

SOUTH CAROLINA
BAPTIST CONVENTION

Cooperative Program/Stewardship Development Group

190 Stoneridge Drive • Columbia SC 29210-8254

(803) 765-0030 or (800) 723-7242

Website: www.scbaptist.org

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Stewardship... God's Way

Children's Edition

With special mission offerings, all of the money goes to missions. Suggest that they make an offering bank to help them save money for the next mission offering your church will collect. Briefly describe the purpose of that offering to the children. It may be for local, association, state, North American, or international missions.

Distribute containers, paper, and decorative materials. Show children how the paper will cover the container. Instruct them to write a title on their paper cover such as “My Mission Offering” or “Tell the Good News.” Then they may decorate their paper, wrap it around the container, and fasten it in place with glue or tape. You may want to set a date for the children to bring their banks back to church, related to the collection dates for the next special offering. Close with prayer and dismiss, reminding children to take home their learner page.

Choice 3: ABC Rap

Prepare: On a sheet of chart paper, write the following:

A – Admit that you are a sinner. Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23

B – Believe that Jesus is God’s Son, the Savior. John 3:16

C – Confess your faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Romans 10:9-10

Provide paper and pencils for the students.

Teach: Remind children that just as Andrew told Simon Peter about Jesus, we can honor God by telling others also. Call attention to the chart paper showing the ABCs of becoming a Christian. Explain the steps on the chart, having a student to look up and read the scriptures. Instruct the boys and girls to write a rap telling how to become a Christian. Give them paper and pencils, and provide assistance if needed, but let the students create their own lyrics and rhythm for the rap. Some students may want to work in pairs on their raps.

If there is time at the end of the session, students may want to chant their raps for the class. Encourage them to share their rap with family or friends this week, also. Tell the children that you will be happy to talk further with any of them who may have questions about becoming a Christian themselves. Close with prayer and dismiss, reminding children to take home their learner page.



Honor God by Telling Others About Him

Session Overview—Week 2

Bible Passage: John 1:35-42

Biblical Setting: Jesus had just been baptized by John, and was beginning his public ministry, which included the calling of the disciples.

Bible Truth: The most valuable thing God gives is salvation, and He wants us to share the good news of salvation with others.

Memory Verse: And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 1 John 4:14

Life Impact: I can honor God by telling others about His love for them.

Teacher’s Personal Bible Study

Of the many wonderful gifts God gives, His most valuable gift to us is our salvation. Say a prayer of thanks to God for sending His Son to give you eternal life. Check here when you have done so: _____. Today’s Bible study reminds us of the joy and responsibility of sharing the good news of salvation: being good stewards of our witness.

Finding the Messiah (John 1:35-40)

Andrew had an active interest in spiritual matters, because he apparently took time away from his occupation as a fisherman to learn from and follow John the Baptist.

On the day after Jesus' baptism, Andrew and another of John's disciples were present when John called attention to Jesus, who was passing by. John had made it clear that he was not God's chosen one, the Messiah, but that Jesus was (see v. 34). Write here what John the Baptist called Jesus in verse 36:

the _____ . Hearing this, Andrew and his unnamed companion followed Jesus.

At Jesus' invitation, these two former disciples of John spent the day with Him. John had prepared the way with his message of repentance, then pointed his followers to the One who would be their Savior.

Sharing the News (John 1:41-42)

Think of the excitement that Andrew must have felt to be able to go to his brother and announce, "We have found the Messiah!" It was the first thing he did after spending the day with Jesus. What did Andrew do next (v. 42)?

Not only did Andrew tell Simon about Jesus, he also brought him to meet Jesus. The brothers' lives were changed from that day on.

Bringing Others to Jesus

Andrew is an example to us of what we should do when we meet the Savior. In John 6:8-9, he again brought someone to Jesus. Who was it? _____

John 12:20-22 relates that some foreign visitors to Jerusalem wanted to meet Jesus. It was Andrew, along with Philip, who apparently arranged the meeting. Andrew made a habit of introducing people to his Lord.

Choice 1: "God Loves You" Door Hangers

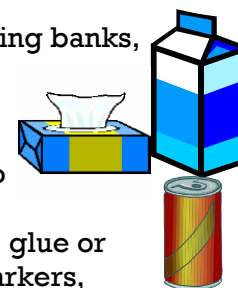
Prepare: Cut thick construction paper or card stock into a 3-by-12-inch strip. Cut a two-inch circle in the strip near one of the short sides, with a slit from the long edge to the cutout circle. This part will slip over a doorknob, allowing the strip to hang. Prepare a door-hanger for each student. Provide pencils, markers or crayons, decorative stickers, and labels printed with the church name, address, telephone number and/or email address.



Teach: Remind children that just as Andrew told Simon Peter about Jesus, we can honor God by telling others also. Explain that they can make door hangers to tell others of God's love. Distribute the prepared door hangers, and encourage the children to write a simple message such as "God loves you." (Older children may want to write the memory verse.) They may decorate the door hanger with markers or stickers, and put a printed label on the back. As the children work, talk with them about ways they may use their door hanger: put on a family member's bedroom door, with their parents' help put on a neighbor's front door, give to a friend at school, etc. Close with prayer and dismiss, reminding children to take home their learner page.

Choice 2: Mission Offering Banks

Prepare: Obtain containers to be used for offering banks, such as clean, empty half-pint milk cartons, small disposable food containers with lids, empty baking powder cans with plastic lids, etc. Cut holes in the container tops for money to drop through. Provide paper cut to the appropriate size to wrap around the containers, glue or tape, and decorative materials (may include markers, glitter- or paint-pens, construction paper, sequins, small foam cutout shapes, cardboard "coins" from play money sets – use your imagination!) Check your church calendar to determine the next mission offering to be collected.



Teach: Remind children that just as Andrew told Simon Peter about Jesus, we can honor God by telling others also. We help to tell the good news of Jesus when we give our offerings, because part of the money given each week is used to support mission work.

Students who need help answering a question may use the reference provided on the card to look in the Bible for the answer. The teacher may want to designate a student to keep a Bible open to the passage, ready to pass to any player needing help.

Note: For a large class, prepare two or three sets of cards and tossing items so that several small groups can play at the same time. Assign a different teacher to assist each group.

Sing

Lead the children to sing the chorus, “God is so Good” with the second verse used last week (“He made the world”) and adding “God sent His Son” for a third verse.

Apply Bible Truths

Remind students of the definition of stewardship from last week (to use what God has given you in ways that please and honor Him). Our greatest gift from God is Jesus, the Savior. It pleases God and shows respect, or honors, Him when we tell others about Jesus, just as Andrew shared the good news that he had found the Savior. Lead students to suggest ways to tell others about Jesus. You may want to list their suggestions on chart paper or an erasable board. Help them to think about sharing with their own family, friends, and neighbors, and also about ways they can help spread the good news in other places (participating in church mission projects, giving their regular weekly offering, giving to special mission offerings, supporting missionaries through prayer, etc.).

Pray

Lead in prayer, thanking God for the gift of His Son and asking for guidance to be able to tell the good news to others.

Bible Learning Activities (20-25 minutes)

Provide the following activities, instructing children to choose one activity to continue learning.



Since stewardship is the wise use of the gifts God has given, we must consider our stewardship of the gift of salvation. Robert Simms has written, “Good stewards are faithful in sharing the good news, first and foremost,” and also “Even Christians who don’t have a dime have the good news – that’s priceless!”

Beginning Activity (5-10 minutes)

Prepare

- Obtain a microphone for a prop: an old unused mic from a sound system, an inflatable or other toy mic from the party favors section of a discount store, or a mic made from a wooden spoon with aluminum foil wrapped around the widest part.

Teach

As children arrive, engage them in conversation to help them think of something good that has occurred in their home, school, church, or community this week. When several children have gathered, direct them to stand in a circle and take turns announcing their good news by saying, “I have good news...” followed by their statement. Provide the “microphone” to be passed to each child for their announcement.

Group Time - Bible Study (20-25 minutes)

Prepare

- Display the session title banner from last week in the group time area, and add another banner with today’s session title.
- Print the memory verse on an erasable board or on a sheet of chart paper. Display it near the session title banner.
- Obtain an item suitable for a toss game, such as a Koosh ball or beanbag toy, that will not bounce.
- Write each of the following questions and references on a separate index card:

Who pointed out Jesus the Savior to Andrew? John 1:36
What did Andrew do when he was told who Jesus was?
John 1:37
What happened after Jesus saw Andrew and his friend
following Him? John 1:38-39
What was the first thing Andrew did after spending the day
with Jesus? John 1:41
What was the name of Andrew's brother? John 1:41-42
Say today's memory verse. 1 John 4:14

- Make a copy of the learner's page for each student.

Introduce Session

As children are seated for group time, say "It's fun to share good news with each other. Our greatest good news is that God loves us and sent His Son Jesus to be our Savior." Indicate the unit title banner and say, "We can honor God by helping others to know this good news about Jesus."

Memory Verse/Bible Skills

And we have seen and testify that the
Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.
1 John 4:14

Remind children that last week's story of the creation came from the first book of the Bible. Have them name and locate that book (Genesis) in their Bibles. Point out today's memory verse displayed on the focal wall, indicating that this verse comes from a book very near the end of the Bible. Guide students to locate 1 John 4:14 in their Bibles and read it. Make sure children understand that "testify" means to tell what you know to be true.

Lead boys and girls to stand and play a tossing game to learn the verse. Say the first word of the verse, then toss the ball to someone else. They say the second word of the verse, and toss the ball to another child, who says the third word, and so on. Continue until the verse has been repeated through several times, speeding up each time.

Tell the Bible Story

Open your Bible to John 1:35-42 and tell the following story:

Andrew was a follower of John the Baptist. He listened to John's teachings. He watched John baptize people. He knew that John was helping people to be ready for the coming of the Savior. One day, John the Baptist saw Jesus walking nearby. John said, "Look, there's the Lamb of God." That was a special name for the one God would send to be the Savior. Andrew heard John. Another follower of John the Baptist heard him too. They probably got very excited! People had been waiting a long time for the Savior, and now John was saying that it was Jesus! Andrew and the other man followed Jesus as he walked along.

Jesus turned and saw the two men following him. "What are you looking for?" He asked. Andrew and his friend wondered where Jesus was staying. "Come and see," Jesus replied. So they went with Jesus. They spent the day with Him.

The first thing Andrew did after spending the day with Jesus was to go and find his brother, Simon. He wanted Simon to know the good news. He had found the Savior! He probably told his brother all about his visit with Jesus.

Andrew did more than just tell Simon about Jesus. He took him to meet Jesus. The two brothers became disciples, close followers of Jesus. Simon, who was also called Peter, became one of the leaders among the disciples. His life was changed because Andrew had told him about the Savior!

~John 1:35-42

Play a Review Game

Lay the index cards face down on the floor in two rows of three. Direct the children to stand in a circle around the cards, then take a step or two back so they are not right over the cards. One child tosses the ball onto any card, picks up the card, reads and answers the question, and replaces the card face up. Then the ball is tossed to another student, and play continues until all students have a turn. (Questions can be repeated if necessary.)

