



## OVERVIEW

Primary	Post 1	Post 2	Post 3	Post 4	Post 5
<b>Title</b>	<b>At the Junction: God Shows His Love</b>	<b>Down the Trail: God Loves All People</b>	<b>Over the Plain: God Loves Individuals</b>	<b>To Be Wanted: God Loves an Enemy</b>	<b>To New Frontiers: God's Love Brings Joy</b>
<b>References</b>	Luke 23:33–46; 24:1–12; Acts 1:1–12; 2:1–47	Acts 10	Acts 8:1–6, 26–40	Acts 9:1–19; 22:4–16; 26:9–18	Acts 16:6–40
<b>Focus</b>	The Good News changes people's lives.	The Good News is for everyone.	The Good News is for you.	The Good News can reach anyone.	The Good News can bring joy—anytime.
<b>Bible Verse</b>	"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes" (Rom. 1:16).	"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us" (1 John 3:1).	"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16).	"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).	"We know that all things work together for good to those who love God" (Rom. 8:28).
<b>Games</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gold Rush</li> <li>• Wagon Dash</li> <li>• Cowboy Campfires</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horse Race</li> <li>• Picture This</li> <li>• Desert Dash Obstacle Course</li> <li>• Workin' on the Railroad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cattle Drive</li> <li>• Over the Top</li> <li>• Stampede!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giddyup Junction Juggle</li> <li>• Pin the Badge on the Sheriff</li> <li>• Choices Tic-Tac-Toe</li> <li>• Damascus Dodge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tin-Can Tumble</li> <li>• Guard the Prisoner</li> <li>• Good News Soccer</li> <li>• Joy Is Contagious</li> </ul>
<b>Snacks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wagon Wheels</li> <li>• Desert Sunrise</li> <li>• Empty Tomb S'mores</li> <li>• Flame Cupcakes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Log Cabin Snacks</li> <li>• Cowboy Trail Mix</li> <li>• Giddyup Junction Garden Veggies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dusty Road to Gaza Pudding</li> <li>• Frontier Fruit</li> <li>• Frontier Fruit Dip</li> <li>• Ropin' Wranglers</li> <li>• Share Good News Treats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheriff Badges</li> <li>• Saul to Apostle Paul Crackers</li> <li>• Rocky Road to Damascus Brownies</li> <li>• God's Forgiveness Melts Away Sin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desert Designs</li> <li>• Snake-on-the-Trail Bread</li> <li>• Charlie the Horse's Hay Bale Snacks</li> </ul>
<b>Crafts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design Your Own Desert Lizard</li> <li>• Charlie the Horse</li> <li>• Good News Bracelet</li> <li>• Sheriff's Badge Bookmark</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Howdy Pardner Magnet</li> <li>• Color Your Own Bandana</li> <li>• Sand in My Boot</li> <li>• Create-A-Cactus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colorful Cowpoke Necklace</li> <li>• Desert Sunset</li> <li>• Slithery Straw Snake</li> <li>• Prickly Cactus Scene</li> <li>• Cowboy Mosaic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design Your Own Cowboy Hat</li> <li>• Wild Ridge Sun Catcher</li> <li>• Bandana Treat Bag</li> <li>• Cowpoke Vest</li> <li>• Sunshine Streamers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prospector Pouch</li> <li>• Frontier Photo Frame</li> <li>• Cowboy Boot Bag</li> <li>• Desert Silhouette</li> <li>• Howdy Note Card</li> </ul>

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# PRIMARY

## TEACHER BOOK



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# AT THE JUNCTION GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE

Luke 23:33–46; 24:1–12; Acts 1:1–12; 2:1–47

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## TOPIC

God's strong love

## THEME

The Good News changes people's lives.

## DESIRED STUDENT RESPONSE

Students will know that God loves them and there is saving power in the gospel.



## MEMORY VERSE

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,  
for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone  
who believes" (Rom. 1:16).



- Greet students with enthusiasm. Get to know each student.
- Make sure you have a completed registration card (30208) for each student.
- Distribute nametags (32133) and Giddyup Junction passes (32134).
- Open the class time with prayer.



Select one of the following activities to start your session.

### Option 1: Windy Wonder

#### Materials

- Fan with variety of speeds; lightweight paper items, such as paper cups, napkins, paper plates; cupcake liners; plastic tablecloth; dowel rod; string or yarn; table.

**ASK:** Can you feel the wind? Does it always feel the same? (*No.*) Why? (*It has different strengths.*) **SAY:** There are many kinds of wind. There are storm force winds, such as hurricanes, tornados, and thunderstorms. There are also gentle winds, such as a breeze. Can you see the wind? Describe it. Does the wind make a noise?

**ACTIVITY:** Invite several students to help set a long table (or on the floor, a distance away) with lightweight items as if they are getting ready for a picnic. Set the fan at the other end of the table or “picnic.” Turn the fan to its lowest setting, like a gentle breeze. Continue to increase the setting until it is a “thunderstorm” and everything has blown off the table. Turn off the fan.

**ASK:** Did you see the wind, or did you just see what the wind did to our “picnic”?

Just as we can’t see the wind, we can’t see God. Just as we saw what the wind did to our picnic, so God’s people saw what God’s power can do. God did something special in the lives of three thousand people! Let’s find out what happened.

### Option 2: Barn Raising and Cabin Building

#### Materials

- Variety of building materials such as blocks, interlocking plastic blocks, cardboard boxes, masking tape, construction paper, scissors, and/or play dough; *optional:* action figures of people and animals.

*Before class:* Set out the building materials in stations around your classroom.

**ACTIVITY:** As students arrive, allow them to choose a set of building materials to use. Tell the students to pretend they have just moved to Giddyup Junction. Encourage them to work together to build log cabins or houses. As students work, have the following discussion.

When families arrived at Giddyup Junction, they had traveled far, far away from their homes. They brought in their wagons everything they needed to start a new life. Neighbors helped one another build a house or barn to have a place to live. Let's pretend we are neighbors helping one another.

In the lesson we will talk about some people who helped one another whenever anyone needed something. They had accepted the good news of God's love, so then they wanted to show God's love to others.

## INTRODUCTION

### Materials

- Small rocks; old cardboard box; metallic gold spray paint; old pie tins that can have holes punched in them; hammer; nail; plastic table cover or plastic drop cloth; large waterproof container; play sand.

*Before class:* Rinse and dry about half of the small rocks. Place the rocks in an old cardboard box and coat them thoroughly with metallic gold spray paint. Shake the rocks around and respray them until coated. Allow to dry. Prepare pie tins by punching holes in the bottom with a nail. If there are jagged edges on the back side, pound the base of the pie tin with a hammer to flatten them.

Cover the floor with a plastic table cover or drop cloth. Place a large waterproof container on the floor. Add play sand, rocks, and "gold nuggets" (the spray-painted rocks). Mix well. Add water until it covers the sand and rocks by about an inch.

Ask adult helpers to take the container and mixture out immediately after this activity and to pour out the water.

As the students come to class, show them how to pan for gold by scooping a pie tin into the bottom of the container and gently shaking the pan to let the sand and water drain out. Show the students how to pick out the gold. It is likely your students will want to keep their treasures.

**SAY:** A long time ago, in 1848, exciting news traveled from the West to people in the East: *gold!* There was gold in the hills out west! Everyone wanted to find the gold. It was incredible news!

In our lesson today, some good news begins to travel all around Jerusalem, Judea, and Galilee. But it is not news of gold. No—it is better news than that. It is the good news of eternal life through Jesus Christ. It is the best news ever! It changes lives. It makes us rich in ways we could never imagine. Let's find out more about this incredible Good News from God's Word.



### ◀ Teacher Tip

*Optional:* instead of spray-painting rocks, use **prospector's gold nuggets** (32266).



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE!

### Teacher Tip ►

Open in prayer and teach with an open Bible.

### New! ►

Visual Book PowerPoint Download (32107EB) from RBPstore.org.

### Materials

- Bible; lesson 1 visual packet and CD (32107) or visual book PowerPoint download (32107EB); recording of a foreign language none of the students will understand; CD player or device to play audio recordings.

*Before class:* Prepare the CD player or audio device, with sound turned up high enough for everyone in the class to hear.

“Shhh! Careful! I don’t want to drop this,” Mary Magdalene cried softly. It was still partly dark and the small group of women were carrying expensive spices. But the trail was the least of their worries. “How are we going to move that stone?” Joanna wondered. “I don’t know,” sighed Mary. “Is someone around who can move it for us?”

You see, Jesus—their best Friend, and their Lord—had been buried in a grave called a tomb. A big, heavy stone was rolled in front of that tomb so it was closed up tight. That stone was much too heavy for the women to move by themselves.

And they were very, very sad. Their best Friend, Jesus, was gone. Mean people had told lies about Jesus. They had Him put to death on a rough wooden cross. But God—the Creator of everything, including you and me—had a plan all along. He had sent Jesus to earth to be born as a baby. Jesus grew up in many ways just like you and me. But He was different in some very important ways. He was perfect and holy—He never lied, said mean things, or did anything wrong. He never sinned. He was also God. And when He died on that cross, He did it for a reason. He took the punishment for all the bad things you or I have ever done. That was God’s plan!

But right now, Jesus’ friends could only think about how sad they felt. The women were very close to the tomb now. They were carrying spices to put on Jesus’ body.

**DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 1 or PowerPoint visual 1.

But as they got closer, the women stopped and they looked. There the stone was, rolled to the side. The tomb was open! The women rushed forward and went into the tomb. It was empty—Jesus was not there. Suddenly the women saw two shining angels. “Why are you looking for Someone Who is living, among dead people?” the angels said. “He’s not here! He is risen back to life again!”

Soon all of Jesus’ other friends, including Peter, knew that Jesus was alive again too. Jesus spent forty days with them. They walked, and talked, and ate together. Jesus’ friends were so glad that Jesus was alive again!

But things were about to change. Jesus would not always be with His friends on the earth.

**DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 2 or PowerPoint visual 2.



Lesson 1 Visual 1



Lesson 1 Visual 2

One day, Jesus was teaching His friends. Suddenly, as they watched in awe, He went up in the air! He was going back to Heaven to be with God His Father again. But before this, Jesus had given His followers an exciting promise: “You will be given power by the Spirit of God, and you will tell the world the good news about Me!”

Jesus’ friends did not have long to wait. Something amazing was about to happen. This recording will give us a clue what that was.

**ACTIVITY:** Play a recording of a language that none of your students will understand. **ASK:** Can anyone tell me what the clue is? Why not? You could not understand the language. Usually it takes a long time to learn another language!

In the city of Jerusalem, many people from all over had gathered together for a feast called Pentecost. These people were from different countries and nations, so they spoke different languages from one another.

Suddenly everybody stopped what they were doing. They listened—then they all started crowding together. Every person heard Jesus’ friends talking in his or her own language, telling them about Jesus! People wondered what was going on. They didn’t realize that the Holy Spirit of God was helping Peter and Jesus’ other friends speak in different languages!

**DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 3 or PowerPoint visual 3.

Peter’s voice rang out over the whole crowd: “Listen to my words!” Peter shared the good news of Jesus with all the people. Peter reminded the crowd that the Bible said this would happen. Jesus had died for their sins, the wrong things they thought, said, and did. “If you will turn from your sins by believing in Jesus,” Peter said, “you will be saved from the punishment that your sins deserve.” All across the huge crowd, three thousand people were sorry for their sins and believed in Jesus!

**DISPLAY:** Show visual picture 4 or PowerPoint visual 4.

After these people believed in Jesus, they loved God and each other very much. This was the beginning of what we call the church, but this church was not just a building. This church was made up of people. They helped each other and shared all that they had. They reached out to those in need and helped those who needed it the most. Their lives had changed because of Jesus’ love and forgiveness. Now they wanted to share that love and forgiveness with others.



Lesson 1 Visual 3



Lesson 1 Visual 4



## DECISION TIME

### God Showed Love

#### Materials

- Bible; salvation poster (32136); red construction paper; black felt marker; paint stirring stick; craft glue.

*Before class:* Cut a large red heart from the construction paper. Print “God Showed Love” on the heart. Mount the heart on a paint stirring stick.

We have learned today that God showed His love in many ways to many people.

**SAY:** God showed love (show heart) to Jesus’ friends when they thought Jesus was dead forever. (Put down heart.) Jesus rose from the grave and was alive. Jesus’ friends saw Him.

**ASK:** How has God shown His love (show heart) to you? (*Help students if they need prompting: God sent His Son Jesus to be our Savior.*)

**ACTIVITY:** Use the salvation poster to present the gospel. Invite students to bow their heads and close their eyes and to quietly look up if they want to know more about asking Jesus to forgive their sin. Assign workers to counsel and pray with responding students.



## DISCOVER

### Mighty Balloons

#### Materials

- Logo balloons (32143) or other balloons; music CD set (32130) or music CD (32167 or 32168); CD player.

*Before class:* Inflate several balloons. Have extra balloons on hand.

**ACTIVITY:** Students sit on the floor in a small circle; for a larger class, make multiple circles. Play a VBS song on the CD player. As the music plays, toss two balloons into the circle. Students try to keep them in the air. If a balloon touches the ground, the students must begin again. If the balloons are still in the air after a minute, introduce a third balloon.

**SAY:** Wow, you did a good job keeping the balloons in the air! But still, you were only able to keep the balloons up for a while, not forever.



Our strength and abilities only last for so long—but God is not like that. His strength has no end, and His love is stronger than anything we can think of. Today we learned about the strength and power of God’s love, and that many, many people—thousands of them—were changed forever by the good news of God’s love.



## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

**“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes” (Rom. 1:16).**

The word “gospel” means “good news.” The message that God loves us and that Jesus came for us is very good news—in fact, it’s the best news ever!

This verse also has the word “ashamed.” Does anyone know what that means? (Allow students to respond.) The word “ashamed” usually refers to someone who has done something or said something wrong—and he knew it was not right to do, but he did it anyway. Then he feels bad. He is embarrassed about what he did!

The writer of this verse said he was not ashamed of the gospel, the Good News. Why should he be? After all, people needed to hear what Jesus had done for them!

### Mining for Gold

#### Materials

- Yellow construction paper; scissors; masking tape or adhesive putty; bold marker.

*Before class:* Cut out various “gold nuggets” from yellow construction paper. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each one. Attach the gold nuggets around your classroom on the walls, chairs, or other objects.

**DISCUSS:** Long ago, many people went West—far, far away from their homes—to look for gold. Why did people want to find gold? (*Because it was worth a lot!*) **SAY:** The good news of the gospel of Jesus can make us rich in an even better way than gold. It can bring eternal life, or salvation, to anyone who believes. **SAY:** I have hidden several gold nuggets around our classroom. Can you find them and bring them to me?

**ACTIVITY:** Let students search for the gold nuggets. When all are found, place the first nugget on the board or wall and read it. Have the students repeat after you. Then ask what should come next. Place that nugget next. Then starting back at the beginning, have the students “read” each nugget with you. Repeat the process until the whole verse is in order.

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#### ◀ Teacher Tip

Hold your Bible open as you teach the verse, emphasizing that the verse is from the Bible.



Charlie the Horse  
(32149)

## Option 2: Tell Charlie the Horse

### Materials

- Charlie the Horse puppet (32149).

**ACTIVITY:** After repeating the verse together several times, invite students to come to Charlie the Horse and say the verse to him. Allow students to come with one or two friends if they desire.



## APPLY IT NOW

## Option 1: Strong Enough to Save

### Materials

- Pictures or outlines of a stick of dynamite; markers.

*Before class:* Copy and cut out the sticks of dynamite, making enough for each student to have 3–4 sticks.

**SAY:** Dynamite is very powerful. In the West, miners used it to blow up big rocks so they could get to the gold in those rocks. **ACTIVITY:** Hand out the dynamite pictures to students, and invite them to write on their sticks some of the strongest or most powerful things they can think of.

**SAY:** While all these things are very powerful, none of them is strong enough to forgive us and save us from our sins—the wrong things we think, say, and do! Only God has the power to do that. We must trust in no other person or thing than Jesus and what He did for us.

## Option 2: Showing God's Love to Others: Serving

### Materials

- Mini muffins, mini cupcakes, or other small treats; gluten-free option or option for children with food allergies; napkins; cups; water in pitchers.

**ACTIVITY:** Place the treats on a tray at the front of the room. Assign students to distribute napkins and cups. Then instruct the students to find a partner. Students should serve their partners, not themselves. Discuss how the early Christians showed God's love by sharing with and helping one another.