

Sunday morning
teaching plan

Date:
28th September

Vicky Bees Series

TITLE:	Be prepared. 1 Peter 3:15
THEME:	Sharing the Gospel with love and gentleness
AIM:	Understand how we might tell our story of faith to others.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Jesus' last instruction to the disciples was to go into all the world and make disciples. But how do we do this? There are many ways in which we can share our faith with others. A generation or two ago, large rallies with famous preachers converted many in one go. But today different approaches are necessary; more personal and practical. In order to be an effective witness to others, we must be aware of, not only the basic doctrines of our faith, but how that faith has impacted us. How it has changed us. We must have a story to tell. It doesn't need to be dramatic but it must be personal and truthful.

WARM UP

Play "Once upon a time". Group create a story using the story prompts and leader acts as narrator. Issue each YP with a story card. (If not got 16 YPs, some can do 2) Give time to think and devise a section of their story. Then start the story and see what happens. It should be fun and chaotic!

MAIN TEACHING

Activity 1. Go and make disciples

Read together Matthew 28:18-20, and 1 Peter 3:15

1. What does Jesus command us to do?
2. What does Peter say we should do?
3. How are the two verses connected?

Key teaching point

As Christians all of us are commanded to **GO, MAKE DISCIPLES, TEACH** and **BAPTISE**. One way to be obedient to this is to be able to talk about Jesus comfortably and with authority. To do this we need to be prepared. Our method should be **gentle and respectful**. If your parents are Christians, do you know how they came to be Christian? Have they told you their story? If not ask them to tell you.

Activity 2 We all have a story to tell.

Whilst this story is very old, it is still a powerful story of God's grace and love for the worst person. Set the scene... Nicky Cruz was a teenager in the 1950s in New York. He ran away from his abusive parents to live with his brother. He got involved with a vicious gang called the Mau Maus. He was filled with hatred and never experienced love or friendship. He became gang leader, he committed many crimes and hurt

Many people. A country preacher called David Wilkerson came to New York to try to help the gangs. He struggled to get them to see that God loved them. Eventually the worst of them, Nicky himself, became a Christian. It changed his life around completely. He went to Bible college, got married and worked with David Wilkerson to help other teenagers like he was. He is now 86 and still telling his story. Many have come to know Jesus because he tells his story.

Watch video clips about Nicky Cruz. Two trailers for the film “Cross and the Switchblade” (1970) plus an interview with Nicky about 15 years ago. (quality not good)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rsh8yaczbOs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmvz6QLI9Us>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zelqF0mamCw>

We might not have a dramatic story to tell like Nicky but, if we have given our lives to Jesus and are a Christian then we do have a story of how God has changed us. What would yours say?

Talk in pairs/ threes about something that has happened in your life you can share... good or bad.

(Be careful of sensitive issues/safeguarding)

Activity 3 What do we need to tell people ?

Discuss in small groups what 3-4 things you would need to say to someone to get the basics of the gospel across to them. (imagine you are stuck in a lift... you have 90 seconds to share the gospel!)

Get feedback and come up with a simple four part gospel message. Use flip chart to compile it.

Key teaching point. There is no one way to present the gospel. But this is a good 4 step approach.

1. **you are loved by the God** who created all things. You are His creation. He desires a relationship with you. Gen 1:27. John 3:16
2. **Sin separates you from God**, it stops you enjoying God's love. We are all sinners. We all reject God. Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Isaiah 59:2
3. **Jesus rescues you.** God sent His son Jesus to die in your place, to pay the penalty for your sin. He rose from the dead so you can enjoy a relationship with Him. 1 Peter 3:18, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, Romans 5:8
4. **Will you trust Jesus?** Faith in Him will set you free from sin and bring you into relationship with God and give you eternal life. A simple prayer of confession is enough. Romans 10:9-10, Ephesians 2:8-9.

TAKEAWAY

A5 leaflet with the 4 steps on ... plus a space to write a personal testimony of how God has helped them.

EXTRA INFORMATION

THERE MAY BE SOME WHO MIGHT LIKE TO PRAY... GIVE SPACE FOR THIS