

## SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH PRETEENS

During these 13 weeks we want to be ready to share more with preteens that want to know more about how to make a personal decision for Jesus Christ. As you lead, remember these key tips as you share the gospel with preteens.

- The ultimate goal of teaching the Bible is for a person to trust Jesus as his Savior when the Holy Spirit leads him to realize that he has sinned against God and is spiritually lost. The Holy Spirit is the leader in the experience, but believers have the responsibility of following the Spirit's leading.
- Becoming a Christian is an individual matter. When discussions about conversion are conducted individually, the preteen will feel more free to share true thoughts and feelings.
- Remember that each person comes to this decision as the Holy Spirit leads. People come from different backgrounds and respond at different ages. Strive to know the preteens you teach as individuals.
- If a preteen indicates a desire to become a Christian, ask her to tell you what she feels. Use questions that require thoughtful answers rather than just "yes" or "no." Use language the preteen understands.
- You might want to use these questions: Why do you want to become a Christian? What do you think a person has to do to become a Christian? Why do you need Jesus? Can you do anything to save yourself? Explain the good news of Jesus in your own words.
- Use your Bible as you share the gospel. After reading a Bible verse, be ready to explain the verse in your own words. Invite preteens to also turn in their Bibles to see this truth for themselves. Help the preteen understand unfamiliar terms such as repent. Refer to "The Gospel: God's Plan for Me" (pg. 112) to help you know Bible verses to share and ways to explain how to become a Christian.
- Help the preteen know how he can respond. Use directions such as: Tell God you know you have sinned and are sorry. Ask God to forgive you for your sin, for wanting your way instead of God's way. Ask Jesus to become your Savior (the One who keeps you from being separated from God) and Lord (the One in charge). Again, refer to "The Gospel: God's Plan for Me" (page 112) for ways to help preteens know how they can respond.
- Be sure preteens know the difference between becoming a Christian, being baptized, and joining the church. Explain that baptism is a symbol for a commitment that has already been made.
- Include parents or caregivers when possible. Tell them what led you to discuss salvation with their preteen. Explain where you think the preteen is in his spiritual journey (e.g. becoming aware of a need for God, is thoughtfully considering how to respond, made a decision to trust in Christ, or wants to be baptized).
- Prepare yourself ahead of time so you are ready to answer preteens' questions as they arise. Be ready with Bible verses ready to use.
- Pray. Ask God's leadership as you help preteens grow in their understanding of salvation.