



## OVERVIEW

Youth	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, 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).
<b>Games</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cowboy Campfires</li> <li>Capture the Bandana</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Desert Dash Obstacle Course</li> <li>Workin' on the Railroad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over the Top</li> <li>Stampede!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Giddyup Junction Juggle</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> <li>Really Free</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>Good News Bracelet</li> <li>Sheriff's Badge Bookmark</li> <li>Bandana Bracelet</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> <li>Wagon Trail Lantern</li> <li>Western Whittling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Colorful Cowpoke Necklace</li> <li>Desert Sunset</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> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frontier Photo Frame</li> <li>Desert Silhouette</li> <li>Howdy Note Card</li> </ul>

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# YOUTH 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; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:1, 4, 5



**POST**  
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## **TOPIC**

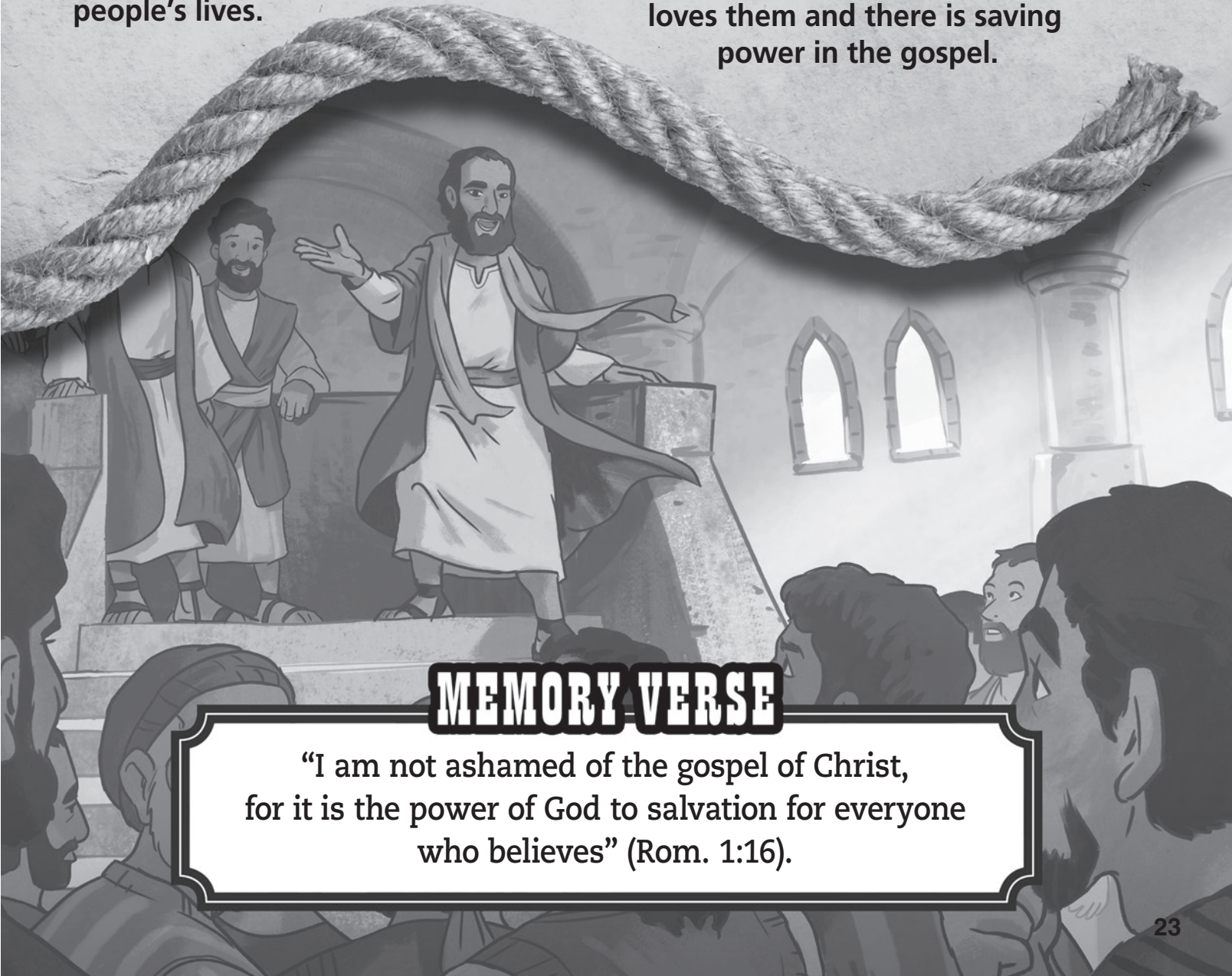
God's strong love

## **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).
- Introduce yourself and other VBS leaders.
- Open the class time with prayer.



## Option 1: Changing Times

### Materials

- Pens or pencils; lesson 1 worksheets from youth student books (32164).

While the West was being settled, inventors all over the world were changing civilization with their new products. With new technology, though, comes the need to convince people they need that technology.

**ACTIVITY:** Guide students to the Changing Times page on their activity sheets. Discuss the inventions of the nineteenth century. Distribute pens or pencils, and give students several minutes to create a smartphone post for an invention they design for the twenty-first century, emphasizing how the new product will change the consumers' lives. Invite volunteers to share their invention with the class.

Change can be uncomfortable and scary at times, but often it's beneficial for those who embrace it. In this lesson we'll learn about the incredible changes the good news of Jesus can bring to a person's heart.

## Option 2: Would You Rather. . . ?

**ACTIVITY:** Tell students that you are going to read some "Would you rather?" questions, and they are to move to designated spots, depending on their answers. As you read the following questions, indicate where students should move (e.g., to opposite corners of the room).

1. Would you rather write a letter or call someone on the phone?
2. Would you rather make copies by hand or mass produce copies on a press?
3. Would you rather ride a horse a hundred miles or ride a train a hundred miles?

While the West was being settled, many new inventions were made that changed civilization forever. These inventions included the telephone, the printing press, and the steam-powered locomotive. Imagine what our world would be like today without these inventions! In today's lesson, we'll learn about how the good news of Jesus changed our world in a much more significant way.



## INTRODUCTION

*Before class:* Think of a life-changing event (preferably from your teenage years) that you could share with your class.

**ACTIVITY:** Share your life-changing event, and then ask students to volunteer ideas of other life-changing events that people experience (e.g., a move, an accident, the birth of a sibling).

Throughout our lives, various events change and shape us. As we read the Bible account today, we'll talk about a series of events that changed history and can change you in a dramatic way.



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE!

### Materials

- Bibles; lesson 1 worksheets from youth student books (32164); pencils.

**ACTIVITY:** Have students choose partners; then assign a section from the Breaking News activity page to each pair. Instruct students to read their passage together and decide who was mentioned in the verses, what was happening, when it happened, and where it happened. **DISCUSS:** Act as a reporter and interview the pairs who were assigned Luke 23:33–46 to discover their who, what, when, and where. Fill in with the commentary below as needed.

Jesus made a lot of friends and had a lot of followers. But He had made even more enemies—powerful ones. These enemies hired one of Jesus' disciples, Judas, to betray Him to them. They arrested Jesus on false charges and used their power to push Him through a trial. Jesus was innocent, but the mob cried for Him to be crucified. Finally the Roman leader, Pilate, gave in to them.

**READ:** Ask a volunteer to read aloud Luke 23:33 and 34. **ASK:** Why are Jesus' words so unexpected in this setting?

Jesus was crucified on a wooden cross. That was a horrible way to die, reserved for the most wicked criminals. As He was crucified, Jesus asked God the Father to forgive the ones who were causing Him such pain.

Below the cross, curious onlookers watched as the soldiers divided Jesus' clothing. They heard the rulers and soldiers mock Jesus, claiming that if He truly was who He said He was, He could come down from the cross at any time.

The truth is, Jesus could have come down from the cross and saved Himself. He could have immediately punished those who dared crucify Him. But He didn't, because it was for their sakes He hung on the cross. Jesus knew that without His



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### ◀ Teacher Tip

Open in prayer and teach with an open Bible.

- The Rugged Cross (Luke 23:33–46)

blood being shed, without His death, there would be no way for people's sins to be forgiven (Heb. 9:22). He chose to stay on the cross and bear the punishment for sin for all mankind so that all who trust in Him would be forgiven and would not have to pay that punishment themselves.

Jesus was crucified between two genuine criminals. One of them went along with the sneering crowd and challenged Jesus—"If You really are the Messiah, save Yourself, and us too!" (see Luke 23:39). The other criminal rebuked his fellow criminal, though, pointing out that they were receiving the punishment due them but that Jesus was innocent. Then the criminal asked Jesus to remember him when Jesus came into His kingdom. Jesus assured the criminal that he would soon be with Him in Paradise—and just like that, the criminal's eternal future was changed. A man who was crucified for his sin would experience glory in Heaven simply because he placed his faith in God's Son, Jesus!

As Jesus was nearing the end of His earthly life, the sun darkened, leaving the earth dark for His final three hours. As He breathed His last breath, the veil in the temple, which signified a separation of a holy God from sinful people, tore in two from top to bottom. Jesus' work in carrying the punishment of human sin was finished. Now all people can have access to a relationship with God through Jesus' death.

**DISCUSS:** Interview the pairs assigned Luke 24:1–12 to discover their who, what, when, and where. Fill in with the commentary below as needed.

- The Empty Tomb  
(Luke 24:1–12)

The day after Jesus died and was buried was the Sabbath, our Saturday. Jesus' followers were prohibited by religious law from visiting His tomb. Early Sunday morning, though, several women went to His grave with burial spices. They were going to care for His dead body—or so they thought.

**READ:** Ask a volunteer to read aloud Luke 24:2 and 3. **ASK:** What did they find at the gravesite?

The women found an open tomb—but no body in sight. They were very confused, until they saw two angels standing near them. "Why are you looking for the living among the dead?" the angels asked. "Remember how Jesus said He would be crucified and would rise again on the third day!"

The women did remember, and they ran to tell Jesus' closest disciples that He was risen from the dead. The disciples apparently didn't remember Jesus' words, because they regarded the women's account as silly. Peter, though, one of Jesus' best friends, ran to the tomb to verify their story. He walked away amazed at what had just happened.

**DISCUSS:** Interview the pairs assigned Acts 1:1–12 to discover their who, what, when, and where. Fill in with the commentary below as needed.

Forty days passed, and Jesus showed Himself to many people, including His disciples. Then He gathered His disciples together on the Mount of Olives and commanded them to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father.

**READ:** Ask a volunteer to read Acts 1:6–8. **ASK:** What did the disciples think was going to happen? What did Jesus say they would receive instead?

Jesus' followers were eagerly waiting for Him to overthrow the Roman government and set up His perfect reign on earth. But Jesus told them they didn't need to worry about when that would happen. Instead, in the meantime they would receive power through the Holy Spirit living within them. Then they were to take the good news about Jesus' death and resurrection to their neighbors, their neighbors' neighbors, and to the ends of the earth. Then, as the disciples watched, Jesus ascended up into Heaven.

**DISCUSS:** Interview the pairs assigned Acts 2:1–12, 38, 41–46 to discover their who, what, when, and where. Fill in from the commentary below as needed. **READ:** Ask a volunteer to read aloud Acts 2:1–4. **ASK:** What miraculous signs accompanied the coming of the Holy Spirit?

The disciples waited in Jerusalem, as Jesus had instructed them, until the Day of Pentecost. On that day, they were suddenly filled with the Holy Spirit. There was a loud sound, like a strong wind, and on the disciples appeared split tongues of fire. Then the disciples began speaking in languages they had not been able to speak before.

All of the noise and the strange sights drew a crowd—and that crowd was confused. Travelers from all over the known world were in Jerusalem for this important religious holiday. When they gathered around the disciples, they could hear words being spoken in their own languages, even though the men speaking those words were clearly local.

Some were completely amazed, but others mocked them, accusing the disciples of being drunk. At this accusation, Peter stood and boldly addressed the crowd.

It's important to note that though Jesus had told Peter years earlier that he would be a great leader, Peter had failed over and over again. Often Peter was too impetuous, too loudmouthed, and too ashamed of Jesus. But on the Day of Pentecost, filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter stood up and preached. He unashamedly placed the blame for Jesus' death on the shoulders of those who listened to him. He asserted that Jesus had been raised from the dead and now sat on God's right hand. Peter taught them that the Holy Spirit, Who was working mightily in that place, was what God had promised would happen. And then he invited the people into the same relationship he had with Jesus.

**READ:** Ask volunteers to read Acts 2:21 and 38. **ASK:** How could the listeners be saved?

Peter clearly explained that the only proper response to the good news of Jesus was to repent and call on Jesus' name for forgiveness.



- The Final Farewell (Acts 1:1–12)

- The Newborn Church (Acts 2)

That day about three thousand people placed their faith in Jesus, and the church was born. Though we often refer to buildings that believers meet in as churches, the church is actually all people who have believed in Jesus from this Day of Pentecost forward.

These believers were instantly changed! They banded together, helping each other by sharing their possessions and meeting, eating, and worshiping God together.

## **DECISION TIME**

### **Materials**

- Bible; lesson 1 worksheets from youth student books (32164); salvation poster (32136).

We've talked about the who, what, when, and where of these Bible passages, but most importantly, we need to understand the why and the how of these monumental events.

**ACTIVITY:** Refer students to the bottom of the Breaking News page, and encourage students to jot notes in the appropriate sections as you discuss.

**ASK:** Why did Jesus have to die on the cross? (*Our sin separated us from God, but God loves us and provided a way across that separation.*)

**ASK:** How can a person be changed by the Good News? **DISPLAY:** Use the salvation poster to explain how to be saved. Ask students to bow their heads and close their eyes. Then ask students who wish to talk more about salvation to look up at you.

## **DISCOVER**

### **Option 1: Good News = Changed Lives**

#### **Materials**

- Chenille stems; paper clips; paper; marker.

*Before class:* Write “Good News” in big letters on one sheet of paper. Write an equal sign on a second sheet. Write “Changed Lives” on a third sheet. Place the first sheet on one side of an empty table, and place the third sheet on the other side. Save the second sheet to use as indicated.

**ACTIVITY:** Hand out the chenille stems and paper clips, and instruct students to create a simple representation of one part of the Bible lesson (e.g., cross, grave, Peter, food, houses). Have students share their representations and classify their representations by placing them near the “Good News” sign or the “Changed Lives” sign. Then place the equal sign between the groups and ask students to explain why this is a true equation.



Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection meant changed lives for the early believers, but that Good News is still changing lives every day!

## Option 2: Changed Lives

### Materials

- Lesson 1 worksheets from youth student books (32164); pencils.

**ACTIVITY:** Direct students to the Changed Lives page on their activity sheets. Give them several minutes to describe how the Good News changed the lives of the people listed. Then ask a volunteer to act as a reporter and interview students as they share their thoughts.

In the lesson, we saw how God's love is powerful and can change lives. The good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus 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.



**“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 “power” in this verse comes from the same root as the word “dynamite.” The gospel, or Good News, of Jesus is like dynamite. It is powerful. It changes things. Its power is self-contained. Unlike dynamite, though, its power is not destructive. Instead, it restores a person's heart to a peaceful relationship with God.

## Option 1: Quick Work

### Materials

- Six-inch sticks or dowels; pool noodles, cut in half.

Double-jack drilling was a way miners could clear large boulders. One person would hold a large steel spike in the rock while the second person would hit the spike with a sledge hammer. After every hit, the spike holder would rotate the spike ninety degrees.

**ACTIVITY:** Have students choose partners. Give each pair a wooden “spike” and a pool-noodle “sledge hammer.” Instruct pairs to practice reciting Romans 1:16 together as they playact drilling a hole for dynamite. With each hit of the hammer and each turn of the spike, they alternate saying words of the verse. Encourage pairs to build the speed with which they can recite the verse. If time allows, have pairs compete against each other, reciting the verse while drilling their holes.



### ◀ Teacher Tip

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

### ◀ Teacher Tip

Find online videos that demonstrate double-jack drilling so you know how it works or to show to the students.

## Option 2: Fire in the Hole!

### Materials

- Small bowls; fine sand; toothpicks.

*Before class:* Put enough sand in the small bowls to cover the bottom of each bowl, one per student.

**ACTIVITY:** Give each student a prepared bowl and a toothpick. Have students use the toothpicks to write one thing they wish would change about their hearts (i.e., a sin they struggle with). **ASK:** What would happen if we lit a stick of dynamite near your sand? **ACTIVITY:** Have students shake their bowls to erase the words in the sand.

The Good News of Jesus is so powerful that it can completely erase the sins we struggle with!



### Prove It!

### Materials

- Index cards; pens or pencils.

**ACTIVITY:** Give each student an index card and a pen or pencil. Instruct students to write a way they wish their actions, words, or thoughts would change. Then shut off the lights in the room. **ASK:** What would the world be like if everyone had rejected the change of modern electricity?

When electricity became available to common people, it was no doubt a good and important change, but some may have thought it was dangerous or too costly. Those who took the leap of faith and had it installed greatly benefited from it.

Don't be stuck in the dark with an unchanged heart because you're afraid of what trusting in Jesus will cost you. He has already done the work, and placing your faith in Him will only bring the best changes to your heart.

**PRAY:** Allow students a minute or two to silently reflect on the lesson and to think about what they wrote on their cards. Then close in prayer.