



OVERVIEW

Junior	Post 1	Post 2	Post 3	Post 4	Post 5
Title	At the Junction: God Shows His Love	Down the Trail: God Loves All People	Over the Plain: God Loves Individuals	To Be Wanted: God Loves an Enemy	To New Frontiers: God's Love Brings Joy
References	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
Focus	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.
Bible 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).	"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!" (1 John 3:1).	"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (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).
Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cowboy Campfires Capture the Bandana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picture This Desert Dash Obstacle Course Workin' on the Railroad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the Top Stampede! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giddyup Junction Juggle Choices Tic-Tac-Toe Damascus Dodge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tin-Can Tumble Guard the Prisoner Good News Soccer Joy Is Contagious Really Free
Snacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wagon Wheels Desert Sunrise Empty Tomb S'mores Flame Cupcakes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Log Cabin Snacks Cowboy Trail Mix Giddyup Junction Garden Veggies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dusty Road to Gaza Pudding Frontier Fruit Frontier Fruit Dip Ropin' Wranglers Share Good News Treats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheriff Badges Saul to Apostle Paul Crackers Rocky Road to Damascus Brownies God's Forgiveness Melts Away Sin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desert Designs Snake-on-the-Trail Bread Charlie the Horse's Hay Bale Snacks
Crafts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Your Own Desert Lizard Good News Bracelet Sheriff's Badge Bookmark Bandana Bracelet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Howdy Pardner Magnet Color Your Own Bandana Sand in My Boot Create-A-Cactus Wagon Trail Lantern Western Whittling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colorful Cowpoke Necklace Desert Sunset Cowboy Mosaic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Your Own Cowboy Hat Wild Ridge Sun Catcher Bandana Treat Bag 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frontier Photo Frame Desert Silhouette Howdy Note Card

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JUNIOR

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

Extra Credit Verses: Rom. 5:8; 8:38–39; 2 Cor. 5:17

★
POST
1

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.

Teacher Tip ►

Use caution with bleach—wear gloves and add the bleach yourself, instead of allowing students to handle it.



WELCOME

Option 1: Changing Colors

Materials

- Large drinking glass filled with water; assorted colors of food coloring, including yellow; bleach; dropper; rubber gloves; plastic tablecloth; tarp or plastic drop cloth.

Before class: Protect the table and floor with a plastic tablecloth and a tarp or plastic drop cloth. Display the drinking glass filled with water on the table.

ACTIVITY: Ask a volunteer to add yellow food coloring to the glass, one drop at a time, until the water is colored yellow. Using the dropper, carefully add bleach to the glass, one drop at a time, and observe how the color fades.

ASK: What do you think will happen if we add more color into the water?

ACTIVITY: Invite other volunteers to add a drop or two of various colors of food coloring. Observe how the colors don't disperse when there's bleach in the water.

When food coloring was added to regular water, it turned the water yellow. But when bleach was mixed with the water, it changed how the water reacted to the food coloring. Today we'll see how the good news of Jesus causes even more surprising changes!

Option 2: A Strong Pull

Materials

- Small metal items, such as paper clips; horseshoe magnets or other large magnets; small containers.

Before class: Place metal items in containers, one container per group. Place an empty container beside each metal-filled container.

The horses that people used on their journey west were strong. The horses could pull a loaded wagon that weighed about 2,500 pounds.

ACTIVITY: Students form small groups. Give the first player in each group a magnet. On your signal, the player tries to get as many metal items on the magnet as possible and then transfer them to the second container. The player then gives the magnet to the next student in the group. The first group to transfer all the items to the second container is the winner.

How many items did your magnet hold? Was the magnet strong? God's love is strong. In fact, it is stronger than anything!

Option 3: Rope Tug



Materials

- Strong rope (long enough to accommodate players); bandana (32221); painter's tape.

Before class: Cut one 24" piece of tape and place it on the floor. Tie the bandana in the middle of the rope.

It took strength to settle in the West. First of all, there was the difficult journey to get out there. Once settlers arrived, homes had to be built, and the people had to find ways to live off the land.

ACTIVITY: This is a game of strength. Players gather into two teams on opposite ends of the rope. Line up the bandana at the middle of the rope so it is directly above the line. On your signal, players pull with all their might, trying to pull the other team across the line.

ASK: Name some things that are strong. (*Allow for student responses.*)

Today we are going to discover something that is stronger than anything else!

INTRODUCTION

Materials

- Empty backpack; picture of Pony Express rider online or printed.

ACTIVITY: Students tell someone next to them about a time they received really great news. **ASK:** How did you find out the news? Was it on social media? On TV? In an email? In person? In a phone call? (*Students respond.*)

DISPLAY: Show the backpack. **SAY:** For a short period of time, the Pony Express was used to deliver mail across the West. That is how most people found out news—good or bad. Pony Express riders carried mail in pouches called mochilas (pronounced mo-chee-lahs). **DISPLAY:** Show picture.

Pony Express riders carried a mochila through storms, dust, heat, and danger of attack. They would ride in relays for days to deliver the mail. Let's find out about some Good News that happened over two thousand years ago and that is the most important news ever!



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); PowerPoint capability or poster boards; paper; electronic device with sound; 5 index cards.

Before class: Print out words for the following verses on separate sheets of paper: Luke 23:33; Luke 24:1–3; Acts 1:9; Acts 2:37, 38. Distribute to volunteers. Prepare the following verses on PowerPoint or poster boards: Acts 1:8; Acts 1:11; Acts 2:41. Locate tornado sounds on the internet. Print a word or phrase on each index card in a different language, using an online translating tool if necessary.

If space allows, tell parts of the lesson in three different areas, decorated appropriately. Students move with you. For example, (1) death, burial, and resurrection—cross, tomb, garments; (2) ascension—mountain, cloud; (3) Day of Pentecost—words and phrases in a variety of languages, upper room, Jerusalem.

ACTIVITY: Move to area 1. **ASK:** What do you think when you hear the name “Jesus”? (*Student response.*)

From the beginning of the Bible, God had a plan that included Jesus. Because God loves us, He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. At Christmas we celebrate His birth. When Jesus was older, He performed miracles and taught people about His Heavenly Father—God. Although Jesus did many wonderful, amazing things, many people did not believe He was the Son of God. The religious rulers couldn’t stand Him. They came up with a plan to get rid of Him, even though Jesus never did anything that displeased God. Jesus was perfect and holy.

READ: Invite a volunteer to read Luke 23:33. **SAY:** Jesus died a horrible death on a cross, called a crucifixion. That was a common way of executing criminals in that day. But Jesus had done nothing wrong! **ASK:** How do you think Jesus’ followers felt when this happened?

Although this was very sad, it was all part of God’s plan. Jesus died to take our place because we have all done wrong things, which the Bible calls sin. But Jesus’ story did not end that day. After three days He came back to life.

READ: Invite volunteers to read in unison Luke 24:1–3. **ASK:** The tomb was _____. (*Invite a volunteer to fill in the blank.*) Yes! Empty!

DISPLAY: Show visual picture 1 or PowerPoint visual 1.

Jesus had power even over death! At first, some of Jesus’ followers didn’t know what to think. Some were afraid. Others did not believe He was alive. But during



Lesson 1 Visual 1

the next forty days, over five hundred people saw Jesus. Soon all His followers knew it was true—He really was alive!

But Jesus would not always be with them. He had already told them, “I am going back to Heaven, where I will be preparing a wonderful place for you.”

ACTIVITY: Move to area 2.

So one day, Jesus and His followers walked up a mountain. They stopped and Jesus looked at all His followers. He wanted them to always remember what He said next. “You will be given power,” He said, “and you will tell people everywhere about Me!”

DISPLAY: Show Acts 1:8. **ACTIVITY:** With a partner, students read the verses to find out who was coming. **DISCUSS:** The Holy Spirit of God was coming to help Jesus’ followers and give them power.

Then Jesus began to go up, right before them, as they watched! He rose higher and higher into the sky, into a cloud, and then out of sight.

DISPLAY: Show visual picture 2 or PowerPoint visual 2. **READ:** Invite a student volunteer to read Acts 1:9. **SAY:** Wow! A lot had happened to Jesus in a short time. **ASK:** How do you think His followers felt now?

The Bible tells us Jesus’ followers stood staring into the sky. Suddenly two beings appeared, asking them why they were looking up.

ASK: Who do you think they were? (*Angels.*) **DISPLAY:** Show Acts 1:11. Read this verse silently. **ASK:** What was the message? Why do you think they told the followers’ this? (*Jesus was gone, but His followers had a job to do.*)

ACTIVITY: Move to area 3.

Many people, from many countries and nations, had gathered in Jerusalem. They were there to celebrate a special day called Pentecost. Jesus’ friends were also together—when suddenly there came a loud sound! The Bible says it sounded like a rushing, mighty wind.

ACTIVITY: Play sound effects of a tornado.

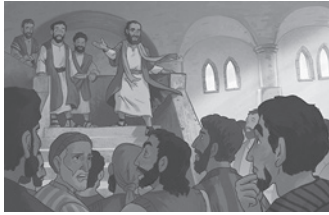
The sound might have been like a tornado; it was a very loud sound. Then something else amazing happened!

DISPLAY: Acts 2:4. **READ:** Have a volunteer read Acts 2:4.

Jesus’ followers were speaking in different languages, telling people about Him. The people in Jerusalem, who spoke many kinds of languages, could now understand!



Lesson 1 Visual 2



Lesson 1 Visual 3



Lesson 1 Visual 4



eCube BIG
(8421)

Teacher Tip ►

Optional: Use an eCard BIG (8437) instead of an eCube.

ACTIVITY: Give five volunteers an index card to read aloud. **ASK:** Can anyone identify the languages? Meanings? (*Students share.*) **READ:** Invite a volunteer to read Acts 2:5 and 6.

DISPLAY: Show visual picture 3 or PowerPoint visual 3.

Peter stood up. He told all those people in the huge crowd the good news of Jesus. He said they needed to turn from their sin by believing in Jesus.

DISPLAY: Show Acts 2:41 on PowerPoint. Invite a volunteer to read the verse. **ASK:** How many people believed in Jesus that day? (*Three thousand.*)

God's strong love changed lives that day! These people became the first church.

DISPLAY: Show a picture of a church building (yours if possible). **ASK:** What is a church? (*In the Bible, a church is people, not a building.*)

This church loved and worshiped God. They showed God's love by sharing and being kind. If anyone needed anything—food, clothes, or a place to stay—the other believers helped.

DISPLAY: Show picture visual 4 or PowerPoint visual 4.

Together, with the power of the Holy Spirit, these people began to spread the Good News farther and farther!

DECISION TIME

Materials

- Bible; eCube BIG (8421).

Before class: Practice using the eCube. For a large class, divide into groups and use additional eCubes.

DISPLAY: Hold the eCube. Follow the arrows on the cube to display the panels in the correct order.

Many people refused to believe Jesus was God's Son. Although they put Him to death on a cross, this was part of God's plan. God knew people would sin, or do wrong things. Sin separates us from God. (*Show panel 1, illustrating people's separation from God.*) God must punish sin. (*Open to panel 2, showing Jesus on the cross.*) God provided a way for our sin to be forgiven. He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, taking the punishment for our sin. (*Show panel 3, the tomb.*) Jesus died and was buried. (*Show panel 4, illustrating Jesus risen.*) After three days, God raised Jesus from the dead.

(Show panel 5, a person standing by the cross.) God promises eternal life to all those who believe in Jesus. (Show panel 6, clasped hands.) You can become a member of His family right now. God promises eternal life to all who believe in Him.

ACTIVITY: Ask students to close their eyes and bow their heads. Invite those who believe in Jesus and want to become a member of God's family to look up at you. Assign a leader to counsel and pray with responding students.

If you are already a member of God's family, ask God to help you stay strong and share the Good News. You have the Holy Spirit to help you!



Option 1: Sketch It!

Materials

- Paper (plain 8½" x 11"); colored pencils; whiteboard and dry erase marker or poster board and marker.

Before class: Prepare a sample. Write the parts of the lesson on the whiteboard or poster board: (1) Jesus' death, (2) His burial, (3) His resurrection, (4) the ascension, (5) Pentecost, (6) the early church.

During frontier times, there were no computers, cell phones, radios, or televisions. People communicated across long distances by writing and drawing pictures.

ACTIVITY: Provide students with paper and colored pencils. Students fold paper three times top to bottom, then in half, and unfold it to make six squares. Invite students to number the boxes 1 to 6. **DISPLAY:** Show your sample. **ACTIVITY:** Students work individually or in pairs to draw graphics in the boxes and add emojis showing how Jesus' followers felt at that point. When students are finished, encourage them to share in small groups.

Option 2: At the Junction

Materials

- Four 8½" x 11" sheets of poster board; marker; tape; index cards; adult felt cowboy hat (32225); bandana (32221).

Before class: Write the names of buildings in a western town on poster boards: BANK, HOTEL, GENERAL STORE, STABLE (or LIVERY). Tape one poster in each corner of the room. Write questions about the Bible lesson on index cards. Place the cards in a cowboy hat.

ACTIVITY: Western towns had important buildings. Using the bank, hotel, general store, and stable posters, play a game similar to Four Corners. One

player is the caller. He or she is blindfolded, stands facing a wall, and counts aloud to 20. Players sneak quietly from corner to corner. When the caller reaches 20, all players must freeze in a corner. The caller shouts the name of a building, turns around, removes the blindfold, and draws a question from the hat. Players in the corner that is chosen collaborate to answer. If incorrect, all the players in that corner are out. Continue until all the questions have been answered or only one group is left.



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Teacher Tip ►

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

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

Materials

- PowerPoint of Romans 1:16 from the Director Resource CD (32102).

DISPLAY: Show verse on PowerPoint. (Share an example of a time when you saw God’s love change a person’s life.)

In the lesson, we saw how God’s love is powerful and can change lives. The good news of God’s love can change your life too. And then, with God’s power and the Holy Spirit’s help, you can share the good news of God’s love.

Option 1: Pony Express Relay

Materials

- Index cards; envelopes.

Before class: Write a word of the verse on each index card and place the cards in an envelope, one envelope per team.

The Pony Express was a lot like a relay on horseback. Let’s make our own Pony Express to help learn the verse!

ACTIVITY: Students form two teams. Team members line up behind each other. Give the first player on each team an envelope. On your signal, players pass the envelope to the player behind them until it reaches the last player, who comes to the front of the line. Play until the starting player reaches the end. The team removes the cards, arranges them in order, and recites the verse. The first team to be finished wins.

ASK: When could it be helpful to remember this verse?

Option 2: Junction Skits

Materials

- Paper; pencils; index cards.

For entertainment in the West, people would attend plays that were put on by traveling theater groups. We will put on a play for each other to show a time when it might be helpful to remember Romans 1:16.

DISCUSS: Make it real by sharing with students a situation when you found this verse helpful. Also, suggest possible scenarios that students can add to. (Examples: Another student in school tells his friends, making fun of you, “He goes to church.” Mia has a problem lying, and then she believes on Jesus as her Savior at VBS. Logan believed on Jesus as his Savior at VBS; now he wants to tell his parents about becoming part of God’s family.)

ACTIVITY: Students form groups and write a short play demonstrating a scenario in which Romans 1:16 would be helpful. Once groups have practiced, invite volunteers to perform.



APPLY IT NOW

Option 1: Rock, Paper, Rope

Materials

- *Optional:* whiteboard and dry erase marker.

Before class: Write on the whiteboard or explain, “Rock beats paper, paper beats rope, rope beats rock.”

Explain that students will play a game similar to Rock, Paper, Scissors, but using objects they would find on the frontier. Review the explanation on the whiteboard and demonstrate the actions. (Use circle with index finger and thumb for rope.)

ACTIVITY: Players choose a partner and play several rounds of the game.

ASK: Have you ever been anxious or faced something difficult? We can know that God’s love is strong and beats anything! It is stronger than any obstacle or difficulty we can face.

Option 2: Down the Line

Materials

- Bibles; paper; clipboards; pens.

Before class: Print out verses and references that reinforce God's love for us, one per paper (e.g., 1 John 3:1; Jeremiah 1:5; 31:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Psalm 139:14; Ephesians 2:10; Deuteronomy 31:6.) Use 1 John 3:1 to make a sample. Number the papers and place them around the room, creating stations.

DISPLAY: Show sample. **READ:** John 3:1. **ASK:** How would this verse help you know God loves you? (*It tells me I am His child.*)

ACTIVITY: Students choose partners. Give each pair a pen, a clipboard, and paper. Students number their papers (the same number as the number of stations). Pairs start at different stations. Partners read the verse and write how the verse reminds them of God's love. Once they complete a station, they move down the line to the next station until all are completed. Invite volunteers to share.

