**TEACHING SET UP**

Share Willingly – Week B

MAIN POINTS GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

**You have a mission here and now:**

**Share your story.**

For students to embrace their purpose-driven mission of sharing their faith

MAIN SCRIPTURES

***3****After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.****4****On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.****5****For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”* ***6****Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”* ***7****He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.****8****But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:3-8 NIV)*

***15****But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, (1 Peter 3:15 NIV)*

HOPE: MULTIPLE CAMPUSES, 1 CHURCH.

At Hope we have multiple campuses so each week there are different speakers delivering the message to different sets of students. We want to balance giving each speaker and each campus freedom to tailor the message to fit them while uniting as one church in the same direction we teach our students.

**We ask that all speakers teach the provided main point and main Scripture**. We have provided a detailed message outline, but there is freedom in how much of that you use and how much you’d like to tailor to either fit you or your campus better. Talk to your campus staff about how to best go about this for your specific week.

**We also want to unite in pointing to Jesus’ saving grace each message** – a Cross Connection segment is written in the message outline.

TEACHING OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

* The introduction is intended to connect you, the speaker, to the audience usually through a personal story or observation.
* *Speaker note: Share a story about a person or group of people who gave something away or created a chain of “****pay it forward”*** *acts of kindness. If nothing comes to mind,* [*this story*](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2014/08/21/378-people-pay-it-forward-at-fla-starbucks/14380109/) *about 378 people who paid for each other’s Starbucks drinks is a great example.*
* *OPTIONAL INTERACTIVE: Give It or Keep It*
  + *Before your program, set up two large boxes, baskets, or containers. Using the labels we've provided, label one "Keep It" and label the other "Give It." Next, collect a large quantity of objects students could throw into the boxes, like wadded up paper, small plastic balls, or pennies.*
  + *That's a pretty cool story, but I don't always find it easy to give things away.*
  + *Everyone, come up here to the front and grab a few sheets of paper. Once you've got them, wad them up into balls so you have something to throw. But don't throw anything just yet.*
  + *I'm going to give you a few scenarios. For each one, you have to vote on whether you'd "give it" or "keep it." Present a series of scenarios like these . . .*
  + *You're going through the McDonald's drive-through. When you get to the window, you learn the person in front of you has paid for your food. You could get a free lunch or you could pay for the person behind you. What would you do?*
  + *You're out shopping with your friends when you find $20 on the ground. You could share it or keep it for yourself. What would you do?*
  + *A vending machine malfunctions and gives you an extra bag of your favorite candy bar. You could give it to the person in line behind you or keep it. What would you do?*

TENSION: YOU’VE BEEN GIVEN A LOT

* Maybe you haven't found $20 on the ground recently, but the truth is you've been given a lot. You may not be rich or famous or have a perfect life, but you have a lot to be thankful for. So do I.
* So what is it about us that, when we're given a gift we didn't expect, we're often slow to share that gift? Why don't we "pay it forward" more often?
* *MIDDLE SCHOOL: Speakers may hang out here longer with middle school audiences to help them fully connect the dots*

TRUTH: GOD HAS GIVEN US A GIFT

* You are part of a big story. It's the story God has been telling to us and through us since the beginning of time. That story, as we learned last week, involves God giving us a gift — a huge, incredible, undeserved gift. He's given us life, hope, and a second chance.
* If you haven't been with us, let me recap. Because, just like any story, you can't just read the last chapter and expect to know what's going on. You've got to start at the beginning.
* This story starts with Adam, Eve, and God. God created the world. Then he created humans simply because He wanted to be in relationship with us. He wanted to know us and He wanted us to know Him. If that was chapter one, you could summarize it this way: you were made to know God.
* But then we messed everything up. Adam, Eve, you, and me — we've all made choices that damaged our relationship with God. Adam and Eve did it when they ate the fruit God forbade them to eat. You and I do it every time we make a choice that doesn't line up with what God wants for us. We damaged our relationship with God with our sin. If that was chapter two, you could summarize it like this: your sin has consequences.
* **Cross Connection:** But despite everything, God still wanted a relationship with us. He knew we couldn't repair our relationship with Him, but He knew He could. He came to earth in the form of a man (Jesus). He lived, died, and rose again in order to restore our broken relationship with Him. If that was chapter three, you could summarize it this way: Jesus can restore what you've broken.
* That's the big gift God has given us. It's the gift of His grace and of new life. But that's not the end of this story. There's a chapter fourth and final chapter.
* After Jesus rose from the dead, He spent more time with His followers. He knew He wouldn't be staying long, but His job wasn't quite finished. He still had things to do and say.
* **Acts 1:3-8: 3** “After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” 6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
* Jesus' disciples knew all that Jesus had promised. He had promised that God would set up a new kingdom on earth and restore everything through Jesus. Because of those promises, the disciples believed God would set up a literal kingdom, with a government, and that He would do it immediately. Jesus, though, had a different perspective.
* Jesus did come to set up a new kingdom, but that didn't mean a takeover of the Roman government. Yes, it meant a future eternal kingdom, but it also meant a new way of life for the people who followed God in the here and now. For the world, it started with His resurrection. For you and I, it starts with our willingness to let Jesus take control of our lives and restore us.
* But that's not the end. It's only the beginning.

TRUTH: GOD HAS GIVEN US A MISSION

* Jesus' message was never, "I'm alive! You're saved! See you in heaven!"
* Jesus' message was, "I'm alive! You're saved! Now let's get to work."
* Jesus told His disciples to be ambassadors all over the world. He gave them a message and a mission: now that you've been restored, don't keep it for yourself. Give it away.
* **You have a mission here and now.**
* **1 Peter 3:15: “**But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,”
* Because of Jesus, you have hope. But it's not good enough to keep that hope for yourself. According to Jesus, you've got to give it away.
* **You have a mission here and now: Share your story.**

APPLICATION

* There are so many people who need the hope and restoration Jesus offers. So let's get busy. . .
* **GET BUSY SHARING HOPE**. The story of God we've been exploring is so full of hope. Because of Jesus, we have access to God's extravagant love, His power to turn death into life, and a second chance. If you know Jesus, you've already received and been restored by that hope. Now your mission is to share that hope here and now.
  + You can share that hope by sharing God's story. You can tell that story in just a few sentences: "You were made to know God. The bad news: your sin has consequences. The good news: Jesus can restore what you've broken. And once you meet Him, you join His mission here and now."
  + You can also share your hope by sharing your story. Just like we read in I Peter, your story is your answer to why you have so much hope. If Jesus has restored you, it's your mission to tell others what He's done for you.
  + Give your hope away through your words.
  + **HSM+:** *For High school students, giving them space to critically think on how to live out their faith is an important, phase specific discipline to set them up for living their out faith .* **Have students get in groups and give them 3 minutes to talk together on ways they can “get busy sharing hope.” Ask some groups to share with everyone after the time is up.**
* **GET BUSY BEING HOPE.** The world needs more than just hopeful words and hopeful stories. It needs people who actually live out those stories of hope.
  + Our mission isn't just to tell the world about Jesus. It's to be Jesus in the world.
  + When you look at the world around you, what still needs to be restored? Are there people who are hungry? Then feed them. Are there people being hurt? Then help them. Are there people who are unloved? Then love them.
  + Jesus came to restore everyone and everything. And then He made us His ambassadors to make sure that happens.
  + **HSM+:** *For High school students, giving them space to critically think on how to live out their faith is an important discipline to set them up for living out their faith beyond their time with us.* **Have students get in groups and give them 3 minutes to talk together on ways they can “get busy being hope.” Ask some groups to share with everyone after the time is up.**

LANDING

* **You have a mission here and now: Share your story.**
* You’ve been given an incredible gift. Don’t keep it for yourself. Give it away. *(Gesture to your “Keep it” or Give it” boxes as you do this – if you used them)*
* You may wonder – how do I share MY story? We have a “Share Your Story” tool you’ll be going through in small groups today to explore exactly that answer!
* *Close in prayer.*