

# SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY FEATURES

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(These 15-minute Sunday School assembly features are designed to strengthen the *On Mission To Share Jesus* emphasis this month. Make copies and distribute to department or age group leaders.)

## FIRST SUNDAY: INTRODUCTION TO *ON MISSION TO SHARE JESUS* (OMTSJ)

Today is *On Mission to Share Jesus* Sunday. (If applicable) In this morning's worship service the pastor will give us a special bracelet to wear and share. He will explain what each part of the bracelet means as we assemble it during his sermon. It will be fun and inspiring. This bracelet will help some people understand how to become a Christian, and it will give those of us who already know Jesus, a simple but powerful way to tell someone else how to know Him.

First, we will see a brief drama, then I want to share with you what it means to be *On Mission to Share Jesus*.

(In this packet are drama scripts by Dr. Dick Thomassian. You may choose the appropriate one to use here and with each of the features.)

*On Mission to Share Jesus* is a call for Christians to be Christ's witnesses, not just do some witnessing. A decision to be an *On Mission Christian* implies that a person will allow their relationship to Christ to help them accomplish what they have promised to do. There is a big difference between the two:

A commitment to be an *On Mission Christian* is a commitment to allow God to make a difference in one's life that produces evangelistic results. It becomes a joy to share the gospel because this is who you are in Christ.

As commendable as it is, a commitment to "do some witnessing" can imply that the person will do this in his or her own strength. Therefore, when he or she has fulfilled the commitment, he or she has succeeded. It is a struggle to do something that is not you, just because you promised. Many Christians are burdened with guilt. Here are Jesus' words on this matter: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke

upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11: 28-30).

Let's surrender to Jesus and become *On Mission Christians* who are *On Mission to Share Jesus*. Then, when we share the gospel, it will be Jesus working through us.

In today's worship service, we who know Christ will be asked to consider making a promise to God concerning our willingness to be an *On Mission Christian*. Let me read part of Acts 1:8: "Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Are you willing to be *On Mission To Share Jesus*? I am.

## SECOND SUNDAY: THE STRAP, THE FIRST KNOT, AND THE DARK BEAD

Last Sunday morning in the worship service all received a special *OMTSJ* bracelet. (Have some assembled to hand to those who were not there.) Those who have worn yours this week, please hold them up.

Each Sunday this month I will give you some help to strengthen what you already know about the powerful meaning of the different parts of your bracelet.

Today, we will review the first three parts of the *OMTSJ* bracelet. They are simple and clear: *The strap* is your life. The Bible says God knew about you before you were born. (Read Psalm 139:13-18.) *The first knot* represents the day you were born. *The first bead is a dark color*. Let's focus in on the first bead on our *OMTSJ* bracelet. We will share a brief story about the color, look at the meaning of the color, look at a Scripture that supports the color, and practice sharing the color with the person in the chair next to us.

Darkness covers and blocks out light. When dark clouds start moving in, the light of the sun is covered. As the storm rolls in, the sky gets darker, so that even in the middle of the day the sky can be as dark as night.

We have a problem in our lives called sin, which is much like the dark clouds. The Bible teaches that we all have a nature to sin. Sin means living how we want instead of how God knows is best for us. The Bible relates darkness to sin (see John 3:19). The dark bead reminds us that sin impacts the lives of our friends who do not know Jesus. It causes eternal darkness in a person's life.

You will probably never find a person who will not admit there is sin in his or her life. Romans 3:10 says, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." Also, Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Sin is darkness. It blots out the light and separates us from the Son, Jesus Christ. How do we let the light of the Son shine in our lives? Come next week and find out more about the red bead and the white bead.

Before we go to our classes, let's read together Romans 3:23. It's about the need that the unsaved person has. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Turn to the person next to you and practice sharing the first three parts of the *OMTSJ* bracelet: The strap, the first knot, and the dark bead.

### THIRD SUNDAY: THE RED BEAD AND THE WHITE BEAD

Last week, we learned about the strap, the first knot, and the first colored bead on our *OMTSJ* bracelet. What do the letters, *OMTSJ* mean? We are *On Mission to Share Jesus!* Who can remember what the strap represents? What about the first knot? Who can tell us about the meaning of the dark bead? Do you remember the verse? Like the dark clouds that blot out the sun, sin blots out or separates us from the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Today, we want to learn about the red bead

and the white bead. Look at it on your *OMTSJ* bracelet. Red is a bright color, which reminds us of Jesus' blood that was shed when He died on the cross.

All of us have experienced a minor cut at some point in our lives. Maybe we received a stick from the sharp point of a needle or cut from the edge of a piece of paper. We hurt and bled for a moment but probably the event was quickly forgotten. Forgotten until we bumped the spot or later saw the blood on a tissue used to clean the wound. Then, we remember the pain we experienced.

There is one pain we Christians will never have to experience and that is dying for our sins. Jesus Christ did that for us almost 2000 years ago.

As the year 2000 approaches, we will celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. We are thankful that Jesus suffered and died on a cruel cross for our sins. "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8, NIV). He shed His blood for our salvation. Christ's blood gives us eternal life. "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit" (1 Pet. 3:18, NIV). Just as Christ died for us on the cross and rose from the grave to live again, the Bible says, "He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification" (Rom. 4:25, NIV). Christ offers us eternal life if we will repent of our sins and receive God's gift of eternal life.

Now let's look at the white bead on our *OMTSJ* bracelet. White symbolizes the cleansing from sin that the blood of Christ accomplishes in our lives. Isaiah 1:18 says, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

Children make mud pies and in the process they get dirty. A man changes the oil in his car and his hands are covered with dirty oil. A

woman plants flowers and gets dirt on her hands, face, and knees. All these people are dirty and in need of cleansing. Good news: in North America, soap and water are available for almost everyone. Washing is all that is needed to be clean.

Today, as we look at the white bead, we celebrate cleansing from sin that Jesus Christ has prepared for us. When we accept Him as Savior and Lord, he washes away all sin from our life and makes us 100 percent clean. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin" (1 John 1:7, NIV). "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9, NIV).

Remember, the blood of Jesus Christ washes away all our sin when we accept Him as Lord. Read this Scripture together: Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

Practice sharing the red bead and the white bead with the person next to you.

Next week, we will learn about the blue bead on our *OMTSJ* bracelet.

#### FOURTH SUNDAY: THE BLUE BEAD

During the past few weeks we have been looking at the strap, the first knot, and three of the beads on the *OMTSJ* bracelet. This week we will look at the fourth bead which is blue. Does anyone remember the meaning of the blue bead? Blue means believe. Believe and receive. Remember John 3:16 says, "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The blue bead represents our response to God's invitation to salvation.

We've all heard the story of Peter who walked on water. He was on a boat when a storm came up. He and the other disciples looked out and saw someone walking on the water, and they were terrified. Jesus spoke, "It is I. Don't be afraid" (Matt. 14:27, NIV). Peter replied, "Lord if it's you . . . tell me to come to you on the

water" (Matt. 14:28, NIV). Jesus said, "Come" (Matt. 14:29, NIV). Peter stepped out of the boat onto the water and walked toward Jesus. The wind began to blow, and he became frightened, and began to sink. He cried out, "Lord, save me" (Matt. 14:30, NIV). Immediately, Jesus reached out and took him.

This is a story from Scripture of the Savior's love for His child. To further illustrate what it means to trust, here's a modern day story.

A small child stands at the edge of a swimming pool. In the water, his father patiently waits for his son to jump in. "Come on son. I'm here, jump in and I'll catch you."

After much encouragement from the father, and many attempts by the son, he finally takes the plunge.

Because the son knows the father loves him, and has his best interest in mind, he is able to step out in faith, believing the father will do what he promised.

This is a picture of our heavenly Father who loves and cares deeply about us. He always has our best interest in mind. All He asks of us is to trust Him, believe in Him, and step out in faith and respond to His invitation . . . "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:13).

To respond to God's love and gift of salvation you must . . .

- a) *Confess* to God that you are a sinner. Repent and turn away from your sins.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9, NIV).

- b) *Believe* that Jesus is God's Son and that God sent Jesus to save people from their sins.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

- c) *Commit* your life to Jesus and receive Him as your Savior and Lord.

"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus as Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe, and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved" (Rom. 10:9-10, NIV).

If you would like to believe on Jesus and receive Him as your personal Lord and Savior, you can respond to these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God.

"Dear Lord, thank You for making me and loving me, even when I've ignored You and have gone my own way. I realize I need You in my life, and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask You to forgive me of my sins. Thank you, Jesus, for dying on the cross and paying my sin debt, and being raised again on the third day according to the Scriptures. Please come into my heart and be my Lord and Savior. I ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Practice sharing the blue bead with the person next to you. Next week we will study the green bead.

#### FIFTH SUNDAY: THE GREEN BEAD AND THE LAST KNOT

Green is for grow. Jesus wants all of His followers to grow. The Bible says, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

When a new baby is born and brought home from the hospital, family and friends adore and care for him or her. It is a precious and wonderful time. Suppose however, that the baby does not grow. Suppose a year passes and the baby is still too weak to raise its head or crawl. Then we know there is a problem. Something isn't right.

In the same way, there is a concern when a new Christian doesn't know how to locate the various books of the Bible, or how to pray, or tell someone how to know Jesus. We should do all we can to help the new believer learn and grow in Christ. If a person has known Christ for a

year or more, and still does not know and enjoy the most basic truths resulting from a loving relationship with Jesus, we should know there is a problem. Something isn't right. Satan is winning.

The green bead reminds us of our need to grow and become more like Jesus. First we should show we are unashamed of Jesus and make public our decision to believe and receive Jesus. We should follow Jesus in baptism. He wants you to be baptized.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matt. 28:19).

Baptism is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Baptism *does not save* you. It's your public testimony that you intend to follow Jesus and live your life for Him.

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4).

It is vital to have a quiet time each day, which includes prayer and Bible reading. We should grow in our participation in worship and Bible study at church. We should learn to discover our spiritual gifts and allow the Lord to use them in His service.

Now, we come to the last knot. Who can remember what the first knot symbolized? (Our physical birth.) So, what do you think the last knot symbolizes? Our physical death or our home-going that will take place when Jesus returns. This is the promise of our Lord found in John 14: 2-3, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." This is our guarantee, our assurance, and our future in heaven.

Will you continue to wear and share your OMTSJ bracelet? I will.

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