Lesson 4—Be Bold for God

Unit Summary
Jesus’ final command before leaving earth was to “Go and Make Disciples!” For kids to be disciples, they need to know how to explain their faith to their friends. During this unit, your students will discover the joy of sharing their faith with others. As they learn a simple Gospel message, “Good News for Kids,” they will explore each element that Jesus told His followers to take to people everywhere (Matthew 28:18-20). During each lesson, children will unpack Biblical principles that explain how to communicate their faith to others. They will discover how to prepare to share, how to be wise with words and actions, and how to develop the courage to share their faith with people who desperately need the Gospel.

Lesson Summary
Once children are saved, equipped to share their faith, and encouraged to model their lives after Christ, the enemy will work to discourage and distract them from telling the Good News. This final lesson will challenge kids to live boldly for God and to actively share their faith with their friends. Everywhere they go, they will realize that they are battling for the hearts and minds of the people they know. Unbelievers are pursuing all kinds of interests that will never satisfy them, but your kids will be bold because they have what the world can never offer. They have what people are truly looking for, because “they have the prize inside!”

Paul’s Power Principle: Be bold! You’ve got the prize inside!

In this lesson, your children will...

KNOW
- They need to boldly share the Good News with those who are lost.

FEEL
- Excited to share the message with someone.

DO
- Pray for an opportunity to present the Gospel this week.
**SPARK INTEREST**

Choose from the following activities and ideas to engage kids and grab their attention.

### Welcome!—Hidden Golden Coins

Around the room, hide plastic golden coins, and as the children arrive, tell them that there are golden coins hidden around the room for them to find. Each is worth a candy bar! Hide enough for one per child—however, do not restrict kids from finding more than one coin. Some will end up without any coins as they all get found. At the end of the activity, explain that there are enough coins and candy bars for everyone to have one. So you would like those who found the coins to become “coin missionaries” and find those without and pass out their extra coins so that everyone has one. Should anyone be left without a coin, then commence a search for the missing coins! (You can hand out extra coins if pressed for time, but a search is more fun, even if you must secretly place a coin during the search!)

Once everyone has one coin, the leader can explain that eternal life is a prize for which we need only one ticket! **There is no need to keep it to ourselves, and there are a lot of people around us who have yet to hear about how they, too, can go to heaven. So we need to be unselfish about what we’ve received from God and boldly share the Good News with those around us!**

Let the children know that on their way out of the service today they can present their golden coin for a candy bar!
Let’s Meet-n-Greet!
Have everyone find others whose names start with the same letter. Ask them what is the boldest or bravest thing they have ever done!

Leaders, be sure to stop whatever you are doing to move through the audience and greet the children, especially those you do not recognize. Announce any birthdays for the week. (See the How to Use DiscipleTown guide for quick and easy ways to acknowledge visitors and birthdays.)

Let’s Worship!
As you open in worship, be enthusiastic and emphasize that we have been entrusted with the most exciting, most amazing, and most incredible news on the planet—God loves everyone and has made a way for everyone to be saved! It is a message so fantastic we want to sing about it and share it with everyone we meet! And it’s a message that gives us courage because we know that God will be with us as we spread it around the world!

Recommended Song: Be Bold, Be Strong, from God’s Kids Worship Classic Worship FALL, Disc 1, available at Kidology.org

Puppet Intro
Leader & puppet introduce today’s lesson. You will find a scripted version of this intro at the end of the lesson. Supplies: cereal with a prize inside, preferably one that is new or unusual.

Puppet comes out with a box of cereal (or any kind of food) and asks the leader to help him eat it all. Leader asks why, and puppet points to a picture on the box that shows that a prize is inside. Puppet needs to eat everything to get to the prize. The leader asks if the puppet has ever eaten that type of cereal before, and the puppet says, no, but he is willing to try because of how much he wants that prize! Leader says, “That’s mighty bold of you to try something new (and different) in order to get the prize.” Puppet says, “I don’t care—the prize is awesome. I’ve seen the prize and decided it’s worth risking a bad experience to get it.” Leader says, “Did you know that you have a prize inside you?” Puppet laughs and says, “You aren’t going to eat me, are you?” Leader laughs but continues, “Serious, you have inside you something so great, so wonderful, so fantastic, that it is worth any amount of risk and danger to share it with others. Do you know what it is?” Puppet says, “Um, you lost me.” Leader says, “You have inside you the Good News of the Gospel! You carry around that amazing message—and others all around you are missing out on it—they are empty! They have this hole in the center of their lives that they are trying to fill with all kinds of things, and you have the prize that will fill the hole!” Puppet says, “You know, I never really thought of it that way, but it’s true! I have the prize inside me that everyone is looking for—Jesus! He is the greatest prize anyone could ever win!” Leader says, “Well, let’s go finish eating this so we can get that prize inside!”
Let’s Play!—Newspaper Lava Crossing!

Supplies: two Sunday papers.

For this game you will need as many teams of four to eight people as you have room for, but at least two. Give each team one section of a Sunday paper. There needs to be enough room for teams to get across the entire room. Explain that the floor is actually hot lava, and they need to get across, but luckily you have some lava-proof newspaper! The object of the game is for players to get all the way across the room without touching the floor and without leaving any newspaper behind them. Some will lay out a path of paper and have the last person pick up behind them. Other times a team will just use two pieces and keep picking up and re-placing it as each moves across the room. There is no “right” way to do it, just a matter of thinking it through and working together as a team to get across the room carefully and quickly. You want to provide enough newspaper to make it possible, but not so much that you make it easy. The size of your room and the number of kids you put on each team will determine how much paper you give.

The Point: This game was a challenge, but by working together, communicating, and cooperating they were able to do it. At the same time, there was some urgency that kept kids from getting lazy or giving up. The same is true when it comes to sharing Christ. We need to work together, communicate, and cooperate with others, but there is urgency that keeps us at it, because we never know when Jesus is going to return, and once He does, our time will be up!

Connect with Your Kids

“Jesus is a Jerk!” the T-shirt said. I didn’t know what to do. If I ignored it, I was letting someone speak against my best Friend and Savior. If I did say something—well, the guy wearing it was standing in the middle of a large group of pretty scary-looking people in a dark parking lot of a fast-food restaurant. I was safely in my car. While I’m not recommending this to anyone else, I felt God telling me I had to lovingly walk into that circle and kindly tell this huge guy that Jesus not only wasn’t a jerk, but that He loved him and had died for him. I was trembling with fear, but I figured Jesus had died for me—the worst I would be in for was a beating. I ended up sharing the Gospel with these young people who were not as mean as they looked once I dared to talk to them. You may never have been dumb enough to do what I did, but what have you done to be bold for God? Share the story with your kids! They love a good story, and it will inspire them to be bold for God, too!
DiscipleTown Visitor

PJ the Photographer* PJ has a small travel bag, camera, notepad, pen and two or three different style hats. He enters the room as if he was being chased and has come there for safety, not realizing the children were there. He backs in slowly and bumps into the leader.

PJ: Ahhh...whoa! That was close!

Leader: Oh, hello. And who are you?

PJ: Oh, I’m nobody. Never mind me.

Leader: Are you okay? You seem a little nervous.

PJ: I was just being chased down the hall! I think someone caught me taking pictures!

Leader: Pictures? Of what?

PJ: Never mind that. It’s better that you don’t know, and it’s better that you don’t know my name. In fact, it would be better that you had never met me.

Leader: Wait a minute. Why?

PJ: [Looks toward a window or door, worried about someone coming.] My job is very dangerous, and I don’t want to put you lovely people at risk! [Looks toward a window or door, worried about someone coming.]

Leader: Can you tell us?

PJ: Well, it’s pretty simple. There is a lot of danger out there, but it’s okay—I eat danger for breakfast! But I believe the truth needs to be told. Truth is more valuable than anything! So, I’m a photojournalist. I go where the action is. I take pictures where important things are transpiring, and I print them in the newspaper so that the people can know the truth!

Leader: Oh my goodness...you are so courageous! What story are you covering today?

PJ: Well, it seems a hungry, deranged lion escaped from its transport en route to the zoo and is loose in your church, heading toward the nursery! But no worries! Top zookeepers are after him with nets on long poles!

Leader: Nets on poles? To catch a lion?

PJ: Yes! No worries, they’re professionals! But I gotta go—they’ll wanna cover this up and claim it never happened! But I’m gonna report it! Remember, the truth is most valuable—everyone needs to know the truth! A raging lunatic lion was loose at [your church name]! You’ll see it on the news tonight if I don’t get eaten! [Runs from the room.]

Leader: [Follows him out and watches down the hall, then returns.] Wow, that was exciting! Who knew a lion could be caught with butterfly nets? It looks like the babies in the nursery will be okay! A lion! In our very own church! That is kinda exciting! [To audience.] You know, kids, I think we are kind of like photojournalists as Christians. Photojournalists often travel into dangerous locations to get photos so that people can see the truth of what is happening. As Christians we need to be willing to boldly go even where there is danger so that the Gospel can be spread and people can learn about God.

*CHARACTERS: These are suggested characters and names. Please feel free to change or adjust according to the actors and props you have available.
Let's Search!—Bible Dash

Supplies: Bibles

Ask all kids with Bibles to participate, or invite a few volunteers to come to the front. As children hold Bibles closed with hands on covers, state the Bible reference twice, then on the command “SEARCH!” have the students race to locate the verse. Once they have a finger on the verse, they can stand and call out, “FOUND IT!” Have the first child read the verse aloud while you project the verse on a screen via PowerPoint. See suggestions below for comments on each verse. Keep your comments brief and to the point of the lesson.

- Romans 1:16  We can be bold because the Gospel can save everyone!
- John 6:47    Whoever believes has eternal life.
- John 10:9    Whoever enters by Jesus will be saved.
- John 14:1-3  Jesus has gone to prepare a place for those who have accepted Him.
- John 14:6    Jesus is the only way to God.
- Isaiah 1:18  Jesus can make you clean.
- John 10:10  Jesus came to bring full life.

Paul's Power Principle: Be bold! You’ve got the prize inside!

Suggested Bible Narrative
Paul’s Missionary Journeys—Acts 20:24

Consider either a solo actor playing Paul and talking about his journeys or having Paul come onto a “talk show” to be interviewed about his adventures as a missionary. Have him talk about shipwrecks, snakebites, storms, imprisonments, and more to reach people with the Good News of Jesus!

Let’s Learn!—Be Bold for God

Supplies: small sticker or sticky note, gift/prize, wrapped box, washable markers

Skit: As the leader comes up to begin teaching, doors burst open and a loud man comes barging in! He yells out, “I got one, teacher! Time to git ‘er saved!” Depending on his strength, he then either drags a person down the aisle in a sleeping bag, or carries him/her over his shoulder right to the stage. The person delivered is still in pajamas with messy hair. He/she holds a giant teddy bear and is totally freaked out. The man points at the person he brought. “This person needs to be saved, teacher! So I brought ‘em to church! You let ‘em have it! Tell ‘em the Good News!” Then he asks some kids in the front row to move out of their seats and sits the person down in the front row. The person is terrified, sucking a thumb. The leader, obviously not approving, says, “Who is this?” The man says, “Well, today’s lesson is on being bold for God, right? So I decided to be bold—I brought my neighbor to church so they could get saved!” The leader goes to the poor neighbor, gently sits down beside him/her, and apologizes: “While we are concerned about your relationship with God, we are very sorry that this man’s passion for Jesus got a little out of control. Please forgive him.” He/she nods okay.
Leader invites the neighbor to stay. Leader says to kids, “Being bold for God doesn’t mean being obnoxious to people. It means asking God to give us courage to talk to people when we otherwise are nervous or afraid. It means allowing God’s Spirit to give us the words to say, trusting that God will help us know just what to do or say when the time is right. It is understanding that if we do our part, God will do His part. It is not wimping out when God asks us to speak or reach out to someone for His sake.” At this point, the neighbor finally speaks and says, “You know, I didn’t really like being dragged here, but, I have felt God reaching out to me lately, and I’ve been wanting to ask someone some questions about God. If someone would have just invited me to church, I would have gladly come without being dragged.” He/she shoots the “bold” man a look. He comes over and apologizes and they hug or handshake, whichever is most appropriate. Leader says, “Most people are more open to talking about God than we assume. But in order for us to find out, we need to be bold enough to simply ask.”

Read Romans 1:16. **This verse teaches us that we need to be bold for God because the Gospel has the power to save everyone who believes! And we are the ones who know that Good News!**

Read 2 Corinthians 3:12. **This verse teaches that our salvation gives us great hope. What is that hope? We have two types of hope. In this life, God is with us and helps us every day with our problems and struggles. After we die, we will go to heaven and be with God. This hope is too good to keep to ourselves!**

**Object Lesson:** Explain that you have a gift for someone in the room. Show a big wrapped box with a bow on top. Tell the children to look for sticker/sticky note on bottom of their chairs.

When the child with the sticker comes up, suddenly pretend to be shy and fearful, saying things like: “What if they don’t like it? What if they make fun of me? What will they think? What if they don’t want to be my friend anymore? What if they think I’m weird?”

Finally come to the conclusion that you just can’t take the risk, and put the gift away. Say that you changed your mind and don’t want to give the gift to the winner. Ask the child to return to his or her seat and pretend that you are going to move on with your service. See what kind of response you get from that child, and the audience!

**What just happened right now?** Ask the child how he or she feels. **Did the things I was afraid of make any sense?** Give the prize to the child and let him or her open it!

**Often we forget about the prize inside us—how great a gift the Good News of Jesus is. We become afraid of what people will think or what will happen if they don’t receive it. The Good News is a gift, a wonderful gift. We must be bold to give it away and share it with as many as we can. It hurts them and us if we keep it to ourselves.**

Read Philemon 1:8-9. **In this verse, Paul was talking to Christians about things he needed to talk to them about—however, the principle applies to how we should talk to our non-Christian friends, too. Even though we want to be bold and tell them about Jesus, we still need to do so in a gentle and respectful way.**

**Our boldness comes from God, and He will give us both the words to say and the courage to know what actions to take. Remember, we don’t need to make people come to Jesus. Our job is just to tell the Good News and leave the rest to God.**

And if you think you are too young to make a difference, check out **this amazing verse!** Read 1 Timothy 4:12. **This verse gives five ways you can show how great God is and set a great example for others—your speech, your conduct, your love, your faith and in your purity. If you do that, you will definitely draw people to Jesus!**
Pass out washable markers and let kids write on their five fingers of one hand: Speech, Conduct, Love, Faith and Purity. Let the words serve as a reminder of the five ways children can be an example to others of the ways God has changed them. Then have them turn and give a high-five to their neighbor!

**Dee’s Disciple Tip:** How to be B.O.L.D. for Christ:

- **B**—Believe God will give you the words to say
- **O**—Obey God’s command to tell others
- **L**—Love others—that is what compels us!
- **D**—Depend on the Holy Spirit to empower you!

*Being bold isn’t about mustering up your own strength and energy and barging out there! It is asking God to give you courage and going in His power and authority, knowing that He will go before you and be with you every step of the way.*

**Key Verse**

**Topic:** Give a Reason  
**Reference:** 1 Peter 3:15

**Memorization Activity:** Review the entire verse using the rebus. On this final week, it is time to see who can say the whole verse without any help! Put the entire rebus on the screen and ask for volunteers to say the entire verse with reference! Have a prize for kids who can say the entire verse without any mistakes. Keep the bar high—it will push the kids to work hard to get it perfect and motivate those who still haven’t learned it. You can always extend grace at the end to kids who are still struggling, but really push to have kids get it perfectly correct! This is your last chance to get this verse instilled in their hearts and minds.
Dramatize the Point—The Newsroom

This drama needs an editor-in-chief (with vest and necktie), two reporters (with clipboard and notepad), and a photographer (with camera around neck). The editor brings staff together for a daily huddle. Today everything is hush-hush, and they are hiding in the corner.

Editor: Okay, team, our story is printed, we have done our research, we have our pictures, and we have done all the preparation. Our article is in today’s newspaper—everyone is getting the news. Well, almost...

Reporter 1: Um, why are we hiding?

Editor: Shhhh! I just found out that the owner of the big apartment building downtown won’t allow the residents to receive the Good News.

Reporter 2: [Loudly:] What?!

Everyone: Shhhh!

Reporter 2: Sorry.

Editor: He is scared of how it will affect people.

Photographer: What are we gonna do, boss?

Editor: There are 200 people in that building who can’t hear the truth today—we need to help them!

Reporter 1: I have just the plan! My friend lives on the eighth floor. I’ll take the stairs and will slide copies under people’s doors as I go! They need to hear the Good News!

Reporter 2: I know! I’ll stand at the entrance and pass out free copies as people leave for their day. Everyone loves something free!

Reporter 1: Someone needs to talk to the owner himself about the Good News!

Photographer: I have just the thing for the owner. I know he is mean, but I also know he really likes chocolate! I’m going to bring him some chocolates and put the Good News article at the bottom of the box! Kindness always wins hearts to God’s truth! After he eats all those chocolates, he’ll be more open to reading about our sweet, sweet Savior!

Editor: That is a fantastic idea! Kindness is a great way to be bold and open doors for people to hear the truth!

Reporter 1: Alrighty, then, I’m off to my buddy’s. Over and out, friends! Time to boldly go where no reporter has ever gone before!

Everyone: Groan.

Reporter 2: I’m off to stock up and man the entrance. I’ll be prepared to share!

Photographer: And pray I’ll be wise with my words as I share with the owner.

Editor: Okay. Be safe everyone. Let’s go! [Everyone exits.]
Object Talks—Puppet Talks

Supplies: video projection

A puppet named Leroy is excited to tell the viewers of his video blog that today is his birthday! Not his regular birthday, but his spiritual birthday because after school today his friend, Luke, helped him to pray and ask Jesus to be his best Friend and Savior! He is so excited and can’t wait to go and tell others about all that he has learned—he wants to be like Luke who was bold enough to tell him! Featured verse: Romans 1:16

Let’s Talk!—Small Group Discussion

Small Group Activity: Have children divide poster board into two columns. Label the left side “Acts of Kindness” and the right side “List of people who need to hear the Good News.”

Have children write down ways to be kind and people in their lives who need to hear the Good News. Then have them draw lines from the kind acts to the people they think those acts would be most effective with. Have them make a plan. When they do something kind and are asked why they did it, they should say, “I wanted to show you God’s love in a practical way. Do you know that God loves you?”

Discussion Questions:
1) Is there any place where kindness won’t work?
2) Why does kindness open the door to talking about God’s love and Good News?
3) What fears do you have when you think about sharing the Good News with people?
4) Whose job is it to save people? What is our job?
5) Is this something you have to do by yourself?
6) Who will help us?

DiscipleTown Super Citizen

This week choose a child who did something bold or brave during the service and award him or her with the Super Citizen Certificate.

Let’s Pray!

Dear Jesus, thank You that you are our Prize—that You live inside us and that You want others to know You, too. Give us courage to be bold with our friends, neighbors, and classmates so that they can know how much You love them, too. Forgive us for being too busy to share You with others. Help us remember that everyone needs to hear the truth about You. Thank You for giving us such Good News. Amen

Cy’s Challenge: Think of three friends who need Jesus. Start praying every day for them.
For the Home

DiscipleTown Table Talker: Give each child a copy of this week’s DiscipleTown Table Talker. Be sure to show the kids how to put it together and encourage them to ask their parents to lead family devotions three times this week.

Parent Email: Copy and send the email below to help your parents connect with their kids during the week. Send them early in the week, but not on Sunday. As a courtesy, be sure parents have opted to receive these emails. Review and edit as necessary to reflect the lesson elements you have used. You can also find this email as a Microsoft Word document in your download bundle.

Dear Mom and Dad,

As we wrap up another topic here in Kids Church, we hope you have seen an increased boldness in your child(ren)’s lives.

This month we have uncovered what the Gospel really is, how to be prepared to share, how to talk about it, and how to be bold in sharing the Good News with our friends. We discovered that the prize is really inside each of us, and the only way we can share it is by being bold and telling others about the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We investigated many ideas on how to share our faith. The DiscipleTown Table Talkers are a great way to start having dialogues with your child(ren)—they have great ideas to share!

We are praying for your child(ren) and your family to have increased influence in your surroundings. As you pray with your child(ren) for those around you who do not know the Good News, ask God for creative ways to show kindness to them. I know you will see people respond to God’s love!

Let us know how we can help.

Building young disciples,

[Your Name]
Chip’s Snack Time!

**Supplies:** assortment of snack items (fruit, cookies, crackers, gummy bears, etc.), small paper plates

Fill zip-lock bags with each snack type—and have enough bags so that each child has one. Pass out the bags to each child and tell them that today they need to have the courage to share some of their snack with others. Everyone needs to do this. Everyone should get a little bit of everything on their plates.

*Each of us has our own story, our own way that we have experienced God’s love. When we share that with others, and other people share their stories, then people begin to see how amazing God is. Everyone has something to share, and God will take all the different pieces of our stories to draw people to His amazing love. We have to be bold and share our story!*  

**Additional Ideas**

**Official Good News Reporter Stickers**—Present the children with “Official Good News Reporter” stickers and commission them to go into the world and share the Good News of what Jesus has done! Tell them their job isn’t to convince anyone—that’s the Holy Spirit’s job. Their job is simply to report on what they have seen and heard—what God has done in their lives and in the world. Report what the Bible says and leave the rest up to God!

**Suggested Closing Passage**—1 Peter 1:3-9 is a good passage to read as you close in prayer at the end of this unit.
DIRECTOR’S NOTES
The words in italics are notes for you and your puppeteers; they are not to be read aloud.

You will need a cereal box.

Puppet*: Hey, [leader name], wanna help me out?
Leader: Sure, [puppet name]! What can I do?
Puppet: I was wondering if you could help me eat this whole box of [name of cereal].
Leader: What for?
Puppet: [Shows the box to leader and points to picture.] Because of this—the Super-Ultra-Secret-Decoder Pod. What a prize! I need to eat all this cereal to get to the Super-Ultra-Secret-Decoder Pod at the bottom.
Leader: Have you ever eaten this cereal before—or an entire box of it?
Puppet: Half a box. You’ll be helping me.
Leader: You know what I mean.
Puppet: Well, no I haven’t, but I’m willing to try—I really want that prize!
Leader: That’s mighty bold of you to try something new (and different) in order to get the prize.
Puppet: I don’t care—the Super-Ultra-Secret-Decoder Pod is awesome. I’ve seen the prize and decided it’s worth risking a bad experience to get it.
Leader: Did you know that you have a prize inside you?
Puppet: [Laughs.] You aren’t going to eat me, are you?
Leader: [Laughs.] Seriously, you have inside you something so great, so wonderful, so fantastic, that it is worth any amount of risk and danger to share it with others. Do you know what it is?
Puppet: Um, you lost me.

Leader: You have inside you the Good News of the Gospel! You carry around that amazing message—and others all around you are missing out on it—they are empty! They have this hole in the center of their lives that they are trying to fill with all kinds of things, and you have the prize that will fill the hole!
Puppet: You know, I never really thought of it that way, but it’s true! I have the prize inside me that everyone is looking for—Jesus! He is the greatest prize anyone could ever win!
Leader: Well, let’s go finish eating this cereal so we can get that...
Puppet: Super-Ultra-Secret-Decoder Pod.
Leader: ....prize inside!

*PUPPET: Develop a puppet character to use regularly. The children will get to know the personality and enjoy these regular visits. Dee, Cy, and Paul puppets are available at DiscipleLand.com
Each DiscipleTown Unit will teach your kids an essential "how to" skill to become victorious disciples of Jesus!