

**TEXT** Acts 16:13-32; Mark 16:15; Luke 15:1; 24:47

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE** James 5:20

**OBJECTIVE** The students will be able to explain that Christ’s purpose for His followers is that they witness to the unsaved and endeavor to win them for the Lord.

**KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER** The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise. — Proverbs 11:30

**KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH** And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. — Daniel 12:3

**ANSWER  
TITLE:** **Telling a Friend**  
**SEARCH  
TITLE:** **The Responsibility  
of Witnessing**

**REFERENCE INFORMATION**

Members of the Early Church went everywhere preaching the Word, witnessing, bringing others to Christ, leaving an example for all others to follow. But even back in Isaiah’s time God designated His people as witnesses: “Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he” (Isaiah 43:10).

A witness is one who knows, one who has personal knowledge of a circumstance or event. *Witness* in Greek

is *martus* or *martur*, and signifies one who gives testimony to the truth, even at the expense of his own life, if necessary. It is mainly in this sense that the word is used in the New Testament. Our word *martyr* has come from this also.

The disciples who had been with Jesus were to be witnesses for Him (Luke 24:48), and when they chose one to replace Judas, they appointed one who had been a witness of the Resurrection along with them (Acts 1:22).

**YOUR OPENER**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# The Responsibility of Witnessing

**TEXT:** Acts 16:13-32; Mark 16:15; Luke 15:1; 24:47

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE:** James 5:20

**KEY VERSE:** And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. — Daniel 12:3

## RESPONSES

1. A witness as pertaining to the Gospel is one who knows the truth concerning Christ and is able to share this truth with others. A sinner cannot be an effective witness for Christ because God's Spirit is not a part of his life. Discussion of this question possibly will bring out that God may, at times, use an unsaved person to bring the light of the Gospel to another unsaved person, but the witness must have a degree of knowledge of Christ to start with, theoretical though it may be.

2. The approach used in Mark 5:18,19 is subjective; the approach used in Acts 8:35 is objective. Your students may offer either one or both approaches as the answer to the third question. While all Christians should be able to speak of Christ objectively, the resulting discussion should bring out that when they speak subjectively, telling of their own experience, there can be no debate.

3. The Apostle Paul was ordained to use both types of witnessing—to carry the Gospel to the Gentiles (objective), and to give his personal testimony before rulers and kings (subjective). Ask your students how they can know which approach to use, leading them to recognize that God must direct in the appropriate approach to be used on each occasion when they are called to witness. Some of your students may be able to cite examples from their own knowledge or experience illustrating these two approaches.

In the first chapter of Acts we are told that Jesus, shortly before leaving this earth to go back to Heaven, commanded His disciples not to depart from Jerusalem until they were baptized with the Holy Ghost who would give them power to witness. Christ's purpose for His followers today is that they witness to the unsaved and endeavor to win them for Him. All of us cannot be missionaries in foreign lands, but we can help to spread the Gospel. The man across the street needs to hear the story of Jesus just as much as the man on the other side of the ocean.

1. Define *witness* as pertaining to the Gospel. Why cannot a sinner be an effective witness for Christ?

2. Verbal communication is one way of witnessing. It can be used as an objective approach (one which points to Christ), or a subjective approach (one which points to one's own experience). Which approach is used in Mark 5:18,19? in Acts 8:35? Which of the two approaches can be used by all Christians? Why?

3. In our text, Paul is the chief speaker. As pertaining to objective and subjective witnessing, to which was he ordained? Along with the text, refer to Acts 26:9-19 for your answer.

## ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. Prior to the earthquake, we have no record of a verbal witness to the jailer by Paul and Silas. Yet there must have been something which prompted him to ask the question, "What must I do to be saved?" What might this have been?

5. Name some opportunities for nonverbal witnessing other than in times of persecution.

6. What kind of testimony might the former demoniac of Gadara have given to his friends at home? (Mark 5:1-20) Contrast this to the testimony given by the little maid to Naaman's wife. (2 Kings 5:1-3) What would be the main point of difference?

7. In our text, we are given the admonition to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." How might this apply to those who do not have the privilege of standing in the pulpit to preach?

8. Witnessing! Is it a spiritual gift given to some or a commandment to all Christians? See 1 Peter 3:15.

4. Your students' responses should culminate in the thought that there are various methods of witnessing other than verbal communication. Help your students explore the potential of Christian behavior as being a means of witnessing.

5. Suggestions offered may include: showing kindness or love, extending mercy, benevolent giving, showing patience, preferring your brother.

6. No doubt the man from Gadara told of the former life he had lived, giving specific details, but that Jesus had come and set him free from his sins and wayward life. The Bible says that all men did marvel, as well they should have. On the other hand, the little maid did not have a history of outbroken sins to talk about, but she had a knowledge of God's love and His power to heal. Bring out in discussion that each testimony has merit, if only it is given. Too often those who have been reared in Christian homes feel their testimony is limited in scope and power because they do not have a story of deliverance from great sins. Actually, every child of God has had a wonderful deliverance from sin and his witness can be used of God to win others to the Gospel.

7. The students may bring out various thoughts in answer to this question. One of the first definitions of the word *preach* is to "proclaim publicly." This does not limit us to a certain place or a certain form. When the disciples were scattered from Jerusalem under the early persecution, the Bible says, "They . . . went every where preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). Discuss with the class that this no doubt means the Christians fled persecution, but they witnessed of Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension to everyone they met. This is the real meaning of witnessing.

8. Witnessing is a command common to all. Help your students realize that because the disciples obeyed the command in Acts 1:8, we have received the light of the Gospel. How important is witnessing? Close your class session with some personal accounts of witnesses who brought the knowledge of salvation to individuals in your class.

## YOUR WRAP-UP

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

In what ways might you be witnessing without necessarily being aware of it?

Can you think of a time when someone asked you if you were a Christian or where you went to church? What were you doing, or what were the circumstances that prompted the question?

Relative to the above question, name some circumstances or situations that might be called witnessing without conversation.

What are some ways we can follow up on our personal witnessing?

On a scale of 1-10 how would you grade yourself on witnessing? Think back: How many times in the last week have you told someone about Jesus? invited someone to church or Sunday school? handed out an invitation, tract, or paper? prayed for someone you have witnessed to? How about, in the last month?

In our ANSWER story, Genny had the opportunity to witness at school. What act began that witness? How did she follow through? Have you had a similar experience?

Suppose you have an unsaved friend at school whom you care about very much. You want to give that friend something special. What is the best gift you can ever give him or her? Think about it.

What does witnessing for the Lord mean?

Do you think it's so very important or urgent to tell someone about our Lord Jesus? Why or why not?

Why is it sometimes easy and sometimes very hard to witness to someone?

When and where should you witness?

## THINGS TO DO

Being a witness for God is like being a witness in court. Make the parallel and discuss the similarities. Then have one of the students be the "witness." Have the rest of the class direct questions to him concerning salvation. Remember, a witness testifies and gives evidence.

Show your students a small mirror. Talk about how a mirror reflects light. It is not the light or the source of light, but if it is held just right it can reflect the light into dark corners where the light doesn't shine. Remind your students that,

as Christians, they are a reflection of Christ—the Source of Light in this dark world. If they will reflect Christ to others, perhaps those people will come to love Him too.

Light trick birthday candles. (Many grocery stores have them.) Bring out that God's Light, which Paul and Silas shared with others, continued to shine brightly even though some people tried to "put it out."

Ask the students to tell of something very important to them that was lost. (Be prepared with an incident of your own.) Some may have stories of things that were eventually found, some that were never found. Maybe someone will have an experience of being lost. Explain to the students that everyone apart from God is lost. Light helps reveal lost things, and we are to be "Lights." Every soul is valuable and worth seeking for.

Invite someone to your class who can tell about a personal experience of being lost. Perhaps, even his life was in danger. Was he ready to die? Did he know about Jesus? Everyone who dies without knowing Jesus, is lost eternally. How vital it is that we reach everyone we can.

## Answers for ANSWER

### Jesus Loves You!

Christians are told to tell other people about Jesus. Several countries are listed below but each one has a letter missing. When you fill in the letters you will find a name used for someone who witnesses for Jesus. Our pictures show different ways and times when you can be a witness for Jesus.

	M	EXICO
AMER	I	CA
RU	S	SIA
CH	S	WITZERLAND
N	I	NA
O	N	WAY
I	N	DIA
FR	A	NCE
AF	R	ICA
	Y	UGOSLAVIA