



LESSON 4:
God Helps Christians Go!

GOD HELPS CHRISTIANS GO!

LESSON 4

The book of Acts is the story of the early church obeying Jesus' command to "go into all the world and preach the gospel." In this lesson, children will hear stories of those early Christians and also learn the truth that God is the one who helps Christians share the gospel. Children will be challenged to take the good news to those around them with the help of the Holy Spirit who empowers them to be witnesses for Christ.

A missionary story, memory verse, game, and other ideas are also included in this guide to help children develop a heart for missions. Whether you're leading at home or teaching at church, you can choose and use the ideas that best fit your teaching situation. Suggested printable visuals and activity pages are included at the end of this document. PPT slides are included separately.

Lesson Overview

Big Idea: God helps Christians share the gospel!

Key Verse: Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses."

Lesson: God Helps Christians Go!

Mission Story: Ida Scudder

Activity: Gospel Witness

Review Game: Alphabet Points

Song Suggestions: Enjoy these songs as you learn about believing and sharing the gospel. (Available for family use on YouTube*)

- "Children All Around the World" by Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEFPress.com)
- "Go & Make Disciples (Matthew 28:19)" by Kids Enjoying Jesus (YouTube.com/KidsEnjoyingJesus)
- "GO!" by Yancy Ministries (WorshipHouseKids.com)

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BIG IDEA!

God helps Christians share the gospel!

Prepare: Big Idea Visual (*printable, PPT*)

Say: Can you remember the first person that told you about Jesus? Who was it? The person who first told me was (*share who it was*). Have you ever told someone about Jesus? Were you nervous or excited? We're all here today because God helped someone tell us about Jesus. That's our Big Idea for today: *God helps Christians share the gospel!* Gospel means good news. The gospel is the good news that Jesus can save people from sin. God uses people who have already believed this good news to do the job of sharing it with others. It's the amazing way God designed for his family to grow!

Do: Ask "What's the Big Idea?" and then have the children turn to the person next to them and say, "God helps Christians share the gospel!" Do this again, and have them each tell someone else. Reinforce this key concept throughout the entire teaching time by asking "What's the Big Idea?" and having everyone respond.



KEY VERSE: ACTS 1:8

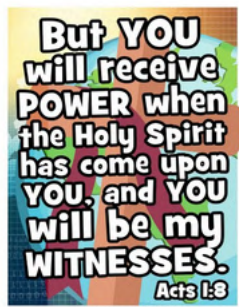
"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses." Acts 1:8a

Prepare: Bible, Acts 1:8a Visual (*printable, PPT*), ball or inflatable globe

Do: Tell about a time that you were a witness to something exciting or significant. Explain that you were a witness and that word is in the verse. Read Acts 1:8a from your Bible as the children listen.

Say: This is actually the last thing Jesus told his disciples right as he was going back to Heaven! Jesus told his disciples that they would receive power from God when the Holy Spirit came to them. The Holy Spirit is called "the Helper" because when someone believes in Jesus, God gives them the Holy Spirit to help them understand and obey the Bible and know what God wants them to do. The Holy Spirit also gives us power (strength) to witness, which means to tell others about Jesus. A witness tells what they know is true. So a witness for Jesus tells what Jesus has done for you. You don't have to use fancy words or be a grownup to be a witness for Jesus. You can share some Bible verses and share how you came to know Jesus, and you are being a witness! Not every Christian is supposed to be a pastor or missionary, but Jesus wants every Christian to be a witness for him by sharing the Gospel. What's the Big Idea? *God helps Christians share the Gospel!* It takes courage and strength to tell about Jesus, and the Holy Spirit helps you do that if you've believed in Jesus as your Savior.

Do: Have the children sit in a circle and pass the ball around as you say the verse. The last child to get the ball gets to say the reference in a fun voice. Do this as time and interest allow.



Encourage children to regularly bring and use their Bibles as you teach. This helps them become familiar with using their Bible and emphasizes the importance of God's Word. If possible, help them find and bookmark the memory verse in their own Bibles.



LESSON: GOD HELPS CHRISTIANS GO!

If desired, you may want to personalize this opening activity by using an online translator to make signs in the languages of the places where your church is supporting missionaries.



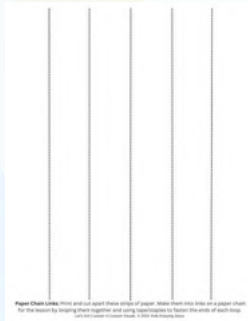
Prepare: Bible, Lesson Visuals (*printable, PPT*), strips of paper linked together to form a chain, a sheet of paper rolled up like a scroll

Do: Cut apart the phrases in different languages and tape them up around the room ahead of time. As you begin, have the children go look at the various words and try to guess what each one means.

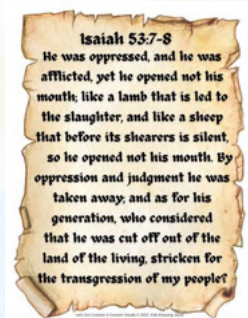
Say: These signs all say something super important that everyone in the world needs to hear. Can you guess what it is? They all say, "Jesus can save you from sin." This is the gospel! It's the best news in the whole world and it's for people everywhere. Jesus told Christians to go share this good news and he promised to help them do it. (*Read Acts 1:8.*) Then God did something awesome to prove he would help Christians share the good news about Jesus. He used lots of different languages to do it. (*Read Acts 2:1-4.*) God the Holy Spirit came to help the Christians. He made them able to speak other languages that they didn't even know! They were suddenly talking with words they couldn't even have said just a few moments earlier! Only God could do that! This special miracle was God's way of showing he was with the Christians to help them witness about Jesus. There was a huge crowd from all over the world gathered in the city at that time and they were all amazed that everyone could understand what the Christians were saying even though they all spoke different languages. The huge crowd gathered to listen as the Christians talked about the awesome things God had done and how Jesus could save them from sin.

Do: Have some children go stand by each language sign to represent people from different parts of the world and have them gradually move back toward you as you read Acts 2:5-11. You could have them move one step closer each time you read the name of a place people in the crowd were from.

Say: God used this awesome miracle to help the Christians share the good news about Jesus with people from many places who spoke many different languages. Thousands of people believed in Jesus and were saved from sin that day! It was awesome! After this, the Christians were very bold about sharing the gospel with others because they knew God was right there with them to help them do it. If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, God wants to help you share the Gospel too! What's the Big Idea? *God helps Christians share the gospel!* God probably won't help you by making you speak in languages you've never learned, but he will give you courage to talk to other people about Jesus. As you read the Bible and pray, he will help you learn and remember what to say when you're sharing the gospel. God could have chosen many different ways to share the gospel, but his plan is to use you, me, and all the other Christians. (*Read Romans 10:13-14.*) People around the world who speak every language need to hear about Jesus. God can use you to help them hear the gospel. What's the Big Idea? *God helps Christians share the gospel!* Let's look at some more ways God helped Christians in the Bible share the gospel.



A printable template for the paper chain links has been included with the other printable resources at the end of this leader's guide.



If desired, you could write or print Isaiah 53:7-8 on the piece of paper before you roll it up like a scroll so the children can unroll it and read exactly what the Ethiopian was reading.

Do: Read each passage as the children act it out with the paper chain. Use the questions to discuss how God helps Christians share the gospel.

- **Read Acts 4:1-4.** Have some children pretend to be the Christians sharing the gospel and then have others pretend to arrest and threaten them by putting the paper chain on their wrists.
- **Ask:** What happened to the Christians as they shared the gospel?
- **Read Acts 4:18-21.** Have the children wearing the chains pretend to boldly respond to those who threatened them.
- **Ask:** Why didn't the Christians quit when they were arrested and told to stop?
- **Read Acts 4:29-30.** Have the children remove the chains and pretend to pray.
- **Ask:** What did the Christians ask God to give them after they were released?

Say: The Holy Spirit helped the Christians by giving them boldness to share the Gospel. What's the Big Idea? *God helps Christians share the gospel!* If you have believed in Jesus to save you from sin, God can give you boldness to share the gospel too. God can give you boldness by helping you be brave enough to tell someone else about Jesus even if it makes you nervous. He can give you boldness by helping you want to share the gospel even when it's difficult. God can also give you boldness by helping you be willing to go to another country as a missionary someday. You can ask God to give you boldness to share the gospel. Let's look at another true story to learn more about God helping Christians share the gospel.

Do: Read each passage as the children act it out with the paper scroll. Use the questions to discuss how God helps Christians share the gospel.

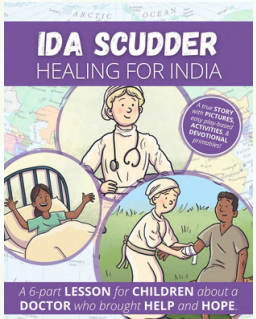
- **Read Acts 8:26-28.** Have some children pretend to walk in the desert like Philip and ride in a chariot while reading the scroll like the Ethiopian.
- **Ask:** Who brought Philip to this person who needed to hear about Jesus?
- **Read Acts 8:29-31.** Have the children pretend to run to the chariot and get in.
- **Ask:** Who helped Philip want to share the gospel with this man?
- **Read Acts 8:34-35.** Have the children pretend to tell the man about Jesus.
- **Ask:** What did Philip use to explain the gospel to this man?

Say: God helped Philip share the gospel by bringing him to someone who needed to hear it and giving him the Bible to help him explain it. If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, God will also give you opportunities to share the gospel. He will bring people into your life who need to hear about Jesus. He has also given you the Bible so you can study and learn more about Jesus and be ready to tell others about him like Philip was. The good news about Jesus is something everybody in the world needs to hear. Let's ask God to help us and our missionaries to share the gospel with others.

Respond: If possible, have several children gather under each different language sign from the lesson intro and pray together for God to help Christians share the gospel with people in your own community and around the world.



MISSION STORY: IDA SCUDDER



For more information about Ida Scudder and more ideas and pictures to help you share this story with children, download this free missionary story at KidsEnjoyingJesus.com.

Encourage the children to pray for opportunities to tell other people about Jesus. Challenge them to also ask God if maybe he wants them to serve as a missionary someday.

Prepare: Ida Scudder Visual (*printable, PPT*), globe/map

Say: What do you want to be when you grow up? We're going to learn about someone named Ida Scudder who knew exactly what she did not want to be when she grew up. She said she would never be a missionary and she would never live in India. Can you guess what she eventually did?

Do: Point at India on the map and show the picture of Ida Scudder.

Say: Ida Scudder's parents were missionaries in India when she was a little girl and she experienced how difficult life could be there. There were so many sick and hungry people who needed help. This made Ida feel sad, so she decided she wanted to be rich and live somewhere more comfortable when she grew up. "I will not live in India and I will not be a missionary," she decided.

But one night, 3 men came to her father's door, asking Ida to help their wives who were dying. They refused to have her father come, because they would only let a woman doctor help their wives. But Ida wasn't a doctor and couldn't help them. She found out later that all 3 women had died. She saw that there was a huge need for female doctors in India. She prayed and decided God was telling her to come back to India as a doctor to help women.

It was hard work for Ida to complete medical school and learn a new language so she could be a missionary doctor in India, but at last she was ready. Next, she needed a hospital where she could help women, but where would she get money to build a hospital? She asked God to provide and he did. A rich man heard about her plans for the hospital and gave her more money than she had asked for! The hospital was built and many people came to Dr. Ida for help. As she treated diseases and injuries, Ida would tell her patients that God loved them and sent his perfect Son, Jesus, to save them from sin.

Soon there were many people coming to the hospital. In one year, Ida treated more than 12,000 patients! Ida was the only doctor in the hospital. She needed more help to take care of so many patients. So Ida started a nursing school to train Indian women to be nurses! With the help of these new nurses, she was able to care for 30,000 patients in a year. Later Ida also started a school to train Indian women to be doctors. With more nurses and doctors to help, they were able to open an even bigger and better hospital. This medical facility is still open today and treats more than a million patients every year!

Ida's hospital grew to be world famous for the excellent care people received there. Doctors would travel thousands of miles from other countries to visit and learn about new and better ways to care for their patients. Millions of people have been helped and heard the good news about Jesus because of this facility. Ida hadn't wanted to be a missionary, but she was so glad God had helped her have a heart that was willing to serve him as a missionary doctor. It was worth it! You can ask God to help you have a heart that's willing to serve him too.



ACTIVITY: GOSPEL WITNESS

Prepare: Bible, super hero toy or picture, pictures of missionaries

Say: What's your favorite super power? My favorite super power is _____. In our lesson today, God gave the people who believed in Jesus the power to be witnesses for Jesus. Everyone who believes in Jesus has this power. It doesn't look like a superpower that you might see in made up stories. It's way better than that because it's real and it helps Christians all around the world be willing to share the gospel. Let's practice being witnesses for Jesus right now.

Do: Have each child pair up with someone else and have them take turns sharing parts of the gospel with each other. Use the questions below to prompt and guide their conversations.

- What could you tell them about God's love?
- What could you say to help them understand what sin is?
- What could you tell them about who Jesus is?
- What Bible verse could you use to tell them about Jesus?
- How would you tell them about Jesus dying and rising again?

Say: Having the power to help other people learn about Jesus is greater than any superpower. If you have believed in Jesus to save you from sin, ask God to help you share the gospel with others. If you have never believed in Jesus to save you from sin, you still need to believe in Jesus for yourself. *(Read John 3:16.)* Believing in Jesus means more than just believing he's real. It means trusting that he really is God's Son who really took the punishment for your sin by dying on the cross and coming back to life again. It means you know you deserve to be punished for your sin, but you trust Jesus to save you from that punishment because he died for you. If you'd like to know more about believing in Jesus to save you from sin, please come talk to me when I'm done teaching. I'd love to tell you more. When you believe in Jesus to save you from sin, he will rescue you from the punishment for your sin and give you power to help other people learn about him too!

Be sure to tell children when and where they can meet you if they want to discuss believing in Jesus. Read and explain John 3:16 as you talk with children who respond. Ask thought-provoking questions like the following to make sure the child understands the truths of the gospel: Who is God? What is sin? Who has sinned? What did Jesus do to save you from sin? Why do you want to believe in Jesus as your Savior?



ACTIVITY PAGE

Prepare: Lesson Activity Page (*printable*), art supplies

Do: There is an activity page with discussion questions, the key verse, the Big Idea, and a picture to color for each lesson in this series. You can use this as a final activity to engage children at the end of your class, as a discussion guide for a small group time, or you could send it home with them and encourage families to complete it at home. Challenge them to use the picture to tell someone else about what they learned.

Idea: You could offer an incentive such as stickers, candy, team points, or other small prizes for everyone who brings back their completed activity page to the next class.





REVIEW GAME: ALPHABET POINTS



Prepare: alphabet letter magnets, blocks, or cards (*printable*), container, review questions, paper and pen to keep score

Say: There are more than 7,000 languages spoken in the world. Some of these languages don't have a written alphabet! Missionaries are needed to learn and write down these languages so the people can learn to read the Bible in their own language. We're going to play a game with our alphabet while we review what we've learned about missionaries and God's great rescue plan.

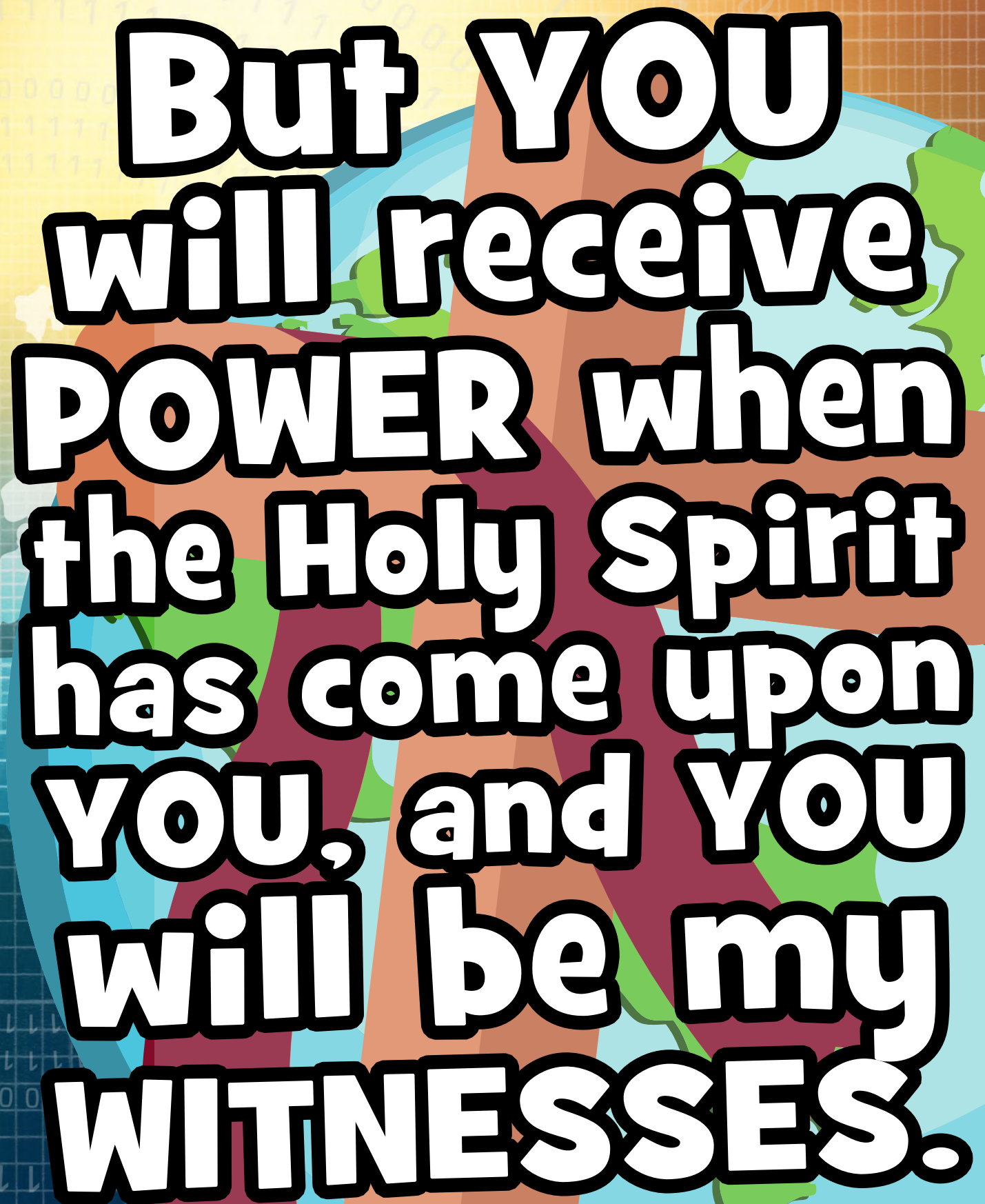
Do: Put the letters in a container. Prepare questions to review what you have recently taught. Divide the children into teams and have the teams take turns answering review questions and grabbing a letter from the container. Each team gets 1,000 points for correctly answering the question. If the letter the child grabs is one of the letters in their first or last name, they get an extra 1,000 points for each time the letter appears in their name! (Ex: If Ashley Alden grabs the letter "E", she gets 2,000 bonus points because the letter "E" appears twice in her name. If Nathan Hamilton grabs the letter "N", he gets 3,000 bonus points because the letter "N" appears three times in his name.)

Review Questions:

1. What's the Big Idea? (*God helps Christians share the gospel!*)
2. Can you say Acts 1:8? (*Have children say the verse.*)
3. What miracle did God do to help many people hear the gospel all at once?
(*He caused the disciples to speak in different languages and tell people about Jesus that way.*)
4. What sometimes happened to Christians when they told people about Jesus? (*They were arrested and thrown in prison.*)
5. Who did Philip tell about Jesus? (*An Ethiopian who had been reading the book of Isaiah.*)
6. Who sent Philip to tell the Ethiopian about Jesus? (*God sent Philip to him.*)
7. How did Ida tell people in India about Jesus? (*She became a missionary doctor, started a hospital, and trained nurses and doctors, all while telling people about Jesus.*)
8. What are some things you can tell someone about who Jesus is and what he did? (*Jesus is God's perfect Son who came to earth to die for our sins. He died and rose again and you can believe in him to be saved and be with God forever.*)



GOD
HELPS
CHRISTIANS
share the
GOSPEL!



**But YOU
will receive
POWER when
the Holy Spirit
has come upon
YOU, and YOU
will be my
WITNESSES.**

Acts 1:8

يسوع يستطيع أن
يخلصك من الخطية

Arabic

예수님은 당신을 죄에서
구원하실 수 있습니다

Korean

UJesu angakusindisa
esonweni

Zulu

İsa sizi günahтан
kurtarabilir

Turkish

ព្រះយេស៊ូវអាចសង្គ្រោះ
អ្នកពីអំពើបាប

Khmer

Isus te poate
salva de păcat

Romanian

Yesu anaweza kukuokoa
kutoka kwa dhambi

Swahili

Ο Ιησούς μπορεί να σε
σώσει από την αμαρτία

Greek

ישוע הוא
המשיח

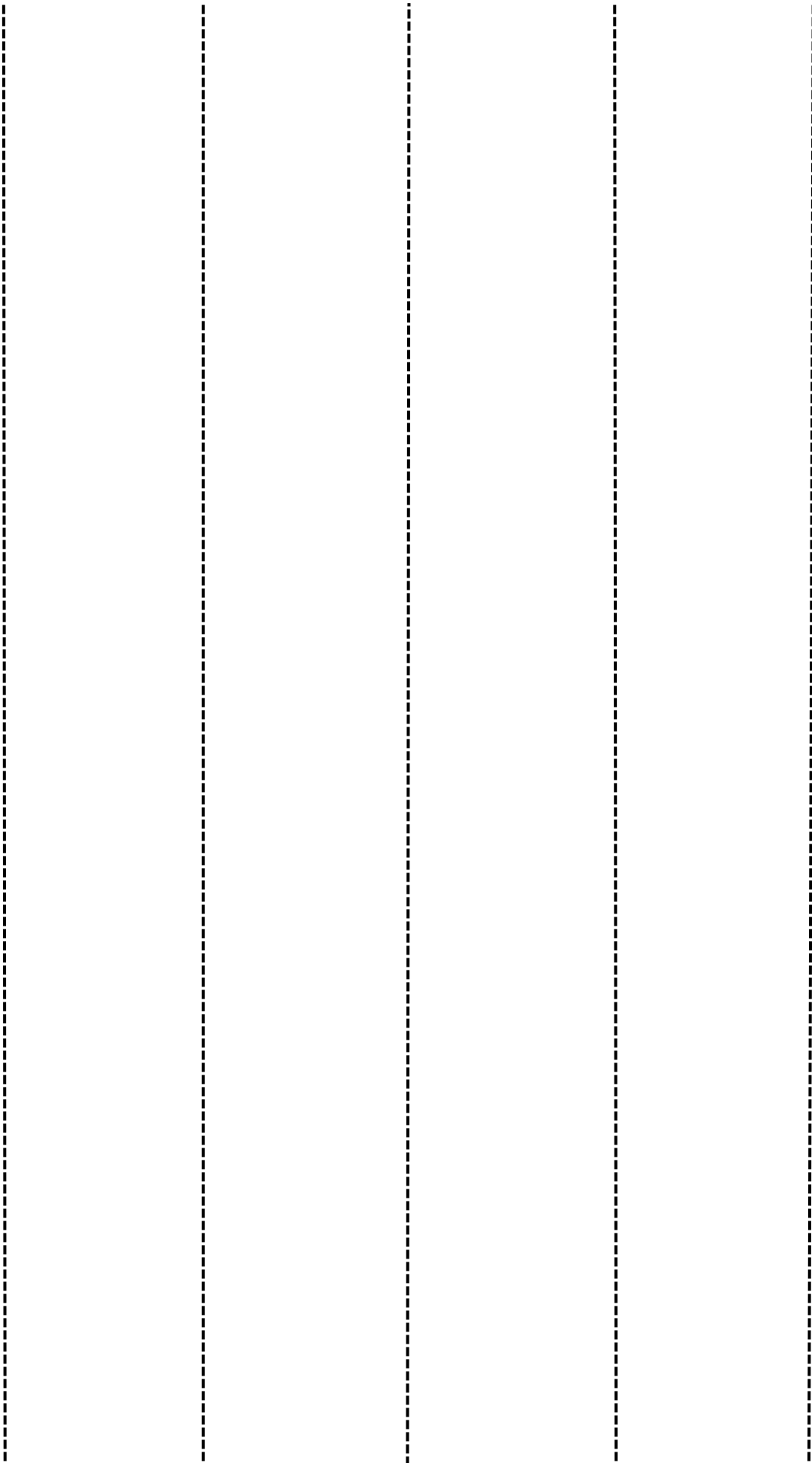
Исус бол
Аврагч

예수님은
구원자이
십니다

Jesus
is the
Savior

يسوع هو
المخلص





Paper Chain Links: Print and cut apart these strips of paper. Make them into links on a paper chain for the lesson by looping them together and using tape/staples to fasten the ends of each loop.

Isaiah 53:7-8

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?



**BIG
IDEA!**

God helps Christians share the gospel!

**"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit
has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses."
- Acts 1:8**

**KEY
VERSE**

ישוע הוא
המושיע

Есус бол
Аврагч

예수님은
구원자이
십니다

Jesus
is the
Savior

يسوع هو
المخلص



THINK ABOUT IT!

Key Passages: Acts 2:1-11, 8:26-35

How did God help the first Christians spread the gospel?

What hard things happened to the first Christians?

How can you be part of helping people around the world learn about God's rescue plan to save them from sin?

Can you find India on a map and pray for more missionary doctors like Dr. Ida Scudder to help people's bodies and souls?



