

# Good Gossip

## John 1:35-51

Big Idea: When you know who Jesus is you'll want to tell others, so they'll know how good he is too.

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### Instructions

The conclusion of this story needs to be memorised.

### Requirements

- Narrator
- Three actors who play multiple roles (preferably all males)

### Script

Gossip (pause) is when you talk about someone to other people.

And it's usually unkind and untrue.

But - there is such a thing as good gossip.

Talking about someone to someone else - and it's all good - it's all true.

John 1 shows us good gossip in action.

The day after Jesus was baptised, John the Baptist saw Jesus again.

### Actions

Storyteller stands in the middle of the stage. Actors stand in a line behind storyteller, hidden.

Actors step out either side of Storyteller - two on one side, one on the other, the two mime gossiping about the other.

Storyteller turns - gossipers look guilty, the other one looks hurt. All actors move back behind Storyteller.

Actor 1 steps out from behind Storyteller, acting as John the Baptist.

And John cried out, "Look. The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Two of John's followers heard what John said.

As soon as they heard John's words, they left John and followed Jesus.

One of these men was Andrew.

Now Andrew had a brother named Peter.

And the very first thing Andrew did was - go and tell his brother.

When Andrew found Peter he said, "We've found him! We've found God's promised King."

And as soon as Peter heard what his brother said, Peter followed Jesus.

The next day, Jesus met a man named Philip.

Jesus said to Philip, "Follow me."

And the very first thing Philip did was go in search of his friend Nathanael.

Philip found Nathanael sitting under a fig tree.

Philip shook Nathanael and said, "We have found him! The one Moses and the prophets said would come. His name is Jesus. He grew up in Nazareth."

Actor 1 points to an imaginary Jesus and mimes actions consistent with words spoken by the Storyteller.

Actors 2 and 3 step out from behind the Storyteller, hands to ears and respond to Actor 1's 'words'.

Actors 2/3 follow imaginary Jesus (i.e. follow in direction of Actor 1's point) leaving Actor 1 behind. All actors walk and end up behind Storyteller.

Actor 2 steps out from behind Storyteller.

Actor 1 steps out from behind Storyteller on the other side.

Actor 2 goes in search of Actor 1.

Actor 2 grabs Actor 1 by both hands and mimes actions consistent with words spoken by the Storyteller.

Actor 1 responds to the words and heads in direction Actor 2 has come from. Both end up behind the Storyteller.

Actor 3 steps out from behind the Storyteller.

Actor 3 responds to an imaginary Jesus.

Actor 3 goes in search of Actor 2.

Actor 2 steps out from behind Storyteller and mimes sitting under a fig tree - half asleep. Actor 1 steps out from behind Storyteller and mimes being the fig tree.

Actor 3 shakes Actor 2 and mimes actions consistent with words spoken by Storyteller.

Nathanael was not convinced - could anything good come out of Nazareth?

But Philip begged Nathanael to come and see for himself.

So Nathanael decided to go and see for himself.

Jesus saw Nathanael and he said...

"I saw you while you were sitting under the fig tree. I saw you before Philip told you about me."

Nathanael fell to his knees,  
"Teacher, you are the Son of God.  
You are the King of Israel."

Actor 2 shakes head in disbelief and shrugs shoulders.

Actor 3 mimes more begging.

Actors 2 and 3 walk around behind the Storyteller.

Actor 1 steps out from behind the Storyteller on one side. Actor 2 steps out from behind the Storyteller on the other side.

Actor 1 mimes actions consistent with words spoken by Storyteller.

Actor 2 falls to knees - mimes actions consistent with words spoken by Storyteller.

(Narrator moves to centre stage and addresses the audience)

Good gossip!

When you hear something good,  
something amazing, you tell everyone.

And when you meet someone good,  
someone amazing, you want everyone  
to come and meet him too.

Andrew told his brother Peter.

Philip told his friend Nathanael.

And they all came to meet Jesus.

They met Jesus - God's Son - God's  
promised King.

And then they all followed him.

Children, when you know who Jesus is  
you'll want to tell others.

You'll want to tell them so they'll know  
how good he is too.

And like these men they'll follow Jesus  
all the days of their life.

# 4. Good Gossip

**John 1:35-51**

Big Idea: When you know who Jesus is you'll want to tell others, so they'll know how good he is too.

## Game: Train Shunting

Need:

- Clear open space
- Whistle (to stop children if they're going too fast)

Instructions:

- Ask children to form teams (approx. 10 per team).
- One member of each team goes to the opposite side of the space to the designated start line and turns back on his/her team.
- They are the 'train engine'.
- The 'train engine' holds his/her arms bent at a 90 degree angle - hands out in front.
- On 'Go' the 'train engine' walks backwards towards his/her team, like a 'train' backing up.
- When the 'train engine' reaches his/her team, the child first in line, joins the 'train engine' by holding onto his/her elbows.
- The 'train engine' then moves forward (with both children locked together) across the space until they reach the start line.
- Repeat with both children backing up and locking on another child.
- Repeat until all children in the team have locked onto the 'train'.
- Warn children not to go too fast or the 'train' will derail.
- Derailed 'trains' have to start again.

Conclusion:

- The aim was for each engine to get carriages to latch on and so become part of a big train.
- In John 1, Andrew did not want his brother Peter to miss out.
- So he went and found him and told him - Jesus, the one God had promised would come!
- Philip went and found Nathanael.
- He too did not want his friend to miss out.
- When Andrew, John, Peter, Philip and Nathanael found out how good Jesus is they left everything to follow him.
- When you know who Jesus is you'll want to tell others - so they'll know how good he is too.
- And they'll want to follow him too.

## Game: Pass It On

Need:

- Clear open space
- Soft balls, one per line

Instructions:

- Ask children to form lines with their friends (good to have girls with girls and boys with boys).
- Each line is given a ball.
- Children have to pass the ball down the line without using their hands.
- They can use their arms, feet, legs... even tucked under their neck.
- The first team to have passed it down the line wins.
- Repeat, restricting passing by using legs and feet only.

Conclusion:

- The first team to pass the ball down the line won.
- Today we saw people pass the good news about Jesus, one to another.
- Most of the time gossip is bad.
- Bad gossip is when we say cruel or unkind things about others.
- People love to pass on bad gossip.
- But there is good gossip.
- And the best good gossip is about Jesus.
- So, when you know who Jesus is you'll want to tell others - so they'll know how good he is too.

## Introductory Activity: Testimony

### **Option 1** (ideal option if possible)

- Ask around and see if there is a 'passing on the gospel' story in your church - person A shared gospel with person B, then person B became a Christian, person B then shared it with C and then person C became a Christian.
- Have them each share their part of the story (i.e. who told them about Jesus and what they did). It would be great if a child was somewhere in the group.

### **Option 2**

- Have a leader share how he/she became a Christian.
- If possible, share about who shared the gospel with the person who then told him/her the gospel.

### Conclusion:

- People gossip when they shouldn't and they hurt others.
- But sometimes people don't gossip when they really should!
- Children, we all know good gossip.
- Jesus is great!
- So we've got to gossip about how good Jesus is so others can know him and follow him too!

## Singing

See page 5 for song suggestions. Sing 2/3 songs about sharing with others about how good Jesus is.

## Memory Verse

John 8:12 (see page 12 for instructions on how to teach it)

## Small Group Time

Need:

- Copy of the booklet from last week titled, Who Is Jesus? One booklet per child. **Note:** do not send this booklet home until the end of this unit.
- Set of coloured markers or pencils
- Set of International Children's Bibles (ICB)

Icebreaker:

- Have you ever missed out on something because no one told you about it?

Read John 1:36

- John called out, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Why does John call Jesus God's Lamb?  
(lambs were killed in payment for sin, death is the only payment God will accept for sin, Jesus' death is the only way the punishment for our sins could be taken away from us)

Booklets:

- Open up to the page titled, Good Gossip!
- In the spaces write the names of the people who told others the good news about Jesus and the people who heard, who then followed Jesus.
- Read the following verses to find the answers:

John 1:35-37, 40

John 1:41-42

John 1:43

John 1: 45-46

Discuss:

- Is gossip normally good or bad?  
(bad, it's when we talk about people when they're not there, it's usually unkind and hurtful)
- Look back over the verses and find all the things people said about Jesus that was 'good gossip'. Write all the things people said about Jesus beside their names on the 'Good Gossip' page of your booklet.  
(Look, the Lamb of God! We have found the Messiah! We've found him - the one Moses wrote about! You are the Son of God!)

Revision Activity:

- Look at the brainstorming activity on the titles of Jesus (last page of booklets).
- Was 'Messiah' one of the titles you recorded for Jesus?
- If not, add it to your list.

Read John 1:47-50

- Nathanael took some convincing to come and see Jesus. He was not sure. The town Jesus had come from was not known for producing quality men. What changed Nathanael's mind? (Jesus told him what he was doing the day before when Philip told him, Jesus knew things about Nathanael that no ordinary man would know, Nathanael immediately recognised that Jesus is God)

Conclusion:

- Jesus is God's Son.
- Come to earth to do away with sin.
- The King promised long, long ago, who knows everything about everyone.
- So, when people hear how good Jesus is, they follow him.
- And then they tell everyone they know how good he is, so they too can follow him.

Application (select from options below):

- Are you good at gossiping about Jesus?
- Who was the last person you told about Jesus?
- What are three good things you love about Jesus?
- Who can you tell one of those things to this week?

## Prayer Time

Ask the children to pray for the person they'd like to tell the one good thing about Jesus to this coming week.

Praise Jesus for how good he is.



## Craft: Chatterbox

### Need:

- Find the page titled, How To Make A Chatterbox. (John 1-4 Resource Pack - Ages 8-11)
- Square sheet of paper, one per child
- Set of coloured pencils or markers

### Instructions:

- Follow the instructions and make a chatterbox.
- Write words on the top flap (i.e. when the flap is chosen, these words are spelt out and the chatterbox is moved): good gossip, great gossip, fantastic gossip, the best gossip, unbelievable gossip...
- On the secondary flaps, they can write numbers (i.e. when the flap is chosen they count that number).
- Under the last flap have them write something they have learnt about Jesus from John's gospel so far this term. Examples:

Jesus came to take away the sin of the world.

Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus is the King God promised would come.

If you believe in Jesus you will become a child of God.

Jesus made the world he would die for.

- Once complete, children can try out their chatterbox with others.