



# SPREAD THE WORD:

## How do I share Jesus with others?

### Student Guide

## OUTREACH

- ? ▪ Has anyone shared the good news of Jesus with you before? How did they do it? What was your reaction to what they said or did?
- Have any of you shared the good news of Jesus with someone else before? How did it go?

### WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT:

We know that the world has plenty of lost people, and we know that we should do something about it. But what can we do to direct people toward the truth of Jesus? That's not an easy question, but G.K. Chesterton says, "Each generation is converted by the saint who contradicts it most." In other words, people crave what's missing from their lives. They want to see someone who knows a different way of doing things. And in the midst of a shallow culture, they crave the depth and rootedness that Christ offers. But as Romans 10:14 asks, "How are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?" Do you just walk up to people and start telling them how to believe in Jesus? Maybe in some cases, but usually people don't listen to someone they don't know or trust. More often than not, the best way to reach the lost is to live out your faith as an example, to build relationships with people, and to talk about Jesus as a natural and essential part of your life. It's not just about having some sort of speech prepared. It's not about following a checklist of steps to get a person from Point A (lost) to Point B (found). It's about passionately pursuing God and letting your changed life shine in a way that others take notice. Sometimes it takes a number of promptings to interest someone in a life with Christ: patient explanation, thoughtful questions, open conversations, solid community, prayerful acts of kindness, and non-judgmental generosity.

The story in Acts 3 and the beginning of Acts 4 offers a great example of how people are drawn to a powerful act of faith and love. Notice that it's at this point, after people have seen something that shows them the impact of faith, that Peter and John share their story of their encounter with Jesus and what Jesus is all about. Notice also how they specifically tailor the message for the audience that they have there.

**Read:** Acts 3:1–16; 4:1–4

### Answer:

- Peter and John attract the attention of the crowd through a miracle. What can you do to show others that God's love is important and powerful?
- What is the best way to show others that Jesus has made a difference in your life?





- What things should you be sure to mention about God to someone who doesn't know anything about him?
- If you're a disciple of Jesus, can you articulate the story of how you came to follow him?



### **A SECOND LOOK:**

There's a verse in the book of John that goes like this: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another," (John 13:34–35). Paul Rader did this. He loved people and found dynamic and innovative ways to share his faith with the lost. While he went through times of doubt, he eventually found a rich faith in God that he was excited to share with others. This dynamic faith and ability to communicate the love of God helped him become the pastor of a large church in Chicago. Eventually, he left that church when he felt that it was getting in the way of his work to spread the message of Jesus.

Instead of starting a new church or becoming a missionary, he decided to focus his efforts on a cutting-edge method of communicating with a broad audience: the radio. Paul used his talents to put together an incredibly popular radio show sharing the good news of Jesus. This was during the Great Depression, and many people were literally starving. So, Paul used his tools and technology to not only share the message of God's love, but also to start a program to feed the poor and hungry. He even convinced his church to turn their building into a factory for preserving cabbages so they could last longer and more people could eat them. Through these efforts, he fed over 100,000 children in Chicago. Paul Rader's faith was easy to see, and it showed the lost how a passionate, rooted relationship with God was something they could experience, too.

### **Answer:**

- How did Paul Rader use his actions and message to bring people to Christ?
- How do you think you could combine the way you live with the articulated message of Jesus to show people God's love?
- Paul Rader happily embraced the newest methods of communication and used them to spread the message of Christ's love. How can you use the methods of communication available today to do the same thing?



**APPLY IT:**

Now that you know more about sharing the message of Jesus, what are you going to do about it? What is something you can do this week to share Jesus' good news with those around you?

**Be specific:**

What are you going to do?

When are you going to do it?

Is there someone who can keep you accountable?



**THINK ABOUT IT:**

“To be a witness does not consist in engaging in propaganda, nor even in stirring people up, but in being a living mystery. It means to live in such a way that one's life would not make sense if God did not exist.” – Emmanuel Célestin Suhard

