

God's Eyewitness News



- Theme:** Sharing the Good News with others. 2nd Sunday after Epiphany. Yr A
- Object:** A microphone to pretend you are a reporter.
- Scripture:** Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God." John 1:32,34 (NIV)

It is important for us to keep up with what is happening in the world, isn't it? One of the best ways to keep up is by watching the news on TV. A typical news broadcast may have several live, on-the-scene reports. The announcer might say something like, "Fire destroyed a downtown business today. Channel 13 Eyewitness News reporter, Marci Brown, is at the scene. Marci?"

"Thank you, Bob. I am talking to Caleb Smith who witnessed the fire. Caleb, can you tell us exactly what you saw?" The eyewitness will then tell everyone what he saw. It really helps us to understand what happened when we have an eyewitness report, doesn't it?

Even though there was no TV during the time that Jesus lived, eyewitness reports were still very important. One day John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him. He said to the people with him, "Look! There is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one I told you about. I didn't know he was the Messiah, but when I baptized him, I saw the Holy Spirit coming down from the heavens like a dove. It came down and landed right on his shoulder. I saw it with my own two eyes and I tell you, this is the Son of God." When the people heard John's eye-witness report, it helped them to understand and believe that Jesus was truly the Son of God.

Most people come to know about Jesus because someone else tells them about him. Perhaps it is their parents, a Sunday School teacher, a pastor, or a good friend. They give an eyewitness account how Jesus came into their heart and changed their life.

God wants all of us to be a part of his "Eyewitness News Team." What would you say about what Jesus means to you? Perhaps you would say, "Since Jesus came into my heart, sadness has turned to joy; doubt has turned to faith; worry has turned to trust; fear has turned to confidence." Whatever Jesus has done for you, tell others so they can know him too.

Dear Father, thank you for sending your Son. Help us to be witnesses so that others will come to know his love as we do. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

WITNESS BANNER: Make a banner using long white paper. Write in bold colored letters JESUS WITNESSESS. Decorate it with drawings of the birth of Jesus, his baptism, etc. Add glitter on the outside. Tape it to the classroom door.

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO AND SAY?: Create different scenarios in which Jesus would act. Then ask the children to tell to what they think Jesus would do and say. (Someone is being bullied, a girl

has lost her doll, a woman is giving a muffin to a homeless person, a boy fell from his bike, someone is giving a Bible to an older man, a child is in the hospital, etc.

"I SAW HIM" Game: Give the children ideas of an activity to perform for the other children and when they have finished, the other children will say, "I saw him/her skip" or "I saw him/her clap", etc. Let children know that in today's lesson we are going to find out what John the Baptist saw and what he told others about Jesus.

EYEWITNESS SKIT: Let the children play act the above game and let one of the children be an announcer giving the class an EYEWITNESS report of what the child is doing. Children will enjoy using a microphone and pretending to be a reporter. Have a discussion about today's lesson and talk about sharing OUR witness with others about what Jesus means to us.

CLOUD AND DOVE ART: Allow the children to draw a cloud and add tufts of cotton and pictures or stickers of doves. Write "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him." John 1:32 on the cloud or around the edges of the poster.

EYEWITNESS VIDEO: Use a smartphone to make a video. Have the children give a description of some event they have seen. Encourage the children to give as many details of the event as possible. After they have finished this project, have the children to tell something they know about JESUS and to share as many details about what they have "witnessed" about JESUS in their lives. (He loves us; He takes care of us; He heals us; He protects us, etc.)

Show and Tell



Theme: Showing and telling others about Jesus. 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Object: The children will provide the objects. (This should be pre-arranged. Choose several children depending on how much time you have.)

Scripture: The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God." The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" John 1:29, 34-35

What do you like best about school? Is it reading? Writing? Math? Spelling? Recess? Well, when I was in school, I think my favorite thing was "Show and Tell." I always looked forward to the days when we had "Show and Tell" because it gave me the chance to show and tell others about something that was really important to me.

I have asked several of you to bring something this morning to show to the other children and tell them something about it. Who would like to go first? (Depending on how much time you have, allow several of the children to have their time of "Show and Tell.") I want to thank those who shared with us in "Show and Tell" time this morning. I really enjoyed seeing what you had to show us and I learned a lot from what you told us. It is really fun to show and tell others about something that is really important to you, isn't it?

The Bible tells us about a man named John who loved to "show and tell" others about Jesus. The Bible says that one day John was standing with a group of people when he saw Jesus coming. He said, "Look, the

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! I have seen him and I tell you that this is the Son of God."

Because John loved to show and tell others about Jesus, many people came to know Jesus and follow him. It is important for you and me to show and tell others about Jesus too. We can show others about Jesus by doing the things that Jesus taught us to do -- things like loving one another and being helpful and kind. Then people will see that we know Jesus and that will give us a chance to tell them about Jesus. We can tell them about what he has done for us and what he wants to do for them. Yes, each day we should show and tell others about Jesus!

Dear Father, help us this week to "show and tell" others about you and your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SHOW AND TELL ME: Let the children take turns in a show and tell "activity"... each one doing something different. A child will come to the front of the room or in the middle of a circle and will SHOW the class something and the classmates will TELL what the child is doing. (Such as hopping, skipping, eating, jumping, walking like an elephant.) Keep the game moving so that each activity takes 60 seconds or less.

SHOW AND TELL GRAB BAG: The children will run to a grab bag and hold an item up and TELL 3 things about that item. Keep this game moving so that no one gets bored and so everyone has an opportunity to pick a grab item. (The teacher will fill the grab bag with items such as candy, gum, small toys, clothing, books, knick knacks, etc.)

BANNER TO SHOW AND TELL: Give each child a long piece of butcher paper, markers and stickers. Children will draw pictures and add words of something from the Bible or from our story today and will show the class their banner and tell about their drawings/words.

PAPER PLATE PIN WHEEL: Give each child a paper plate that can be colored and then cut curved slits around the edge of the plate - about every 2 inches. On each slit, the children write words from today's lesson or words from today's Bible verse. Children can then tape the pin wheel paper plate onto a stick or dowel and share with the class.

SHOW AND TELL CARDS: The teacher will have a Bible cards made with pictures representing a story, character, or event from the Bible. The children will pick a card, show it to the class and tell what they know about the Bible character or the story. The teacher can ask questions for an application whenever possible to share God's Love and children to help the children to understand HIS LOVE.

JESUS NECKLACE: Give the children plastic string and bead letters to spell JESUS and to string the necklaces and tie around the child's neck... to let others know about JESUS.

JESUS CAPS: Buy plain, inexpensive, colored caps at a retail or hobby store. Let the children use cloth paint pens and write JESUS on the cap or decorate them with gel pens with dots and squiggly lines. Children will enjoy wearing their caps to tell other's about JESUS.