

TELLING OTHERS ABOUT GOD

ILLUSTRATION / DEMONSTRATION

PREPARATION:

Get another person to volunteer to be part of a one-minute, ad-libbed skit. Rehearse the skit once or twice, just so you both have a rough idea of what to do and are able to easily improvise your lines. The scenario is that you're trying to figure out how to use your new iPod. The other person doesn't know everything about the device (for example, he doesn't know how to download music off the Internet). But he is trying to help you by sharing what he does know (like how to play songs and adjust the volume). Make the skit as humorous as possible, while still getting its point across.

(Alternatively, prepare a one-minute skit you can perform yourself. The scenario is basically the same, except you'll be talking on a cell phone, asking the "other person" for help in using your new iPod.)

DURING THE CHILDREN'S SERMON:

Present the skit for the children.

SCRIPTURE READING

Open the *NIV Adventure Bible* to 2 Kings 5, telling the kids, "Did you know that even if you're not an expert on something and don't know everything about it, you can still help people by sharing with them what you do know? Listen to this story from the book of 2 Kings, chapter 5, verses 1–14."

Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

Now bands from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied....

So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then,

when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

FEATURE READING / MESSAGE

Turning to page 417 in the *NIV Adventure Bible*, tell the children, "Like you, the slave girl in this story didn't know everything there was to know about God. But she knew this much: through a prophet who lived in the city of Samaria, God could heal people. So she told her mistress what she knew, hoping it would help Naaman. Now listen to this 'Live It!' article in the *Adventure Bible*, called 'Telling the Good News.' It suggests an activity that you may want to try later at home."

[The Israelite girl in this story] was probably about your age. She was a slave for the wife of Naaman, the army commander for the king of Aram. The commander had a terrible skin disease called leprosy, and the girl in the Bible story wanted to help him. She helped just by telling what she knew about God. Write down five important things you know about God. Show the list to your church school teacher or your mom or dad, and ask whether you have left out anything important. Then tell a friend what you know about God and Jesus.

APPLICATION

Tell the children, "You can help your family members, neighbors, classmates, and friends a lot by sharing with them what you know about God, Jesus, and the Bible. Here's another example of someone who helped another person greatly, in this excerpt from the *NIV Adventure Bible Book of Devotions*."

You may not know everything about the Bible, but you can help others by teaching them what you do know. [In the book of Acts,] Philip wasn't all-wise, but he taught another man what he knew about the Scriptures. He helped the man understand that Jesus died for his sins so he could live forever. The man became a believer.... Through your words and actions, share with others what you've learned about the Bible.

Tell the children, "So keep learning all you can about God, Jesus, and the Bible. But don't worry about what you don't know. You can't wait until you think you know everything before trying to help others learn about God. Share with others what you've learned. You could change their lives in a wonderful way."