

MIDWEEK EVENT

This week's main point is: We tell others about Jesus through every piece of our lives, our words and our actions.

SCRIPTURE | Matthew 5:16; 7:17-20; 28:18-19; John 4:28-30,39-42; 13:35; Acts 1:8; 1 John 1:1-4; 3:11-20

THEOLOGY CONNECTION | EVANGELISM

The duty and privilege of every Christian and of every church is to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of a person's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary efforts rest on a spiritual necessity for all people to be renewed and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. Jesus Christ commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. Every child of God has a duty to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness and by a Christian lifestyle.

CHRIST CONNECTION

When Peter and John boldly preached the gospel, the people knew they had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13). It was evident in their bold words and actions. If we know Christ, then it should be evident in our lives as well.

1

MATTHEW 5:16; 7:17-20; 28:18-19; JOHN 13:35; 1 JOHN 3:11-20

YOUR ACTIONS HELP OTHERS KNOW JESUS.

Jesus stood out because of His words and His actions, but His actions drew people in to hear what He had to say. Think about it: Jesus was clearly different. The first we really notice this is when His parents lost Him because He'd stayed behind to learn from the teachers in the temple in Jerusalem (Luke 2:41-52). This is not where most of us would expect to find a twelve-year-old boy, and the religious leaders were surprised by both His questions and understanding. But then, He went on to turn water into wine—and perform countless other miracles. He also spent time with the poor, with sinners, and with women and children—those His society and even the religious leaders gave little attention or value. Jesus prioritized time with His Father and with people. People could see that Jesus was different. Jesus said we are to live in such a way that people give glory to God for what we do (Matt. 5:16). We should be recognized as His followers by the way we live and love one another. And ultimately, we are called to go, to make disciples, and to baptize people—all of which are things we do that point to the One we follow.

- › WHEN HAVE SOMEONE ELSE'S ACTIONS "SPOKEN" TO YOU?
- › WHY DO YOU THINK PEOPLE SAY ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS?
- › WHAT DID JESUS'S ACTIONS SAY ABOUT HIM? ABOUT GOD?
- › WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR ACTIONS SAY ABOUT GOD?
- › HOW MIGHT YOU NEED TO ADJUST WHAT YOU'RE DOING SO YOUR ACTIONS POINT TO JESUS, NOT TO YOURSELF OR TO THE WORLD?

MIDWEEK EVENT

2

MATTHEW 28:20; JOHN 4:28-30,39-42; ACTS 1:8; 1 JOHN 1:1-4

YOUR WORDS HELP OTHERS KNOW JESUS.

You've probably heard the saying that actions speak louder than words, but our words still speak. Our words matter greatly. This is true in every area of life and especially evangelism. While our actions might make us look different to the world, our words will help explain why we're different. As we know, Jesus lived differently and that drew people in. But once He had their attention, He taught them about Scripture, about God, about Himself. This is why the Bible says we always need to be ready to talk about the hope that's within us (1 Pet. 3:15). Because when we're living like Jesus, people will notice a difference between us and those who are either living for the world or for themselves. Jesus has called us to be His witnesses, or to share about what we've seen and heard about Him. We see evidence in Scripture that using our words works. Just look at the woman at the well, for example. She told the townspeople about Jesus, and because of her words, they went looking for Him. When they found Him, they found that everything she said was true: they found the Messiah, the One who had come to save them. May our words and our actions also call people to seek Jesus and to say, "We have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world" (John 4:42).

- › **WHEN HAVE SOMEONE'S WORDS GREATLY AFFECTED YOU IN A POSITIVE WAY? WHAT ABOUT IN A NEGATIVE WAY?**
- › **WHY DO YOU THINK OTHERS' WORDS AFFECT US SO DEEPLY?**
- › **HOW DOES THIS HELP YOU UNDERSTAND WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT THAT WE NOT JUST LIVE LIKE JESUS BUT TALK ABOUT HIM TOO?**
- › **WHAT ARE SOME WAYS YOU'VE CALLED OTHERS TO COME AND SEE JESUS IN THE PAST?**
- › **WHICH IS EASIER FOR YOU: TO LIVE LIKE JESUS OR TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT HIM? WHY?**

WRAP UP

Give each student a sheet of paper and writing utensil. Invite them to spend some time in prayer, asking God to help them think of people they know who don't know Jesus. Then, tell them to create two columns on their papers, labeling one as "By My Actions" and the other as "By My Words." Tell them to write the person's first name at the top of the sheet of paper and think about how they know that person and what that person is like. Then explain that they should write ideas of actions they can take to show this person the love of Jesus in the "By My Actions" column. Then, in the "By My Words" column, they should write ideas of words they can say or Bible verses they can share with this person to tell him or her about Jesus. Encourage students to place these papers in their Bibles or tape them to the back of their bedroom or bathroom door. Every time they see it, they can remember to pray for this person and show them the love of Jesus through their words and actions. As you dismiss, pray that God would give students more opportunities to show and tell the love of Jesus this week.