
- It would be very easy to spend too much time on the fun activity each week. Remember that looking at the Bible and praying together are the most important parts of the meeting and divide time accordingly.
- All suggested songs are linked to the theme of the talk and are used with permission. The intention of including a wide variety of songs from different CDs is to provide you with options if your group enjoys singing - please do not feel it necessary to buy every CD listed. The CDs listed are available in Christian bookstores and many include sheet music.
- Thinking about evangelism leads to a wide variety of emotions. We talk and pray about evangelism but many find it extremely difficult to carry out. This series aims to inform and equip students to understand what, why and some hows of evangelism. It is by no means an exhaustive manual on the topic but **we pray that it will provide students with the knowledge and motivation to be involved in promoting and passing on the greatest news the world has ever known.**
- Note that the Week 4 (Q & A) needs a bit more planning than other meetings. It may be wise to look ahead now at what needs to be done.
- **Recommended Reading:** "The A-Z of Understanding & Communicating Gospel Concepts" (Owen Shelley) and "Youth Evangelism" (Ken Moser). These are two great books which encourage us to think widely and creatively about how evangelism is done amongst young people.

We pray that this resource will be a great help as you join in God's work of bringing students to Himself and growing them to be like His Son.

*"We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom,
so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.
To this end I labour, struggling with all His energy which so powerfully works in me."
Colossians 1:28–29*

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NEWS

Week	Title	Passage	Aim
1	WITNESS	Acts 1:8	To help students know that the Holy Spirit will help them tell others the good news about Jesus, even those around the world.
2	GOSPEL	Acts 2:36	For students to hear the gospel message and be challenged to trust in Jesus as Lord and Christ.
3	CHANGED BEHAVIOUR	Acts 2:44-47	That students will seek to please God by being different in the way they behave in response to the good news about Jesus.
4	Q'S, A'S & LIVING PROOF	Q&A + testimony	Through hearing proof of the way God's Spirit changes people and listening to answers from the Bible, students will be encouraged to ask questions and tell others about the difference Jesus has made to their own life.
5	OBEY	Acts 5:29-32	That students will be bold and obey the command to speak about Jesus, even if people want to stop them.
6	SPREAD	Acts 8:4	To urge students to participate in spreading the gospel.
7	READ ALL ABOUT IT!	Acts 8:35	For students to be thankful for the important role of the Bible in spreading the good news of Jesus.
8	RESPONSES	Acts 13:42-45	To challenge students to respond to the good news about Jesus with commitment and faith.

AIM

To help students know that the Holy Spirit will help them tell others the good news about Jesus, even those around the world.

FOCUS VERSES

Acts 1:8 (CEV)

⁸But the Holy Spirit will come upon you and give you power. Then you will tell everyone about me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and everywhere in the world.

PREPARE

- ❑ Read through Acts 1, familiarising yourself with the context and content of the focus passage. Pray that students will trust that the Holy Spirit helps them to be witnesses in the world.
- ❑ Keep in mind the main idea of the passage as you prepare the talk: The Holy Spirit helps us tell everyone around the world the good news about Jesus.
- ❑ Photocopy the map of Ancient Israel from Page 20 for the talk. You may want to bring this along to refer to each week.
- ❑ Bring along a world map to illustrate how the good news about Jesus has been passed on to many countries around the world.
- ❑ Print out the words "Jerusalem", "Judea", "Samaria" and "everywhere in the world" in big letters. Bring some Blu-Tac.

INTRODUCE

What is a witness? (Accept suggestions) A witness is a person who has seen something happen and tells others about it. It may happen in a courtroom, or on the news, or simply one friend telling another.

Did you know that God asks those who are His friends to be witnesses about Jesus? Explain that in the coming weeks, we will be looking at what it means to be a witness for Jesus, to bring **Eyewitness News** to others.

FUN ACTIVITY

This activity can be used to illustrate the idea of passing on a message, or witnessing to something.

Charade Relay - Line up in a row or split into teams and pass a charades action (eg. row your boat along the river and go fishing) down the line. Participants cover their eyes and turn the opposite way until tapped on the shoulder. They must watch someone perform the actions once and then pass on the "message" to the next person in line. The aim is pass the message down the line as quickly and as accurately as possible.

TALK

A) The disciples were excited and unsure all at the same time

- Jesus, the one they had thought was dead, was alive! This was GREAT NEWS!
- All the things that Jesus had said and done were true! They had seen it all - Jesus' life, death and the fact that He was alive again!
- All this was really exciting, but what was going to happen now? Was Jesus going to take control of their country and become King? What does Jesus say to them?

Read Acts 1:8 aloud to the group.

B) The disciples had a job to do.

- Jesus tells them important news: The Holy Spirit will come to the disciples and give them power.



- The Holy Spirit will help the disciples with their job - they were to tell everyone about Jesus. This was a BIG job.
- Jesus wanted the disciples to tell the great news about Him to people in Jerusalem (the city they were in), in Judea (the region they were in), in Samaria (the neighbouring country) and everywhere else in the world too! [label the locations on the map provided using the printed words.]

C) The news about Jesus has spread!

- Later, the disciples DID receive the Holy Spirit and power, and they DID start telling everyone about Jesus. They were **witnesses** about Jesus. They saw what Jesus had done and started to tell others about it.
- This important message has spread all over the world, even to Australia! (highlight some areas where the gospel has spread to on the world map)
- Remember the game we played at the start? The message we passed on at the start wasn't always the same at the end of the line! But the message about Jesus was different - did you know it has been passed on carefully from Jesus' disciples to us?
- The only reason we can be friends with Jesus is because the great news about Him has been passed on to us. That's something to thank God for!

D) We have this job too!

- But the job of telling everyone about Jesus is not yet finished! When we become friends with God, we are also given the Holy Spirit, and we have the same job of telling everyone everywhere the great news about Jesus.
- The news about Jesus is SO GREAT! We need to let everyone know!
- This news is too good to keep to yourself. The Holy Spirit is our helper. Who are you telling about Jesus? Think of 2 people that you can pray for and start telling about Jesus.

SONG IDEA

The CD "Jesus Rocks the World" by Colin Buchanan has a number of songs that would be great to sing over the course of this series:

- "Jesus Rocks the World" from *Jesus Rocks the World* by Colin Buchanan
- "Jesus Saves" from *Jesus Rocks the World* by Colin Buchanan
- "John 14:6 (Hoo Cha Cha)" from *Jesus Rocks the World* by Colin Buchanan

PRAY

Thank God for the great news about Jesus that has been passed down from witnesses. Pray that your group can be witnesses and tell others the news about Jesus too. Give students the opportunity to pray for the 2 people they would like to tell about Jesus.

You may wish to ask students to pick a country on the map of the world, and pray that there will be witnesses for Jesus in that country.

FINISH

End by asking for 3 volunteers to bring in examples of good news next week. It can be good news from the world or good news that is happening to them at home, at sport or anywhere else. Explain that next week, we'll be looking at the news about Jesus and WHY it was and is so great.