



MAIN POINT: Share your ideas because ideas become things.

MAIN SCRIPTURES: John 6:5-9 & Acts 9:36-42

GOSPEL MOMENT: To share takes faith; faith starts with believing in Jesus.

THE WHAT?

ME: “Tell a story about an idea you had — good or bad.”

- Turn to the person next to you and tell them about an idea you had — good or bad — and what happened next. Did you follow through on your idea?
- Once you’ve heard your neighbor’s story, say, “Thanks for sharing.” Okay, go!
- *Wrap it up by asking everyone to say together, “Thanks for sharing!” Then share your own story.*

YOU:

YOUR IMAGINATION IS AWESOME!

- Your imagination is awesome! Humans have the most active brain of any creature on earth. We can imagine all kinds of things and are constantly coming up with new ideas.
- You were created with the ability to create. You have ideas the person next to you doesn’t have.
- Let’s take a look at some of the best (or worst) ideas floating around the Internet . . .

IMAGES: The Internet’s Best (or Worst) Ideas

- *Show an image for each great (or terrible) idea you’ve found on the Internet. A Google search for “best ideas ever” and “worst ideas ever” should get you what you need.*

QUESTION: “What are some ideas that have changed the world?”

- Okay, some of those ideas might be a little weird, but there are other ideas that have actually changed the world. Can you name any? What are some ideas that have changed the world?
- *Let a few students respond (the light bulb, the car, the stuffed-crust pizza, etc.).*

TRANSITION: Today we are going to read about a guy named Andrew in the Bible who had a BIG IDEA, but he doubted it would work.

SO WHAT?

GOD: MAIN SCRIPTURE #1: John 6:5-9

- In a minute, we’re going to talk about an idea that seemed kind of crazy, but one that God used to do amazing things. But before we get there, I want to introduce you to someone

named Andrew. Andrew was one of Jesus' followers. And he had an idea, but doubted it would work.

- Some of you might know this story we're about to read. It's the story of how Jesus fed 5,000 people using just a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish. But here's what you might not know: the bread and fish were Andrew's idea!
- *Read John 6:5-9.*
- Now, I don't know exactly what Andrew was thinking in this story, but I think I can relate. Sometimes when I have an idea, but I'm not sure it will work, I say something like, "This is probably a stupid idea, but . . ." I think that's what Andrew was doing here. "This kid has some bread and fish . . . but that will never work."
- Do you ever feel like Andrew? Like you have an idea, but you're afraid it will never work?

JESUS' EARLY FOLLOWERS WERE PROBLEM-SOLVERS

- Our best ideas are sparked when we're presented with a problem we need to fix. That's just how our brains work. When we see a problem, our brains are wired to try to fix that problem.
- We can get stuck, though, when we convince ourselves a problem is too big or too difficult, or that our ideas are impossible to pull off.
- Jesus was the best at solving problems. I guess that comes naturally when you're God. But do you know what's even more amazing about Jesus? He didn't just solve every problem Himself. Instead, He invited His followers to be part of the problem-solving. When Andrew had an idea, even though he was afraid it wouldn't work, Jesus took his idea and ran with it. And Andrew's not the only one. After Jesus left this earth, His earliest followers continued to be problem-solvers.
- They understood what we need to understand. We need to **share our ideas because ideas become things**. Their ideas changed the world and the people around them.

MAIN SCRIPTURE #2: Acts 9:36-42

- I'll be honest. My favorite part of this story is that the character's name is Dorcas. But even if her name was something normal, it would still be a great story.
- *Read Acts 9:36-38.*
- Usually, when someone dies, we don't think of their death as a problem to solve. But, in this case, Jesus' followers did. They had seen Jesus raise people from the dead before, so they thought, "Maybe He can do it again." It was a crazy idea, but let's see what Peter does.
- *Read Acts 9:39-42.*
- They asked Peter to come and help, and he did. Their idea, even though it seemed a little crazy, brought Dorcas back to life and brought many others to faith in Jesus.
- **They shared their idea** (even though it may have seemed impossible) **because they knew ideas become things**.

GOSPEL MOMENT: To share your idea takes faith. Faith with us believing in the Author of our Faith: Jesus. If you don't know that Jesus loved you so much He died to pay the death penalty for your sins and that He offers free forgiveness and salvation to you if you believe in Him, then THAT is the place to start in your relationship with Jesus.



TRANSITION: Once we have accepted Jesus and His Holy Spirit is living within us, His Spirit gives us amazing ideas and dreams to share with the world.

NOW WHAT?

YOU:

ACTIVITY: Balloon Ideas

- *You'll need to pass out balloons, pens, and small scraps of paper for this activity.*
- *Maybe you've never seen one of your ideas feed a hungry crowd or bring someone back to life, but I bet there are ideas in this room that, if given the chance, really could change the world. So let's put what we've been talking about into practice.*
- *First, let's brainstorm some problems we see in the world today. What problems do you see?*
- *Write down the problems they identify, like hunger, or poverty, or homelessness.*
- *Choose one of those problems you want to see solved. Then spend a minute or two brainstorming one idea that could help solve that problem. When you've got it, write it down, fold up your piece of paper, and put it in your balloon. Give them one or two minutes to do this.*
- *Now that everyone is finished, blow up your balloon, tie it up, and stand when you're finished.*
- *It can be frightening to share your ideas with others. Sometimes we're afraid people will think our ideas are dumb. So to make it a little less scary to share your ideas, here's what we're going to do. On the count of three, very gently, float your balloon to someone else on the other side of the room. Keep going until everyone has a new balloon. Count to three.*
- *Now that everyone has a new balloon, here comes the fun part. Pop your balloon, then hang on to the idea you found inside as a source of inspiration. You might even want to read it out loud during your small group conversation.*

WE CAN SHARE OUR IDEAS

- *We are a community, just like the group we read about in Acts 9.*
- *Sometimes when we sit in a group like this, we start to believe that only certain people have ideas worth hearing. We think only the smartest people, or most popular people, or the people we consider to be leaders, have ideas worth hearing.*
- *But God created you to be creative. He designed you to have ideas that can help others and change the world. Andrew had an idea that gave food to thousands of people. Jesus' followers had an idea that brought a woman back to life and brought many people to faith in Jesus.*
- *Just like those early followers of Jesus, you have ideas that can help others and maybe even change the world.*
 - *Just like them, God wants you to share your ideas.*
 - *Just like them, we can make a difference (and maybe even change the world) if we do.*
- **So share your ideas because ideas become things.**



VIDEO: “This Too Shall Pass,” by OK Go

- As you head out the door, we’re going to play a video that we hope will remind you how much your ideas matter. Because your ideas — even the little ones — are part of a much bigger picture. And when all of our ideas come together, it might just change the world.

PRAY: God, please be with us today. Help us to have faith in you and trust you. Give us big ideas to live out and become difference makers in this world. Help us to live boldly for you and share your light with others.