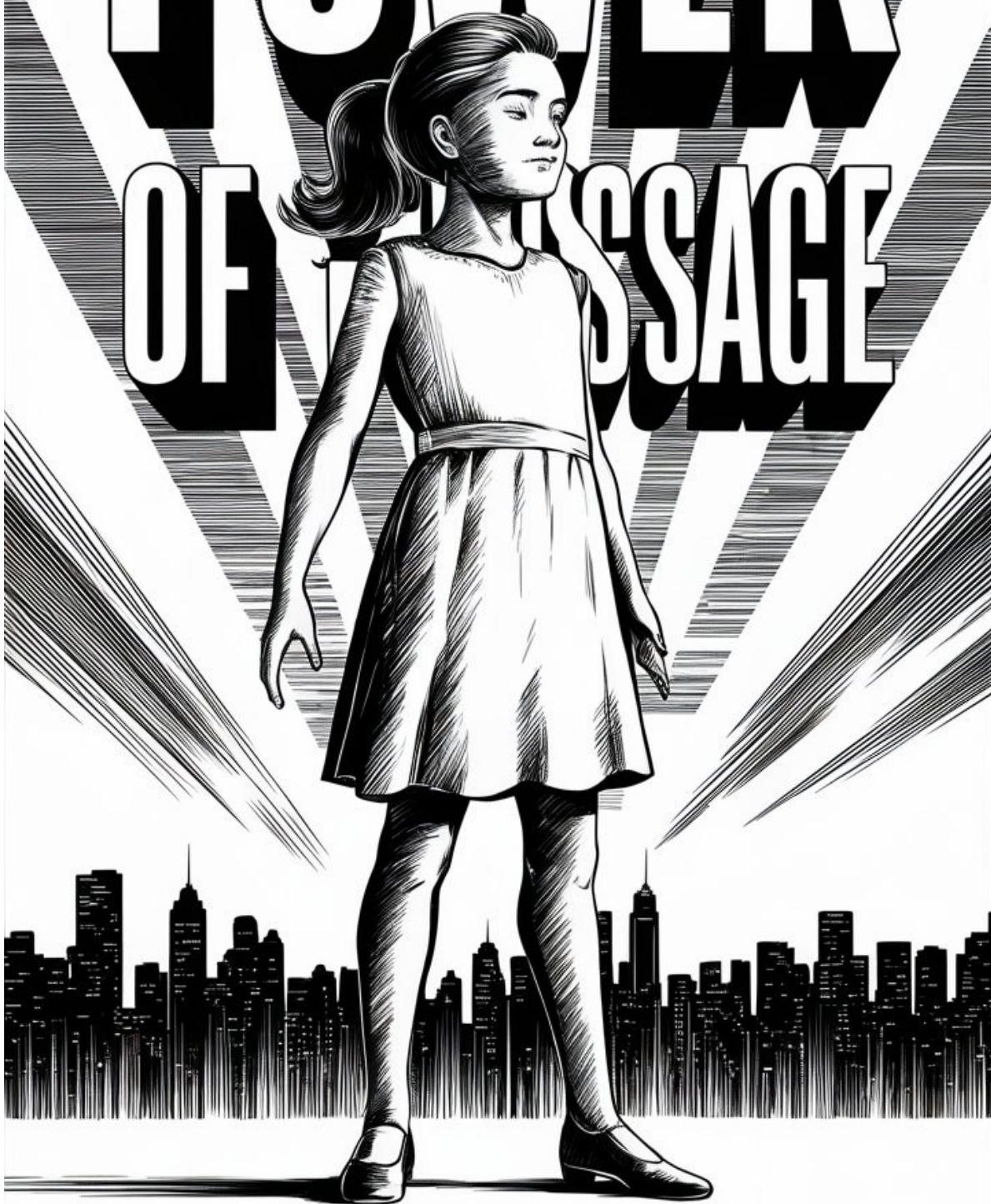


THE POWER OF MESSAGE





The Power of My Message

Bible Lesson

Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..." When the Apostle Paul says "gospel," he means the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ.

Imagine there is a video game that you and your friends enjoy playing. Next, imagine you discover a hidden key that gives you more power that helps you win the game.

Paul is saying he's excited to share the special message about Jesus, which is a power-up for our hearts. It's like getting the best secret power in a video game that helps everyone win the game of being friends with God. And just like you'd tell everyone about the good news of finding a hidden key like that, Paul wants to tell everyone about Jesus' love because it's the best news ever!

Here's a reworded version of the Kid's Church lesson for a 3rd grader:

Two Ways to Live: Your Adventure or God's Adventure

Think of life like a big adventure. You can

choose **Your Adventure**, where you make all the rules and decide what to do, but it's like going on a hike without a map, and you will get lost.

Or, you can choose **God's Adventure**! This is like following a treasure map that Jesus gives you. He's like a superhero who has already done all the hard work, so you can have the most amazing journey ever.

If you're ready for God's Adventure, here are three special steps: **Chat, Follow, Believe.**

Chat with God – Just like talking to your best friend, tell God you're sorry for not following the map and ask Him to help you start this new adventure.

Follow Jesus – It's like having Jesus as your guide in the adventure. You'll learn new things and change as you go, just like learning to climb higher or jump further.

Believe in Jesus – Keep believing that Jesus is the best guide for your adventure, and trust Him to lead you all your life.

Now, what's your next move on this adventure?

Power Point

Kids can understand the gospel.

MEMORY VERSE
Romans 1:16, For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes."

Kids Can Understand the Gospel

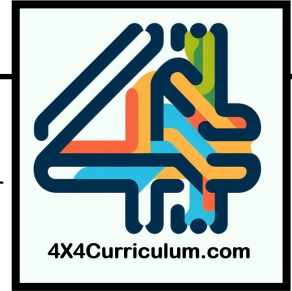
Teacher note: Your children can recognize many of the advantages of joining God's family and understand much of the logic of the gospel:

- Tell kids that God is a loving, heavenly Father and He's in charge.
- Kids can feel sorry about their own wrongdoing.
- Kids can say with sincerity that they are sorry.
- Tell kids that Jesus took their place for the punishment they deserve.
- Tell kids that Jesus came back to life and so is able to do what He says.

- Tell kids that receiving Christ means they are making a big promise that they will keep all the rest of their life, even when they are an adult.
- Lead Kids to pray with faith and enthusiasm because of their whole-hearted trust in God.

Here is the biblical basis for the above truths. You may want to read these verses with them: Romans 5:8; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; John 3:16; & 1 John 1:9.





So, You Chose God's Adventure—Now What?

Help your students learn these three truths. Show them how to do the motions for each one.

Say: after you choose God's Adventure and make Jesus your Guide,

1st



Three very important things happen:

First, "You are God's child and He will never turn His back on you."

Motions: Put your hand out like you are patting a child's head. Then, turn your head and motion behind you with both hands.



2nd



Second, "Your name is written in God's book and He will never erase it."

Motions: Put your hands out in front of you palms up like an open book. Then, make the motion of erasing a chalkboard.



3rd



Third, "You start over new every day and He will be with you."

Motions: Point up with your right finger while resting your elbow on the palm of your left hand. Move your right finger in a arc to the left and down. (Like sunrise and sunset) Then cross your arms over your chest.





Story: Trading Up

There is a true story of Kyle MacDonald in Canada. He had heard of the kid's scavenger hunt game where players took a mundane item – say, a pencil – then scattered out into the neighborhood, knocked on doors, traded up, then reconvened and voted on who had made the biggest and/or best swap.

Kyle decided to use the internet instead. He took a picture of a red paperclip and put it in the barter section of the local *Craigslist* online. After fourteen

trades over the course of a year, he traded his way from on red paperclip to a house. The house was offered to Kyle by a small town called Kipling, Saskatchewan in exchange for a part in a movie that had been traded to Kyle.

When we accept God's offer of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, we are "trading up." We trade something worthless (our old lives) for the priceless treasure of being adopted into God's family.



Object Lesson: Hard Boiled Egg

To Illustrate How God Forgives sins.



Who can tell me what sin is? *Let the children answer.*

Sin is anything that we do, or say, or think that goes against what God has told us in the Bible to be truth. It is anything that makes God unhappy. What are some of the things that we

do that go against God and make God unhappy? *Let the children answer. As they answer, write the sins on the egg with a permanent marker. Write them on top of each other so that the egg starts to look really black.*

What is this thing we are writing on? It's just a hard boiled egg. Jesus spent His life telling people about God, how much He loved them and how God wanted them to live. But Jesus didn't just live for us, He also died for us. He died for us because ALL of us have done the things that we wrote on this egg.

Name some of the things on the egg. (e.g.- We have all lied, or been unkind, or not obeyed our parents.) What did we call those things? Sin. Our sin keeps us from knowing God and following Jesus.

Start peeling the egg. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. But He didn't stay dead. After 3 days, He rose again and is now living in heaven. Jesus died on the cross for you and if you believe in Jesus and tell Him you are sorry for your sin, then He can take away your sin just like I am taking off the dark, hard peel of this egg.

When you are done peeling the egg, What does it look like and feel like now? Have different children feel the egg as they answer. (possible answers- soft, malleable, no blemishes, clean) That is what happens to our heart when we ask Jesus to forgive us for our sins, the things that make him unhappy. Our heart changes from messy and dark and hard to being clean and soft.

*** If the egg doesn't peel smoothly, it's okay! Talk about the fact that we do still sin and we aren't perfect, but we are clean and soft and ready to follow Jesus.*

Take the opportunity to lead the children in prayer and give them a chance to accept Jesus as their Savior.



For I am
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gospel of Christ
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for
★ everyone ★
who
believes ★

ROMANS 1:16