

# 8

# Faith to Give Away

## YOU'LL NEED

- bubbles and a bubble wand
- a noisemaker
- Bibles
- a photocopy of the "Bible-Story Name Tags" handout (p. 74)
- scissors
- safety pins
- a gift-wrapped box of bubble gum
- photocopies of the "Treasure Slips" handout (p. 75)
- aluminum foil
- ribbon

## LESSON AIM

To help kids understand that ★ it's important to tell others about God's love.

## OBJECTIVES

Kids will

- learn how Naaman's servant girl told about God's prophet,
- explore the treasures God offers those who believe in Jesus, and
- commit to caring for people by looking for opportunities to share their faith.

## BIBLE BASIS

### 2 Kings 5:1-17

This is a touching story of faith and devotion from an unexpected source. Foreign soldiers kidnap a Hebrew girl in a raid, then carry her off to work in the home of the army's commander. You'd think the child would be sullen and rebellious—ready to escape or sabotage her captors at the first opportunity. But, amazingly, this nameless girl cares for her master and urges him to go to Elisha for a cure for leprosy. Talk about loving your enemies!

We often think of sharing our faith as orally explaining God's plan of redemption. But let's not put such a crucial element of our faith life in such a small box. The girl in the story

witnessed by caring about her master's illness and expressing her faith that God's prophet could heal him. This is the key: We share our faith in any number of ways because we truly care about people and want to point them to the living God.

### **Romans 10:14-15**

It doesn't require a seminary degree to share with others the good news that Jesus offers us forgiveness and the opportunity to become children of God. The news we have to share is good news! Let's not keep it to ourselves!

## **UNDERSTANDING YOUR KIDS**

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Did you ever try to shut down a group of kids who were really excited about something? It's close to impossible! That's what makes kids so great. They're sincere and transparent and full of energy. So when they get excited about their walk with God, watch out! Great things will happen.

How do you get them excited? Let them see how God works in people's lives. Keep them in touch with the prayer life of your church. Involve them in faith-building activities in which they can make a difference, such as a workday at the home of an elderly friend or a visit to an interfaith community-service center. Let kids come face to face with people whose lives are being changed by God's power.

Use this lesson to help kids see that they can make a difference in people's lives by sharing their faith both orally and in creative, practical ways.

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## **ATTENTION GRABBER**

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### **Sob Tag**

Choose one person to be "It" and another person to be the "healer." Give the healer a bottle of bubbles and a bubble wand.

Say: **We're going to start today with a new game called Sob Tag. If It tags you, you have to kneel down and start crying and sobbing. The only way you can stop sobbing is if the healer blows bubbles over your**



## **The Lesson**

head. **One more thing—no one can run in this game. Everyone moves around the room by taking giant steps, the biggest steps you can possibly take. Let's all practice sobbing before we get started.**

Demonstrate crying and sobbing for the kids. Then say: **Great! You guys sound really sad. Let's play. Remember—no running. Ready to begin? Go!**

Every minute or so shake a noisemaker and allow different students to take the roles of It and the healer. Before kids begin to tire, stop the game with the noisemaker, then have kids take three deep breaths and sit down. Set the bubbles out of sight. Ask:

● **What was fun about this game?** (It was different playing Tag with giant steps; it sounded funny with everybody sobbing; it was fun to get bubbles blown on me.)

● **What was it like to sob and sob?** (I got tired of it; it was hard not to laugh.)

● **When do people cry like that in real life?** (When they've had an accident; when something terrible happens.)

● **What was it like to be the healer?** (I wanted to hurry and get to everyone; it was hard to keep ahead of It.)

● **Can you think of anyone in real life who's like the healer in our game? Explain.** (Jesus; doctors heal people; people in ambulances and firetrucks have to hurry to help people in emergencies.)

Say: **In our Bible story we'll find out about a prophet who had special healing power from God. He didn't need bubbles! But the real hero in the story is a bit of a surprise. Listen carefully and, at the end of the story, tell me who you think the hero is. Here's a hint: ★ It's important to tell others about God's love.**

## BIBLE STUDY

### A Little Girl Who Cared (2 Kings 5:1-17)

Read this Bible story straight from an easy-to-understand version of the Bible. Photocopy the "Bible-Story Name Tags" handout (p. 74) and cut apart the name tags for the characters in the story. Assign the roles by pinning a name tag on the student who will read that character's part. Then be prepared to cue the readers when their parts come up in the text.

Have the characters sit in a semicircle in front of the class with the rest of the students facing them.

Say to the kids who don't have a part: **You have two things to do. This story is about a man named Naaman**

### TEACHER TIP

If some characters have trouble with their parts, consider reading through the story a second time.

who was a great general, so each time you hear his name, say, "Yes, sir!"

Practice the name and response with the kids.

Then say: **Good job. Now you have one more thing to do. This story has two kings in it. Each time you hear the word "king," say, "May you live forever!" That's what people said in Old Testament times to show respect. Let's try that. King!** (May you live forever.) **Great! Now let's get on with the story. Don't forget to listen for who the real hero is. Narrator, you're on!**

Finish the story with a big round of applause. Then ask:

● **OK—who would you say is the hero of this story?**

Accept all answers and have kids tell why they chose a particular character.

Say: **My choice for the hero of this story is the little servant girl.**

● **Why do you think I chose her?** (Because she told her master about Elisha; because she cared for people even though she was a slave.)

Say: **I don't know about you, but if I got kidnapped from my home and was forced to work in another family, I think I might be a little unfriendly to the people I had to work for. Ask:**

● **Why do you think this little servant girl wanted to help her master?** (She was a kind, loving person; maybe her master's family was nice to her; she believed in God and wanted others to believe in God, too.)

Say: **Isn't it interesting that we don't even know the little girl's name? But what we do know about her is pretty important. She cared enough about her master to tell him what God's prophet could do. And ★ it's important to tell others about God's love.**

## LIFE APPLICATION

### Bub-Bub-Bub-Bubblin'!

Put enough bubble gum in a box for each child to have two or three pieces. Gift-wrap the box and place it where children will see it and wonder about it.

Pick up the box and say: **Hmm. I think I've kept you in suspense long enough. It's about time to give this away. I wonder who'll catch it.** Turn your back to the children and toss the box over your shoulder.

If more than one child grabs for the box, say: **Don't worry—I think there'll be plenty for everyone.**

### TEACHER TIP

If you have a child who isn't allowed to chew gum, give him or her a balloon to blow up instead. Rather than popping the balloon in the following activities, have the child let the balloon deflate.

Invite the child who caught the box to open it. Let everyone peek inside. Then have the child who opened the box help you toss pieces of bubble gum to everyone. Put a piece of bubble gum in your mouth and say: **I wonder if anyone can blow a bubble faster than I can!**

Have kids gather in a circle as they all blow bubbles. Then say: **Let's all blow one more bubble together. Then when I pop my bubble, you pop yours, too.**

After all the bubbles have popped, ask:

● **How was what** (name of the child who caught the box) **did like what the little girl in the Bible story did?** (He shared the good thing with others; she didn't keep the good thing to herself.)

● **What would've happened if the little girl in the story hadn't told her master about what God could do?** (He would've died; he would've been in pain for the rest of his life.)

● **What would've happened if** (name of child) **had kept all the bubble gum?** (I would've been sad; I would've asked for some.)

● **How is that like what happens if we don't tell others about God's love?** (They are left out; they don't know about God's forgiveness and the other good things they're missing.)

Have a volunteer look up and read Romans 10:14-15. Ask:

● **What does this verse mean to you?** (People need a chance to hear about God before they can believe; people can't believe in God if they've never heard of him.)

Say: **Having Jesus in our lives makes us so happy that we want to share it with everyone. We just bubble over! Quickly find a partner and blow bubbles together. Then pop your bubbles and tell each other the name of one person you want to share God's love with this week. Ready? Set? Blow!**

## COMMITMENT

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### Hidden Treasure

Before class, photocopy the "Treasure Slips" handout (p. 75), cut the slips apart, and wrap them in aluminum foil in the shape of chocolate kisses. Tie a small bow around the neck of each one, then hide the "treasures" around the room.

Shake the noisemaker to bring everyone together. Ask:

● **What good thing happened to Naaman after he**

heard about the true God? (He was healed.)

**Say: Do you know that something even better than that happens to everyone who hears about Jesus and believes in him? A whole bunch of really good things happen. I've hidden some of those things around the room. There are seven hidden treasures for you to find. Nobody can claim more than one. When you find a treasure, bring it to me. When you've found all seven treasures, we'll open them together.**

Let the children open and read the treasures. If a nonreader finds a treasure, let him or her choose an older child to read it to the class.

After all seven treasure slips have been read aloud, say: ★ **It's important to tell others about God's love—starting with your very own family. So let's make treasures you can share with your family this week—one treasure slip per day.**

Distribute scissors, pieces of aluminum foil, and photocopies of the "Treasure Slips" handout (p. 75). Have kids cut apart the treasure slips. As they're cutting, place another piece of bubble gum beside each person.

**Say: Put the bubble gum in the center of your foil. Then twist the foil around the treasure slips in the shape of a big chocolate kiss. You can put your treasure on your table at home. Each night, have someone in your family pull out a treasure slip. Then look up the Bible verse and read it together. On the last night, pull out the bubble gum and tell how you bubbled over telling others about God's love during the week.**



## TEACHER TIP

If you have time, have volunteers look up and read the verses referred to on the treasure slips.

## CLOSING

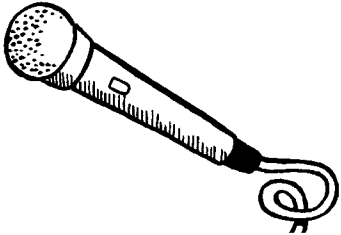
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### Treasure Circle

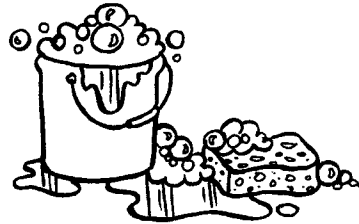
Have kids stand in a circle holding their treasures. Pray: **Dear Lord, thank you for all these treasures you give us when we believe in you. We know ★ it's important to tell others about God's love. Help us bubble over and share your wonderful treasures with others this week. In Jesus' name, amen.**

# BIBLE-STORY NAME TAGS

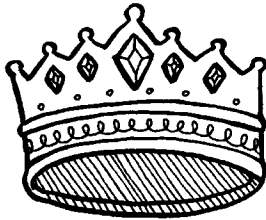
**Narrator**



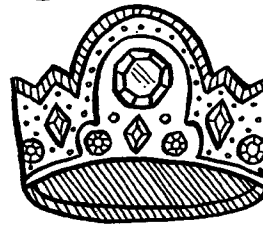
**Servant Girl**



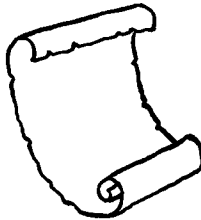
**King of Aram**



**King of Israel**



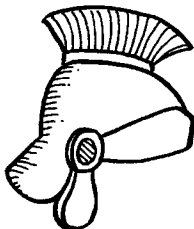
**Elisha**



**Messenger**



**Naaman**



**Naaman's Servant**



A black and white illustration of a treasure chest overflowing with gold coins, jewelry, and gemstones. The chest is on the left, and a trail of gold coins leads from it across the top and right sides of the page. The background is filled with more gold coins and small treasure items scattered across a rocky, uneven terrain.

# TREASURE SLIPS

God forgives your sins and makes you a new person.  
Look up 2 Corinthians 5:17.

God watches over you and hears your prayers.  
Look up Philippians 4:6-7.

You become a child of God.  
Look up John 1:12.

God gives you Christian friends who love you and help you grow.  
Look up 1 John 3:16-18.

Jesus gives you peace and helps you be more like him.  
Look up John 14:27.

Jesus takes you to heaven where you'll live forever with him.  
Look up John 14:1-3.

God gives you all the wonderful promises in the Bible.  
Look up Psalm 145:13.

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