

Bus Ride

Leader Prep

Do you ever feel overwhelmed when you read Acts 1:8? We are told to witness for Jesus “to the ends of the earth.” This is a tall order for most adults and seems like an impossible task for a child.

In Acts 1:8 we are also told to be witnesses in Jerusalem (to our local community), in Judea (to people in our surrounding area), and in Samaria (to our nation and continent), as well as to the ends of the earth (to all people everywhere). We can (and should) start by witnessing to people we meet every day—the clerk at the convenience store, the waitress in the restaurant, and the person sitting next to us on the bus.

Daniel Griffith* teaches the people in East Asia about witnessing wherever they are, whenever God provides the opportunity. A classroom skit about witnessing on the bus was done for real by a woman who had seen the skit the night before. Because she was willing to witness during her bus ride, the person sitting next to her on the bus became a believer.

Do you witness in your Jerusalem and Judea to your family, your friends, and the people you meet? Have you ever shared Christ to your Samaria—a person you met outside your immediate area? Does your church offer training to help adults, youth, and children learn how to witness? In what ways do you teach the children in your group how to witness about Jesus?

The assignments of Southern Baptist missionaries for the International Mission Board lead them to carry the gospel to the “ends of the earth.” Missionaries for the North American Mission Board share Christ throughout North America. All believers have the responsibility to help share the gospel in their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. These mission fields are to be addressed simultaneously.

Guide the children to go beyond knowing that they should tell people about Jesus to showing it by their actions every day. Pray for missionaries around the world who are witnessing where God sends them.

**Pseudonym used for security reasons.*

● **Scripture Focus:** Acts 1

● **Key Verse:** Acts 1:8

● **Materials Needed:**

- A copy of “Witnessing During a Bus Ride” for each child who will have a speaking part (p. 6)
- A large poster labeled “Acts 1:8” with columns labeled “Where, When, What,” and “How”
- Markers
- Pictures or postcards of your hometown
- Pictures or postcards of your state
- Pictures or postcards of North America
- A picture of the earth from space
- A postcard of your hometown or state for each child in your class

Acts 1:8

“ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. ”

Learning Activity

Arrange the seats in your room like the seating on a bus, with a center aisle and two seats on either side of the aisle with enough rows to seat all of the children in your class. Choose volunteers for the speaking parts in the skit, and place these children at the front of the bus. The child playing “Daniel Griffith” should sit on the bus, too, until the start of the skit.

Tell the children to pretend they are really on a bus and to act out the following situations: “We’re going around a curve! Lean to the left! A goat is crossing the road and we have to stop suddenly! The road is very bumpy!”

Explain they will act out a skit about something important that happened during a bus ride in East Asia. Guide the volunteers to act out the skit “Witnessing During a Bus Ride.”

Encourage the children to answer “yes” to the following questions by leaning to the right and to answer “no” by leaning to the left.

- Have you ridden on a bus?
- Have you told anyone about Jesus while riding on a bus?
- Have you ridden on a train?
- Have you told anyone about Jesus while riding on a train?
- Have you ridden on a plane?
- Have you told anyone about Jesus while riding on a plane?
- Have you ridden in a car?
- Have you told anyone about Jesus while riding in a car?
- Can you ride a bike?
- Have you told anyone about Jesus while riding on a bike?

Lesson

Have any of you taken a bus ride? What was it like riding on the bus? Did you or someone you were with talk to any of the people sitting near you? (*Allow the children to respond.*)

Let’s review the story about Daniel Griffith. If the statement I say is “True”, lean to the right. If the statement is “False”, lean to the left.

- Daniel Griffith told the people in the workshop in East Asia not to tell others about Jesus. **[False]**
- He told the people in the workshop to tell people about Jesus as they went about their everyday lives. **[True]**
- The skit at the workshop was about telling people about Jesus while riding on a train. **[False]**
- The skit at the workshop was about telling people about Jesus while riding on a bus. **[True]**
- The next day, a woman from the workshop was riding on a bus. **[True]**
- She was too afraid to tell the person sitting next to her about Jesus. **[False]**
- She told the person sitting next to her about Jesus, and this person became a believer. **[True]**
- God wants us to tell people about Jesus every day, everywhere we go. **[True]**

There are many places in the Bible where God tells us that the last statement is true. Let's read Acts 1:8. *(Allow someone to recite, if applicable, or select a child to look up the verse and read it aloud from the Bible.)* What does it mean to be a witness? *(Allow the children to respond.)* In court, the witnesses tell the truth to the judge and jury. Witnesses for Jesus tell others the truth about Him. But since we don't live in Jerusalem, Judea, or Samaria, how can we be witnesses for Him in these places? Let's think about each place mentioned in the verse.

The first place mentioned is Jerusalem. In Acts 1:8, Jesus was talking to people who were living in Jerusalem. For some of the people, it was their hometown. *(Hold up a picture/postcard of your hometown.)* This is a picture of *(name your town)*, our hometown. Jesus wants us to be His witnesses every day as we do things in our hometown. Where are some places you go where you could be a witness for Jesus? *(As the children respond, write their answers under the "Where" column of the "Acts 1:8" poster.)* When could you be a witness? *(Write the responses under the "When" column.)* What could you be doing (such as a sport or a hobby) when you witness for Jesus? *(Write the responses under the "What" column.)*

Now let's think about Judea. Jerusalem was in the province of Judea. It was about the size of one of our states. *(Hold up the pictures/postcards of your state.)* Jesus wants us to be witnesses for Him in *(name your state)*. Can you think of any ways we can tell people in our state about Jesus? *(Allow the children to respond. Write their responses under the "How" column on the Acts 1:8 poster.)*

When Jesus told the people to be witnesses for Him in Samaria, He was asking them to do something they would find difficult. The Samaritans had different customs and beliefs from the Jews and were considered enemies by most Jews. Jesus was saying, "Witness about Me to people outside your comfort zone—people who are not like you; even to people you may not like." *(Hold up the picture from North America.)* Jesus wants us to be witnesses for Him in North America. Can you think of any ways we can tell people in North America about Jesus? *(Allow the children to respond. Write their responses under the "How" column on the Acts 1:8 poster.)*

Jesus also said to be witnesses for Him to the "ends of the earth." *(Hold up the picture of the earth from space. Point to where your church is located.)* We're here. How can we witness to people there? *(Point to a place on the other side of the world.)* We can help missionaries by sending them money, the things that they need, and by praying for them. By doing this, we're helping these missionaries tell people about Jesus. Some of you may become missionaries some day. Jesus will use you to tell people about Him to the "ends of the earth."

Just like Daniel Griffith taught people in East Asia how to witness, you can learn how to witness. *(See the "Teaching Children to Witness" resource sheet (p. 5) for more information. Provide the children with the details of any plans you have to use "The NET for Children.")*

(Give each child a postcard of your hometown or state.) This is the starting point. Jesus wants us to start witnessing for Him in our hometown or in our state. This week, wherever you go and whatever you do, ask God to help you to be a witness for Jesus. *(Allow any children who volunteer to pray a sentence prayer for your hometown, for your state, for North America, and for missionaries around the world. Close in prayer.)*

Challenge

- Jerusalem: How can we show and tell people in our hometown that Jesus loves them?
- Judea: How can we show and tell people in our state that Jesus loves them and died for their sins?
- Samaria: How can you share Jesus with people throughout North America?
- "To the ends of the earth": Workers like Daniel Griffith teach believers around the world how to be witnesses. What can we do to help him and the other missionaries?

PARENT LETTER

(Please note that a sample parent letter is available at the end of this lesson.)

Provide children with an information sheet to take home and share with their parents. You may want to add this to any communications you send home weekly, or create a flyer or letter just for this purpose. If you plan to use "The NET for Children", customize the letter for your situation, giving specific details about this project.

Writer for This Lesson

Suzanne Krein teaches pre-teen Sunday School and 4th grade VBS at Ramoth Baptist Church. She also sings in the adult choir. She, along with other parents of competitive roller skaters, has started the Fellowship of Christian Skaters. Her secret passion is writing Christian science fiction. She currently resides in Stafford, Virginia.

Provided by the Mission Education Team of the North American Mission Board.

© Copyright 2007, North American Mission Board, SBC. All rights reserved. Southern Baptist churches have permission to photocopy lesson for church use only. Please send all inquiries or permission requests to NAMB Mission Education Content Development, 4200 North Point Pkwy., Alpharetta, GA 30022 or e-mail missionedu@namb.net.

Unless noted, Scripture quotation in this lesson has been taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Holman CSB®, and HCSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission.

Teaching Children to Witness

Would you like to teach the children in your class about witnessing? Share the following information with your children.

If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, you can share this information with other children. If you have not accepted Jesus as your Savior, this information will tell you how you can do that if God is leading you to do so.

Even though Jesus died on the cross for my sins, I learned that just knowing about Jesus was not enough for God to be with me forever. Jesus wanted to give me a new life. He described it in the Bible. "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10, NIV).

But to have that new life, the Bible told me I must do three things:

1. Repent of my sins—"Repent, then and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out" (Acts 3:19, NIV). Repenting meant that I had to turn from those things I was doing that were not pleasing to God. I had to ask God to forgive me for those things, promise Him that I would avoid doing them, and then ask Him to help me do what is right.
2. Believe—"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16, NIV). Believing meant that I recognized Jesus died for me and that He is the only way for me, and for all of us, to get to heaven.
3. Receive—"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12, NIV). Receiving Him meant that I had to invite Him into my life to be my Lord and Savior.

I knew I needed a change in my life. I wanted God to be with me and I wanted to be with Him forever in heaven. I wanted to have the new life Jesus talked about. So I did what the Bible told me to do and I did it with all my heart. God then forgave my sin and gave me eternal life. Now I know that God is with me and will be with me forever. I now have eternal life.

If you truly want to have this new life in Jesus, then pray this prayer or one like this in your own words to God:

"Dear God, Thank You that You love me. I believe Jesus died for me and is alive today. I know Jesus is the only way for me to get to heaven. I know that I sin, and that my sin is against You. I want to turn from my sin. Please forgive me of all my sins. Help me to obey and please You the rest of my life. Jesus, I invite You to come into my life to be my Lord and Savior. I choose to live for You instead of myself. Thank You for hearing me and answering this prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

For the full presentation, visit www.kidzplace.org and click on "Intentional Evangelism" under the "Children's Leader Resources" list on the right. Select "The NET Presentation for Children." You can download the following free resources:

- "My Story"—a booklet each child can complete that gives his or her personal testimony
- Bible verse puzzles for verses that have to do with the plan of salvation
- Instructions for using "The NET for Children"

Witnessing During a Bus Ride

Daniel Griffith: My name is Daniel Griffith. I am a worker in East Asia. One day I was teaching a class about witnessing. I taught the students how to tell people about Jesus. I had them do a skit. Two people pretended they were sitting next to each other on a bus. One of them was a Christian.

Person 1: Hello. Where are you going?

Person 2: I am riding to a city far away. This will be a long bus ride for me.

Person 1: It will be a long ride for me, too. I'm glad that I can pray while I am riding.

Person 2: What do you mean, pray?

Person 1: When I pray, I talk to Jesus. I believe in Jesus as my Savior. I love to talk to Him.

Person 2: Tell me more about Jesus.

Daniel Griffith: A woman was watching the skit. The next day, the woman was riding on a bus. She witnessed to the person sitting next to her on the bus.

Woman: Jesus died on the cross for you and for me. Would you like to become a believer in Jesus?

Person 3: Yes, I would. What do I have to do?

Woman: Pray with me.

[The woman and person bow their heads and silently pray.]

Daniel Griffith: You can witness for Jesus, too. You can tell people about Jesus when you are riding on a bus or on your bike. You can witness for Jesus wherever you are.

Dear Parent,

In today's meeting, the children learned that they can witness for Jesus wherever they go. They learned about a woman in East Asia who witnessed to someone while she was riding on a bus. To prompt your child to share about this (and to allow you to reinforce this lesson), ask your child the questions that follow. If you need additional information, contact your child's leader.

1. What class did Daniel Griffith teach to a group of believers in East Asia? (*Witnessing*)
2. What does it mean to witness to people about Jesus? (*Tell people about Jesus*)
3. What skit took place during the class? (*Witnessing on a bus*)
4. What did the woman do the day after the skit while she was riding on a bus? (*Led the person next to her on the bus to become a believer in Jesus*)
5. Where is your Jerusalem? (*Local community*) Where is your Judea? (*Area surrounding your local community*) How can you witness to people in your Jerusalem and in your Judea?
6. What does Samaria mean? (*Your nation and continent*) How could you witness to these people?

Read Acts 1:8 with your child. Discuss the meaning of the verse.

This week, work with your child to show and tell the meaning of this verse in at least one way. Pray with and for your child that he or she will learn how to become an effective witness for Jesus.

Have you trusted Jesus as your Savior? If not, read through the ABCs of Salvation.

ABCs of Salvation

A-dmit that you are a sinner. Repent, turning away from your sin. (Read Romans 3:23; 6:23; 1 John 1:10; Acts 3:19; and 1 John 1:9.)

What Does It Mean?

Admit means being willing to say something is true. **Sin** is doing something wrong that makes God unhappy, that breaks one of God's rules. Every person is a **sinner**, except for Jesus who never sinned. **Repent** means turning completely around, away from sin and towards God.

B-elieve that Jesus is God's Son and accept God's gift of forgiveness from sin. (Read John 3:16; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:8-9; and John 1:11-13.)

What Does It Mean?

We can't earn salvation by being good. God gives us the **gift** of salvation because He loves us. He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. Jesus then rose from the dead so we might have eternal life through Him. This gift provides **forgiveness** from sins for anyone who **accepts** (willingly receives) this gift.

C-onfess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. (Read Romans 10:9-10, 13.)

What Does It Mean?

Confess means to say with your mouth, in other words, to tell somebody! What do you tell them? You tell them about your **faith** in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. **Faith** means trusting, even when you don't completely understand. Trusting Jesus as your **Savior** means you believe that He saved you from your sins. Trusting Jesus as your **Lord** means He is the boss of your life—He's the one in charge!

If you want to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, pray this prayer.

Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I have chosen to do things my way. I want to turn from my sins and follow You. I believe You died for my sins and rose again. Forgive me of my sins. I accept Your gift of salvation and trust in You as my Lord and Savior. Amen.

Welcome to God's family. Tell someone what you have done. Find a church where you can grow and learn more about following God.