














# Salt Shaker

## Sharing My Faith

### EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS



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# STRONG

## curriculum

A world weak on truth needs a strong, trustworthy message. STRONG Curriculum builds stronger churches by teaching all Scripture to produce spiritually mature believers who measure up to the stature of Christ.

### A Plan You Can Trust

The Bible has the answers to what students need most. No other book or philosophy contains God's power to save and transform lives. Because of this, we've made it our unwavering commitment to build Strong Students upon the sure foundation of God's Word. With this curriculum, your church can develop teens who will be strong defenders of the faith.

The Strong Students scope and sequence is designed around the seven teaching aims Jesus modeled in His ministry. Since these are Jesus' aims, teachers can be confident in the aims' effectiveness and purpose. Every lesson in the Strong Students scope and sequence addresses at least one of Jesus' teaching aims.

Every lesson also focuses on students' needs. We understand the challenge of teaching the Bible to today's teens because of four barriers culture has pushed on them:

- Struggles with identity
- Subjective view of truth
- Hope in a social utopia
- Belief that a career and wealth guarantee happiness

Strong Students takes care of the tough part for you by striking at the foundation of these barriers and providing a Biblical response to each one. With Strong Students, you can concentrate on communicating to your teens and helping them grow into strong believers in Christ without worrying whether you are effectively addressing the philosophies competing for their minds.

Look for the **BuildUP** icons in the table of contents and on the first page of each lesson.

### JESUS' TEACHING AIMS



**BELIEVE THE GOSPEL.** Jesus taught His students to trust in Him alone for salvation and to share the gospel with others. This aim is obviously fundamental to all the rest



**UNDERSTAND BIBLICAL ETHICS.** Jesus instructed His students to live according to moral values. These values provided them with the tools to make wise decisions.



**INTERNALIZE GODLINESS.** Jesus taught His followers to be godly on the inside. He warned them not to become like the Pharisees, with a mere outward appearance of godliness.



**LEARN DOCTRINE.** Jesus knew the importance of teaching His students the truth and identified doctrine as one of the means for spiritual growth. Wishy-washy doctrine leads to faulty practice.



**DEVELOP LIFE SKILLS.** Jesus taught His followers to meet life's challenges in a way that honored and glorified God. He gave them the skills to navigate those challenges successfully.



**UPLIFT OTHERS.** Jesus' life was all about others. Leading by example, He taught His followers to be all about others too.



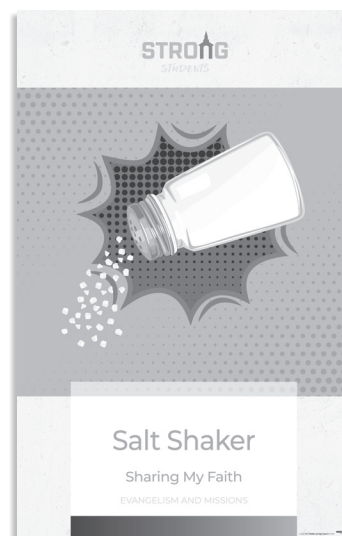
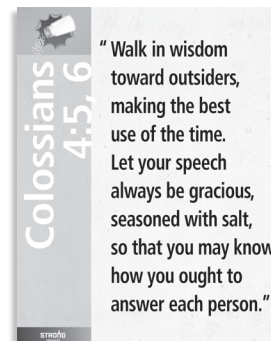
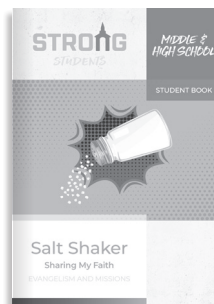
**PREPARE TO SERVE.** Jesus prepared His followers to serve in the context of local churches that were established soon after His ascension. He emphasized sacrifice and dedication.

# STRONG<sup>®</sup> curriculum

This Strong Students course presents topics on both personal evangelism and missions. The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the topics, to challenge them to increase their involvement in evangelism, and to consider whether God is calling them to missions

## Kit Contents

- ☐ Teacher Guide
- ☐ Student Book  
*Order one book for each student*
- ☐ Card with online download code  
*Includes PowerPoint, resources, Home Connection Tool, and additional teacher resources*
- ☐ DVD
- ☐ Verse Poster
- ☐ Posters



## Ordering Information

All materials are available from Regular Baptist Press.

- Web: [www.StrongCurriculum.com](http://www.StrongCurriculum.com)
- E-mail: [orders@rbpstore.org](mailto:orders@rbpstore.org)
- Toll-free orders in the United States:  
1-800-727-4440
- Fax: 1-847-843-3757
- Canada: Contact your distributor.

## The Doctrinal Basis of Our Curriculum

*A more detailed statement with references is available upon request.*

- The verbal, plenary inspiration of the Scriptures
- Only one true God
- The Trinity of the Godhead
- The Holy Spirit and His ministry
- The personality of Satan
- The Genesis account of creation
- Original sin and the fall of man
- The virgin birth of Christ
- Salvation through faith in the shed blood of Christ
- The bodily resurrection and priesthood of Christ
- Grace and the new birth
- Justification by faith
- Sanctification of the believer
- The security of the believer
- The church
- The ordinances of the local church: baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper
- Biblical separation—ecclesiastical and personal
- Obedience to civil government
- The place of Israel
- The pretribulation rapture of the church
- The premillennial return of Christ
- The millennial reign of Christ
- Eternal glory in Heaven for the righteous
- Eternal torment in Hell for the wicked



# How to Teach **STRONG STUDENTS** Lessons

# Leading a Student to Christ

STRONG STUDENTS has been designed to help you clearly present God's Word to your students. Each lesson will guide students through the Bible, encouraging them to interact with the material and apply it to their lives.

Familiarize yourself with the resources included in the kit so that you can maximize your effectiveness in the classroom. The key resources you need are Student Books, the PowerPoint (CD), and the Home Connection Tool (CD).

Encourage students to use their Student Books during each lesson so they can follow the PowerPoint presentation by taking notes. The words to fill in the blanks are either part of the outline or highlighted in orange in the sentences in the PowerPoint.

Some of the PowerPoint presentations contain additional slides that obviously tie into the teacher guide lessons. Make sure you review the PowerPoint presentations before teaching.

The student books include a daily devotional. Encourage your students to complete them either before or after coming to class.

The Home Connection Tool gives the parents of your students an idea of what you are teaching in class. Consider emailing those to each family represented in your class. You can find them on the CD or online using the download code.

## Before Each Lesson

- Read the Scripture Focus passage several times.
- Do the Time with God section of the Student Book to know what your students are studying.
- Memorize the key verses.
- Prepare the materials you will need for each activity.
- Work through the Bible Study section and carefully plan the lesson.
- Plan how you will apply the Bible lesson to your students' lives. Make sure what you say is clear and shows students how they can use the lesson.
- Pray for yourself, your students, and your lesson.

AS A TEACHER, your most important concern is the personal salvation of your students. Find out whether your students know Jesus Christ as their Savior in a way that doesn't introduce doubt in their minds. An easy and gentle way to find this out is to give your students several minutes to write out an answer to a question like, How can a person get to Heaven? Collect their answers and read them during the following week. If any of your students seem confused about salvation, you can present the gospel to them and provide the opportunity for them to receive Christ. If possible, deal with students individually.

## The Plan of Salvation

- Everyone is a sinner. No one can live up to God's perfect standard (Romans 3:23).
- Sin's penalty is death (Romans 6:23).
- God loves us and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay for our sin. Christ died in our place (John 3:16; Romans 5:8).
- When a person places his trust in Jesus' payment for sins, Christ becomes his Savior. His sins are forgiven, and he receives God's gift of eternal life (John 1:12; 5:24).
- Everlasting life begins the moment we trust in Jesus (John 3:36).
- After that, nothing we ever do will take us out of God's hand; we are secure (John 10:27–29).
- The experience of the new birth (being born into God's family) is not based on a feeling, but on confidence in God's Word (1 John 5:11, 12).

Encourage students to pray, but explain that prayer does not save a person. Prayer is how we communicate our inward thoughts to God. Ask new believers to explain what they have done and what has happened to them.

## Discipleship

Encourage new believers to read the Bible, and explain the importance of prayer. Also explain 1 John 1:9 to them so they can deal with sin in their new Christian life. Make it a priority to follow up with new believers.

# Knowing Your Students

## Description of Physical, Social, and Emotional Development

- I MAY feel developmentally out of step with my peers—behind or ahead in physical changes—as I experience puberty.
- I MAY be sensitive about my weight and body shape and worry about whether I am normal.
- I AM developing my own sense of identity.
- I AM more interested in and influenced by my peer group than by the adults in my life.
- I MAY be moody, depressed, or anxious about academic or social issues in my life.
- I AM very focused on myself and may feel both high expectations and lack of confidence.
- I AM better able to express feelings through talking, but I tend to respond dramatically, feeling that no one else has ever experienced the same feelings and emotions.
- I DO NOT always exhibit the emotional maturity that matches my more adult-like appearance. I have trouble thinking before acting; sometimes I seem silly and unfocused on the task at hand.

## Effective Responses

- Provide emotional and spiritual support and encourage students to develop a strong sense of self as a valuable person created by God.
- Accept students as they are and avoid comparing them to others. Resist stereotyping. Not every tall boy is a basketball player.
- Generate an atmosphere of acceptance and love for all, demonstrating interest and care for each student.
- Create an atmosphere of mutual respect so youth feel they are part of a community.
- Help build genuine relationships by honestly sharing mistakes and life experiences.
- Help students talk through the ramifications of their choices without asking, How could you? What were you thinking?

- Avoid arguments by remaining calm and not engaging in banter over an issue.
- Be patient with the tendency of some youth toward constant personal grooming.

## Cognitive (Learning) Development

- I MAY be hesitant to try new things for fear of embarrassing myself in front of my peer group.
- I AM developing new thinking skills and am able to think about multiple options and possibilities.
- I CAN think more deeply and significantly about abstract ideas such as faith.
- I AM developing a stronger sense of right and wrong.
- I MAY be ready to take significant steps in areas of faith and Christian growth.

## Effective Instructional Methods

- Create an open and stress-free environment where youth can learn and share concerns in a confidence-building atmosphere.
- Provide background information, a purpose to the lesson, and understanding of the text.
- Combine love, high energy, enthusiasm, and seriousness with engaging ways to present the lesson.
- Use personal stories that illustrate Biblical principles to keep students engaged in learning.
- Provide honest answers to questions.
- Stimulate thinking in areas of salvation and Christian growth.
- Help Christians work through issues of assurance of salvation and to begin studying the Bible for daily decision making.
- Encourage students to articulate Biblical principles of right and wrong that they are learning from God's Word.
- Invite volunteers to look up and read aloud Bible passages. But don't put students on the spot or ask them to do things that make them feel foolish.

## SESSION 1

# BE MISSIONS MINDED

### Scripture Focus

Gen. 3:1–15; Matt. 20:28;  
28:18–20; Luke 19:1–10; John  
20:21; Eph. 4:11–16; 2 Peter 3:9

### BuildUP Theme



BELIEVE THE GOSPEL

God is missions-minded, and He expects us to be too.

### Measurable Response

The students will consider whether missions is an intentional part of their daily lives.

### Memory Verses

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). NKJV

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10). ESV

## Teacher Preparation

- ☐ Read Genesis 3:1–15. Notice that God sought out Adam and Eve after they sinned and ruined their fellowship with Him. He sought them because He loved them and because He knew He had the answer to their suddenly troubled lives. God took the gospel to the world’s first lost souls.
- ☐ Along with God’s missionary response to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3, what other examples of God’s heart for the lost do you see in the Old Testament?
- ☐ God teaches us to be missionaries through His Word. His love, His servants in Scripture, and the life of Christ all point us to missions. Challenge yourself and your students to consider how God wants you involved in missions.

## Cultural Barrier

This session addresses students’ struggles with identity. Rather than trying to adapt their lives to fit into a cultural niche, they should focus on introducing people to Christ. They need to view themselves as God’s missionaries to the lost all around them.



# Session Starters

## Option 1—Salty Samples

### Gather

- Sampling of salty foods (e.g., potato chips, pretzels, salted caramel treats).
- Water or other drink options.

### Steps

1. Set out the salty foods for your students to sample. Provide water or other drink options.
2. Talk about the students' experiences in sampling the salty foods.

**ASK:** What did you notice about your desire for the salty foods after you started tasting the samples?

Most people have trouble saying no to a salty snack once they start eating it. Scientists have even determined that we have an emotional response to salt that causes us to want more of it. We crave salt in part because our bodies need some salt to function properly.

**ASK:** What salty foods do you have trouble putting down?

3. Transition to the Bible study.

Jesus told His disciples that they were the salt of the earth (Matt. 5:13). He meant they were to impact their world for Him by living like Him in the world. Their lives were to draw the lost to Christ. This course will help us become the "salt shakers" Jesus wants us to be. This session examines our mission to be salt in the world.

## Option 2—On a Mission

### Steps

1. Students describe instances when they were "on a mission." Perhaps they wanted straight A's in school, a personal best in an athletic event, or a prize in a music contest.
2. Discuss the students' missions.

**ASK:** What motivated you to be on your mission?

**ASK:** Did anyone play a role in determining your mission? Who?

Be aware of any food allergies your students have. Stay away from serving nuts.

Throughout this course, "salt shaker" will refer to believers and "saltshaker" to actual salt dispensers.

**ASK:** To what lengths did you go to accomplish your mission?

3. Transition to the Bible study.

In this course, we will be examining our mission from Christ. He expects us to be on His mission every day. The Bible studies will challenge us to be ready for our mission and to fulfill it.

## Bible Study

### I. What Is “Missions”?

#### A. The word “mission”

The word “mission” comes from a Latin word meaning “to send.” The word first appeared in the 1590s and meant “sending abroad.” By the 1640s, the word came to refer to an organized religious effort to enlighten a community. In 1692 a writer used the word to capture Christ’s act of sending the Holy Spirit into the world. So, the word “mission” has religious origins even though the word has several different meanings today.

**ASK:** How else is the word “mission” used today? *To describe a task a person or group has accepted; to describe a military or space endeavor; to describe a vocation or calling.*

The Biblical missions movement predates the word by over 1,500 years, starting with the early church in the first century.

#### B. The missions movement (Eph. 4:11–16)

As a movement, “missions” means endeavoring to win unreached people to Christ, to disciple them, and to establish local churches. Specifically, local churches send workers to domestic and foreign fields to introduce people to the gospel and to establish new churches.

Missions is not simply the work of helping others less fortunate than ourselves. While we may reach out through various ministries—hospitals, schools, agricultural training—believers primarily attempt to reach the lost for Christ and then establish churches. Doing good for others is a means to an end, not an end in itself. The means may be helping others materially and physically, but the end is making disciples and establishing churches.

**READ:** Ephesians 4:11–16. **ASK:** Why is establishing churches an important part of missions? *Christ works through the church to teach believers, to encourage and strengthen them spiritually, and to prepare them to reach others with the gospel.*



**ASK:** How does our church help equip us to do evangelism and mission work?

## II. Why Missions?

When church members become comfortable with their internal ministries and relationships, they could forget about the lost around the world or even around the block. But the Bible makes clear that all churches should be missions minded regardless of the church's age or size.

### A. Missions reflects God's character (Gen. 3:1–15; 2 Peter 3:9)

A church should be missions minded because missions reflects God's character. Missions begins in the holiness and love of God. God's holiness, meaning His perfection and absolute purity, points out our need for salvation while God's love motivated Him to provide the means of salvation. That God is missions minded is clear from the opening chapters of Genesis.

**READ:** Genesis 3:1–8. **ASK:** After Adam and Eve sinned, what did their actions reveal about their view of God? *They believed that God had nothing to offer them but condemnation. They didn't see God as their source of hope and deliverance from their sin. They only saw Him as a holy judge.*

Adam and Eve's attempt to hide from God also revealed that they didn't believe God is all-knowing and present everywhere. They foolishly thought they could stay on the run from God. But God's nature drove Him to seek them out.

**READ:** Genesis 3:9. **ASK:** Why did God, Who is both all-knowing and present everywhere, call out to ask Adam and Eve where they were? *His call revealed His love for them. He sought them, showing He hadn't given up on them even after they sinned against Him.*

We can assume that God regularly walked and talked with Adam and Eve. He enjoyed fellowship with them. When He came looking for them, He showed that He intended to continue His relationship with them. After Adam and Eve both shifted the blame for their sin, God pronounced the penalties they faced as sinners (3:16–24). But first, God promised them a future descendant to put an end to the terrible consequences of sin (3:15).

**READ:** Genesis 3:14, 15.

God condemned the serpent for being used by Satan to deceive Eve. He then promised a Seed of the woman, a descendant, would come to crush the serpent's head, a reference to Satan. Jesus Christ is the

offspring God promised. He came to earth as the perfect God-Man. God predicted Satan would wound Christ, a reference to the cross. But Jesus' death and resurrection dealt a mortal wound to the serpent's head, a reference to Satan's certain defeat and eternal condemnation at the end of time.

Genesis 3:15 is the beginning of the gospel message. So, God came to Adam and Eve to tell them about the gospel in terms they could understand and believe. God revealed Himself to be missions minded as soon as the need for missions arose.

The God Who sought out Adam and Eve in the Garden is the same God Who deals with sinners today. His desire to reach the lost has never changed. Peter shared that God doesn't want anyone to die in their sin.

**READ:** 2 Peter 3:9.

Over the course of the rest of the Old Testament, God reached out to humanity through various "missionaries." Joseph made God's name known in Egypt (Gen. 39—41). Moses made God known to the Egyptian pharaoh and led the Israelites out of captivity (Exod. 5—12). Daniel and his friends declared God to the Babylonians and convinced King Nebuchadnezzar that God is the most high God (Dan. 2—4). Jonah, God's reluctant missionary to the Ninevites, reached one million people for Him (Jonah 3).

## **B. Missions reflects Christ's purposes**

### **1. To seek individuals (Luke 19:1–10)**

God sent Jesus, THE missionary ambassador Who proclaimed and displayed God's love for the lost.

**READ:** Luke 19:1–7. **ASK:** With what type of person did the crowd expect Jesus to dine? *With the deeply religious and with those they considered spiritually "clean."*

Zacchaeus betrayed his fellow Jews by collecting taxes for the Romans. He made his money by charging them too much and keeping the excess. His fellow Jews would have had him last on a list of people Jesus would single out by name. They called Zacchaeus a sinner (19:7). But Jesus, by calling out Zacchaeus's name, called him "pure" and "innocent." That's what the name "Zacchaeus" means. Jesus literally said, "Innocent, you come down right now, for today I must dine with you at your house." Of course, Zacchaeus wasn't innocent of sin. Jesus knew all about His evil deeds. But Jesus also knew He had the power to make Zacchaeus spiritually pure and innocent.

**READ:** Luke 19:8–10.

Jesus came “to seek and to save” the lost and thereby make them innocent before God. Jesus’ seeking includes intention and purpose. He intentionally walked along a certain road to encounter Zacchaeus and call him by name to come down from a tree. That Zacchaeus responded positively to Jesus’ offer is seen in his desires to give generously to the poor and pay back his victims.

## **2. To become the means of salvation (Matt. 20:28)**

Jesus not only sought individuals, but He also became the means of their salvation. He went to the cross to make salvation possible.

**READ:** Matthew 20:28.

Jesus became our “ransom.” A “ransom” is the payment to free a person from bondage or captivity. Christ died so we might be free from slavery to sin. He bore our sins on the cross and satisfied God the Father’s wrath against our sin. So, as ransomed believers, we are no longer under our sin’s penalty. We have new life in Christ now and the promise of eternal life with Christ in the future.

**ASK:** Why can’t we pay for our salvation? *We are sinners (Rom. 3:19–23). God requires a perfect sacrifice to purchase our redemption.*

We take on Christ’s righteousness through faith in Christ’s death on our behalf. With Christ’s righteousness on our account, God accepts us and removes His wrath from us (2 Cor. 5:21).

Jesus obviously returned to Heaven. He’s not still physically on earth seeking the lost. But He still desires for the lost to know the gospel and to trust in Him. So, He called believers to take up His cause of seeking the lost.

## **C. Missions is our mandate (Matt. 28:18–20; John 20:21)**

After His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ called His disciples to be missions minded. He officially sent His disciples into the world.

**READ:** John 20:21. **ASK:** How do we know Jesus expected His followers to take their commission from Him seriously? *He compared His sending of His disciples on their mission to the Father’s sending of Him on His mission.*

The mission Jesus gave to His followers was a continuation of the mission God the Father gave to Jesus. Jesus’ followers understood that for the rest of their lives, nothing would be as important as carrying out Christ’s mission in the world.

Matthew elaborated on the seriousness of Christ’s mission for His followers. Matthew recorded that Jesus told His followers to share the salvation message, baptize believers, and instruct them in the truth.



**READ:** Matthew 28:18–20.

The New Testament believers were missionaries. The disciples understood Christ's mandate and put it into action. With the exception of James (and Judas), all of Christ's disciples took the gospel to foreign lands as His apostles ("sent ones"). James was a faithful witness in Jerusalem. He died as a martyr for Christ (Acts 12:1, 2).

Paul, whom Christ later called to apostleship, was the most well-known apostolic missionary. Not only did he take the gospel to many cities and lands, but he also wrote letters to missionary churches. Paul's epistles are essentially letters to mission churches. Those letters are still the church's primary source for faith and practice today.

**ASK:** What are some clues that Jesus' commission is for us as much as it was for His first-century followers (Matt. 28:18–20)? *Jesus called His followers to reach all nations, a task that has yet to be fully completed; Jesus promised to be with His followers to the end of the age, a reference to the present ongoing Church Age.*

Jesus is present with us in that He has sent His Holy Spirit to empower us to disciple the nations. So, He is still in the business of seeking and saving the lost. And He will be until He returns to take the church out of the world at the Rapture. We must make sure we take our role as His "salt shakers" seriously.

God's character, Christ's purpose, and Christ's mandate for us give us weighty reasons to pursue missions today. All of us should consider our part in God's plan to reach the world.

## Memory Builder

### Gather

- Whiteboard and markers.
- Salt Shakers in the World poster.

### Steps

1. Write Luke 19:10 on the board and review its meaning.

Jesus is the Seed God promised to Adam and Eve back in Genesis 3:15. He said the Seed would come and crush the serpent's head, a reference to Satan and his grip on the world. That crushing happened on the cross. While on earth, Jesus made clear that He came to seek and to save the lost. Before He left, He commissioned His followers, including us, to go into the world with the gospel. We are to carry on Christ's mission.



2. Display the Salt Shakers in the World poster in the middle of a bulletin board, whiteboard, or on a wall. Keep in mind the Session Application that calls for displaying saltshakers in front of the poster.
3. Discuss the verse.

**ASK:** How does Christ seek and save the lost today? *Through believers.*

**ASK:** How much thought have you given to the lost in places like Angola in Africa or Yemen in the Middle East?

**ASK:** What do you know about specific mission works in foreign countries?

4. Each student picks a country from the map to add to the end of the memory verse. Students take turns saying the verse and then adding, for example, "in Mongolia" to the end of the verse.

## Session Application

### Gather

- Plastic saltshakers purchased online or from a discount store.
- Items to personalize the saltshakers (e.g., permanent markers, felt, yarn, foam shapes, googly eyes, construction paper, rubber bands).
- Tape, scissors, glue.
- Salt.

### Steps

1. Review the session.

"Missions" means seeking to win unreached people to Christ, to disciple them, and to establish churches. Missions begins with God's holiness and love. God sought out Adam and Eve after they sinned in the Garden of Eden. Other Old Testament accounts, including Joseph in Egypt and Jonah in Nineveh, demonstrate God is missions minded. When Jesus came to earth, He made clear that His mission was to seek and save the lost. As believers, God expects us to be involved in His mission to reach the world for Christ.

2. Discuss involvement in God's mission to reach the world with the gospel.

**ASK:** Are you missions minded? How do you know?

**ASK:** What other pursuits might keep you from being missions minded?

3. Give students a saltshaker and access to the craft items. Students

create a personalized saltshaker using the craft items. Consider keeping the craft items available so your students can add to their saltshakers as they have time in the coming weeks. Students will leave their personal saltshakers in the classroom throughout this course. If possible, display them in front of the Salt Shakers in the World poster.

4. Close by praying your students would grow to be missions minded as a result of this course.

## Session Takeaways

Before dismissing the students, draw their attention to the Time with God page in their student books. Instruct them to complete the study on their own. The activity reviews key points from this session.