

Activity Pages

SPRING 2023
JESUS CALLS US

These Activity Pages Are Designed To:

- Engage students in a way that lecture and open-ended discussion don't.
- Gain insight on what has been learned and what hasn't.
- Encourage students to learn from one another and build vital relationships, in keeping with Proverbs 27:17 and Galatians 6:2.

Tips For Using Activity Pages:

- Instructions are on each lesson's "Involvement Learning" page (for teachers) and Activity Page (for students).
- Use these pages as optional alternatives for "Involvement Learning" activities.
- Limit individual work time and focus on facilitating discussion among learners.
- Encourage students to complete take-home work by discussing their results in the next class session.

Maximize Group Activity Time!

- Instead of viewing group activities as empty time for you as the teacher, look for opportunities to encourage and challenge your students.
- Pray silently during the activity for the participants' spiritual growth! Pray for them by name, calling on the Lord to bless each person.
- Circulate among the groups of learners and observe their interactions to discover your learners' level of spiritual maturity.
- Pray that the Spirit will fall on your classroom, equipping your students with knowledge and filling them with passion to boldly proclaim the good news.

The Prodigal Son

Lesson 1, Luke 15:11-24, NIV

Would You Rather?

Read each pair of options. Following your first inclination, write A or B on each line for which you would rather do.

- | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. | A. Eat pickle-flavored ice cream | B. Eat chocolate-covered crickets |
| _____ 2. | A. Be famous | B. Be invisible |
| _____ 3. | A. Spend a week with extended family | B. Go to your high school reunion |
| _____ 4. | A. Have a pet hippopotamus | B. Care for six cats for a month |
| _____ 5. | A. Sing karaoke in front of coworkers | B. Give an impromptu speech at work |
| _____ 6. | A. Live at the North Pole | B. Live in the desert |

If You Ask Me

Read Luke 15:11-24. Briefly describe how you would ideally respond, how you would likely actually respond, and why there might be a difference between the two answers.

1. If one of my children demanded I give him or her an inheritance today, I would . . .

2. If I received a great inheritance today, I would . . .

3. If I suddenly lost everything I had, I would . . .

4. If I made a bad decision that hurt someone else, I would . . .

5. If I feel guilty and a loved one throws a party for me, I would . . .

6. If one of my children wronged and shamed me, but returned and apologized, I would . . .

The Greatest in the Kingdom

Lesson 2, Matthew 18:1-9, NIV

What to Remove

Imagine a small child is alone in one of these rooms. As a group, list everything that would need to be removed (besides the child) to keep that child safe.

Kitchen	Toolshed	Laboratory

Like a Child

Write words in the first column that describe childlike qualities Jesus would encourage us to nurture. In the second column, describe an opposite quality. Circle any qualities in the second column that you struggle with.

Like a Child	Opposite of Childlike

Humble Behavior

Complete the sentences with action steps you can practice. Put this reminder in a prominent place. Challenge yourself to follow at least one action step through the week.

I can come to Jesus like a child by _____

I can help someone approach Jesus without stumbling by _____

I can strengthen my walk with Jesus by removing _____

Jesus Talks with a Samaritan

Lesson 3, John 4:7-15, 28-30, 39-41, NIV

Satisfaction Guaranteed

Work together in your small group to match the product or service with its marketing slogan.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. pain medication | a. "Every kiss begins with . . ." |
| _____ 2. paper towel | b. "Like a good neighbor . . ." |
| _____ 3. coffee | c. "Because you're worth it." |
| _____ 4. jeweler | d. "All day strong, all day long." |
| _____ 5. skin care | e. "Save money. Live better." |
| _____ 6. jeans | f. "Connecting people" |
| _____ 7. cell phone | g. "Quality never goes out of style." |
| _____ 8. candy bar | h. "The best part of waking up . . ." |
| _____ 9. insurance company | i. "Hungry? Why wait?" |
| _____ 10. superstore | j. "The quicker picker-upper" |

Do all of these slogans or products guarantee satisfaction? Explain your answer.

Evangelistic Elements

With your partner, consider how you can apply Jesus' evangelistic method to your lives as you discuss the following questions.

1. Jesus traveled to a Samaritan town and sat by a well-known public well during the hottest hour of the day (John 4:5-6). What is one well-known, public place in your town? What would be the best time of day or night to visit this place and have real conversations with people?

2. Jesus initiated conversation by asking the woman for something that she was qualified to give him (John 4:7). What is something that you might need that someone else would be qualified to provide?

3. Jesus knew that the woman's needs went much deeper than drinking well water, but he used this object lesson to point her to the gospel (John 4:13-14). Why is the above place popular for the people who frequently come?

4. What deeper needs are people seeking to meet at that place, and how could you introduce those people to Jesus?

Jesus Overpowers Legion

Lesson 4, Mark 5:1-13, 18-20, NIV

The Ultimate Spiritual Makeover

Complete each section on your own before sharing your responses with your small group.

1. In Mark 5:6-8, Jesus encounters a force that resists his command.

Share an example of a challenging project that you tackled that resisted your efforts.

My challenging project: _____

What did you do to overcome the resistance? _____

2. In Mark 5:9-10, Jesus finds out what he is dealing with and how many.

Share an example of a challenging project that was made easier once you identified the problem.

Problem I identified: _____

How did identifying the problem make it easier to resolve?

3. In Mark 5:11-13, Jesus gets rid of the problem, once and for all.

Share an example of how you completely disposed of a problem.

How I disposed of it: _____

What would have happened if you had left a remnant of the problem alone?

Before and After

Take some time this week to consider what transformation looks like in your life.

1. How would you describe the “before” picture: Who were you before following Jesus? Who might you be today without Jesus?
2. How would you describe the “after” picture: What has Jesus transformed in you?
3. Transformation often is a series of “reconstructions” and “renovations”—the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit. What does that process look like now?

The Empty Tomb

Lesson 5, Luke 24:1-12, NIV

Multiple Lenses

In your group, choose a short television commercial to watch on a mobile device. After watching the commercial, write below what you saw in each category.

Who was in the commercial? _____

What was the commercial selling? _____

When did the commercial originally air? _____

Where did the commercial appear to take place? _____

Compare your answers among your group members. What answers were different? What answers were similar? How do multiple viewers challenge or support the commercial's credibility?

What's the Story?

In your group, read each Gospel passage and fill in the chart.

	Matthew 28:1-10	Mark 16:1-11	Luke 24:1-12	John 20:1-18
Who?				
What?				
When?				
Where?				
Why?				

How do multiple accounts help non-witnesses believe an event?

How do different versions have a negative impact on a story's credibility?

Disciples Believe the Resurrection

Lesson 6, Luke 24:13-27, 30-31, NIV

Did It Happen?

With a partner, decide if the statements are true or false. Write **T** or **F** on each line, depending on your decision. Using a mobile device, do some quick online research to check your answers.

- _____ 1. Tug of War was an Olympic sport.
- _____ 2. Before alarm clocks, people called “knocker-uppers” ensured people were not late for work.
- _____ 3. An Ohio teenager built a house made out of toothpicks.
- _____ 4. An Illinois water tower was created in the likeness of a ketchup bottle.

What is the role of questions and evidence for belief in even the most trivial situations?

Is the statement “seeing is believing” a timeless human condition?

Extra! Extra!

List characteristics that help us identify people close to us:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Which of these characteristics may have been absent—or divinely blocked—to prevent the two travelers in today’s Scripture from recognizing Jesus? _____

Imagine that your group is a team of reporters based in first-century Jerusalem. In your group, write a short editorial article based on today’s text. The article should mention how Jesus’ resurrection changed the lives of the two travelers. _____

Jesus Cooks Breakfast

Lesson 7, John 21:1-14, NIV

Word for Word

Trust / Trusting

Belief / Believe

Obedience / Obedient

Faith / Faithful

Using the words from the above word bank, complete the following verses:

1. "When Jesus saw their _____, he said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven.'" (Luke 5:20)
2. "Don't be afraid; just _____, and she will be healed." (Luke 8:50)
3. "As _____ children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance."
(1 Peter 1:14)
4. "_____ in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5)

How are these words significant throughout Scripture?

I See Jesus

Take one minute to write your responses. Share your story with your partner.

Write about a time you can look back on and recognize Jesus at work.

Think of a situation you are facing today or this week. Where do you see Jesus?

Jesus Reinstates Peter

Lesson 8, John 21:15-19, NIV

Sheep, Sheep, Shepherd

Read through the descriptions of sheep and a shepherd. Based on what you read, answer the questions before discussing your responses with the group.

Sheep: Sheep are flock animals. They are comfortable with being part of the group. The group works because as members of a group, there is strength in their numbers. Sheep inherently know that their comfort and survival is greater in the flock instead of being on their own. However, a sheep will run if spooked or approached. Sheep know and trust their shepherd. They trust that the shepherd will lead them to graze on grass and even help get them up if they are on their back.

Shepherds: A shepherd leads a humble life. Throughout history, shepherds have often been disrespected and considered a lowly position in society. A shepherd tends to the needs of his or her flock. The shepherd needs to provide water, food, and shelter to the entire flock. But if an individual sheep needs special care, the shepherd provides that. A shepherd who shows concern and tends to the individual needs of sheep leads to a healthier flock.

How are people like sheep? _____

What makes a shepherd a good leader? _____

Revised Hollywood Ending

Think about self-redemption Hollywood movies such as *Groundhog Day*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, or *Les Misérables*. What's your favorite example of a self-redemption Hollywood movie? Why?

With a partner, brainstorm an alternative ending to a movie, an ending where Jesus shows up and offers his life-saving gift of grace.

How can this alternate ending influence you to seek Jesus' redemption instead of creating your own ending?

Jesus Makes a Promise

Lesson 9, Acts 1:1-11, NIV

In the Cloud

In your group, examine the Scriptures below and jot your conclusions regarding the significance and role of clouds.

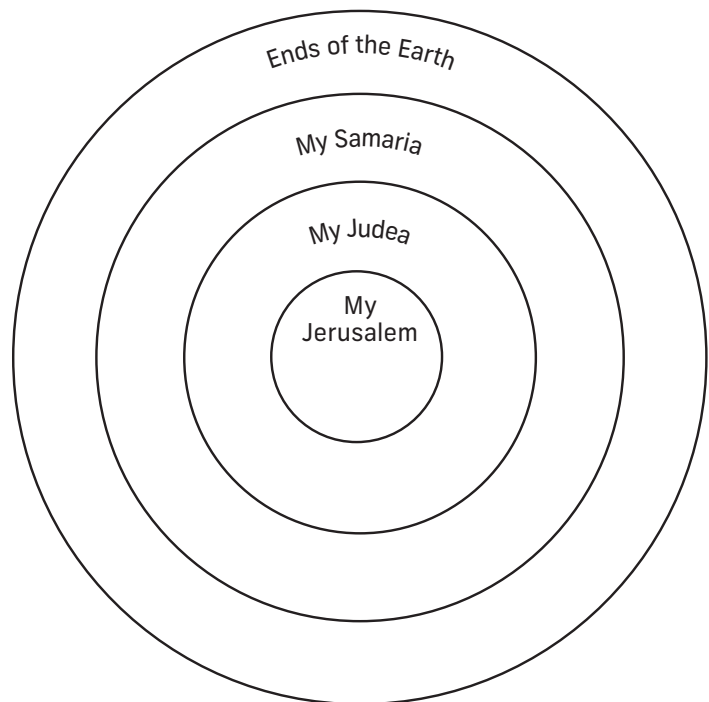
Scripture Reference	Conclusions
Exodus 13:17-18, 21-22	
Exodus 14:19-24	
Exodus 24:15-18	
Exodus 33:9-10	
Exodus 40:34-38	
Luke 9:28-35	
Revelation 1:7	
Revelation 14:14	

What seems to be the significance of the presence of a cloud during Jesus' ascension?

What do we learn about the activity of God through the presence of a cloud from texts like these?

Circles of Influence

In Acts 1:8, Jesus promised that the disciples' witness would spread from Jerusalem to Judea, then to Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. What would be the modern-day equivalent to these places for you? Fill in the spaces in the circles below. As a group, fill out how your church witnesses to each place. Then fill in how you witness in those areas or how you might in the future.



The Day of Pentecost

Lesson 10, Acts 2:1-8, 14-24, 37-39, NIV

Baptism in Scripture

Read each Scripture reference and complete the chart below. Use your answers in the chart to discuss the questions below.

<i>Scripture</i>	<i>What does it say about baptism?</i>
Matthew 28:18-20	
John 3:5	
Romans 6:3-4	
Galatians 3:26-27	
Colossians 2:11-12	
1 Peter 3:19-21	

How does Scripture describe the role of baptism? _____

What conclusions can you draw about the significance of baptism in the first-century church?

How do these texts inform modern-day practices of baptism? _____

Power, Power!

Today's text shows three understandings about the Holy Spirit. With your partner, find and write down verse references that explain why each of these statements is true.

1. The Holy Spirit has undeniably come to the church. _____

2. The Holy Spirit has come with power. _____

3. The Holy Spirit empowers the preaching of the gospel. _____

Which of the above understandings have the biggest influence on your Christian life? On the ministry of your local congregation?

Jumping for Joy

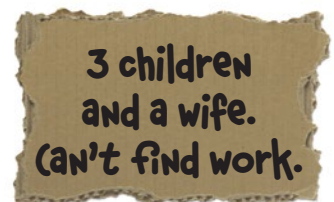
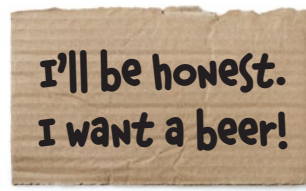
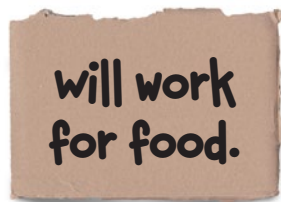
Lesson 11, Acts 3:1-11, NIV

Look Me in the Eye!

What conclusions might you reach after considering these incidents? Complete the chart and indicate your reactions.

<i>Scripture</i>	<i>Who made eye contact?</i>	<i>Why?</i>
Acts 6:8-15		
Acts 13:6-10		
Acts 14:8-10		
Acts 22:30-23:1		

Signs of the Times



Have you seen someone carrying one of these signs? How do you feel when you see someone carrying such a sign? _____

What does the person want? What does the person need? _____

What can a Christian do to help meet this person's need, even if it's different from what he or she wants?

An Ethiopian Is Baptized

Lesson 12, Acts 8:29-40, NIV

Other Old Testament Prophecies

Match the Scriptures on the left with the prophecy revealed on the right. Then answer the question below.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. Deuteronomy 18:15-19 | A. He would be born of a virgin. |
| _____ 2. Psalm 2:1-9 | B. He would be born in Bethlehem. |
| _____ 3. Psalm 118:22-24 | C. He would be preceded by Elijah. |
| _____ 4. Isaiah 7:14 | D. He would be a prophet like Moses. |
| _____ 5. Isaiah 61:1-3 | E. He would come as King. |
| _____ 6. Hosea 11:1 | F. He would be called God's Son. |
| _____ 7. Micah 5:2 | G. He would do life-affirming deeds. |
| _____ 8. Zechariah 9:9 | H. He would be pierced. |
| _____ 9. Zechariah 12:10 | I. He would be the rejected cornerstone. |
| _____ 10. Malachi 4:5-6 | J. God would call him out of Egypt. |

How can knowing Jesus' fulfillment of these prophecies help one share the gospel?

One of Several Baptisms

Look up the verses and fill in the chart to compare baptism accounts. After discussion, write your response to the question below.

Scripture	Who was baptized?	Who suggested the baptism?	Why were they baptized?
Acts 2:38-41			
Acts 8:35-38			
Acts 9:1-18			
Acts 10:24-33, 44-48			
Acts 16:14-15			

What do you conclude about baptism after reading these verses?

Saul of Tarsus

Lesson 13, Acts 9:9-17, NIV

Before and After

Look at the Scripture references below and write the summary sentence in the space provided. Talk through your responses in your group.

Scripture	What Saul Was Like
Acts 9:1-2	
Acts 9:20-22	

Here's how I know how deeply Saul's world was shaken.

Here's how I know how Saul embraced Jesus.

Called to Suffering

What unusual promise about Saul's/Paul's future ministry did God make to Ananias in Acts 9:16?

Read 2 Corinthians 6:3-10; 11:23-29. In your group, make a list of the ways Paul described how this promise came true.

Lesson 3

Satisfaction Guaranteed

1. D; 2. J; 3. H; 4. A; 5. C; 6. G; 7. F; 8. I; 9. B; 10. E

Lesson 6

Did It Happen?

1. True; 2. True; 3. False; 4. True

Lesson 7

Word for Word

1. faith; 2. believe; 3. obedient; 4. Trust

Lesson 12

Other Old Testament Prophecies

1. D; 2. F; 3. I; 4. A; 5. G; 6. J; 7. B; 8. E; 9. H; 10. C