

Recruitment Devotions

Kindergarten & Primary Grades

These devotions are written for classroom use. Each devotion includes a key Bible verse, a lesson outline with suggested discussion questions, teacher notes in italics, and a closing prayer. They may be used as-is or adapted freely.

Kindergarten & Primary Grades

I. Ready, Set, Go!

Mark 16:15

II. Go and Make Disciples

Matthew 28:19

III. Beautiful Feet

Romans 10:15

IV. Shining Lights

Psalms 119:105

Kindergarten & Primary Grades Devotion

I. Ready, Set, Go!

Mark 16:15 - *"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."*

(The teacher may wish to line several students up as if starting a race.) At a race, the starter usually says, "On your mark, get set..." Then what?

"Go!" As soon as they hear the word "go," the racers run as fast as they can. They might run about as long as a football field, or one or two laps around a track, or even ten miles or more!

This morning Jesus tells us about getting set to go. Our Bible reading tells us of a very special race Jesus wants us to run. He wants us to get set to go and preach the good news of his forgiveness throughout all the world.

This is news that every single person needs to hear - our parents, brothers and sisters, cousins, neighbors, friends. Every person needs to hear it because every person is a sinner. You are. I am. We sin by saying things we shouldn't. We sin when we don't listen to our parents. We sin when we are mean to someone at school. We all sin every single day.

But Jesus never sinned, not even once. He obeyed God perfectly - because he loves us. Jesus lived for you and me. Jesus died for you and me. He died on the cross to pay for all of our sins, and not just ours, but for the sins of the entire world.

Jesus did this because he loves the whole world - the people in faraway countries and the people right here in our own city. And Jesus wants us to go and share this good news with all those people.

(The teacher may want to use a map or globe as a visual aid.) Name some of the cities that you have visited. There are many more cities you might not ever visit - places like Tokyo or Moscow, all full of people who need to hear about Jesus.

Even if we can't go there by ourselves, we can still do something. Perhaps you can start thinking right now about becoming a pastor or teacher or even a missionary one day. You can give mission money to help build new churches. And don't forget - you can pray! Let us pray now and ask Jesus to send more pastors, teachers, and missionaries into the world to share the good news.

PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, the world is filled with people who need to hear about your love for them. Help us to do all we can with our prayers, our offerings and our lives to help carry the Good News of your saving love into all the world. We ask it in your name. Amen.

Kindergarten & Primary Grades Devotion

II. Go and Make Disciples

Matthew 28:19 - *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*

(The teacher may wish to use a picture of a traffic light as a visual aid.) What three colors are on a traffic light? What does red mean? Yellow? Green?

When the light turns green, the cars are supposed to go - they need to get moving. If a car stays at a green light, other people might even honk their horns to tell the driver to get started.

"GO" is an important word that Jesus uses in our Bible reading today. Jesus was talking to his disciples - people who already know about Jesus and follow him. We are Jesus' disciples, too. So Jesus is also talking to us when he says, "GO!" We don't have to wait until we are 10, 20, or even 50 years old to do that. With Jesus, the light is always green.

Why is it so important for us to go and make disciples of all nations? Because every person is a sinner. What has Jesus done for us?

(Write student answers on the board. Erase the sins to show Jesus' forgiveness - possibly draw a cross in their place.)

Jesus loved us so much that he suffered and died on the cross to pay for our sins. This good news needs to be shared with all people. That is why Jesus tells us to "GO and make disciples!" We can do this by reminding each other how much Jesus loves us, by telling friends who don't know Jesus about his love, and by praying for others to hear and believe.

The light is green. Let's get going for Jesus!

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, you were willing to COME and save us. Make us willing to GO and tell others about you. Amen.

Kindergarten & Primary Grades Devotion

III. Beautiful Feet

Romans 10:15 - *"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

(The teacher may wish to draw a foot on the chalkboard to point to its various parts.)

Beautiful feet! I've never thought much about how feet look. There are toes, a heel, some arches, the top and the sole. But none of these things strike me as beautiful.

What sorts of things can feet do?

(Encourage responses: run, jump, walk, skip, hop, kick - all showing that feet help us move.) Beside helping us move, feet support our bodies when we stand, give us balance, and help us reach on tiptoe.

Our Bible reading today tells us that special feet are beautiful. Those special feet belong to the people who preach the good news about Jesus, our Savior. Their feet are beautiful because they are serving as God's feet, doing his work.

Since Jesus is no longer here on earth to walk about and talk to people about his work of salvation, he lets us do that in his place. When we do, our feet are beautiful because they move us about and help us do God's work.

You might be thinking, "How can I preach the good news? I'm not a pastor or teacher!" That's true - right now. But later on you could be. Perhaps when you are older you might go to Martin Luther College to train to be a special messenger for Christ. But for now you can tell your friends the things you know and are learning about Jesus. When you do, you are serving as God's feet, moving the message of salvation along to other people.

Will you be God's feet? Will you share the good news about Jesus? God will think your feet are beautiful when you do!

PRAYER

Dear Lord, you have given us the good news of salvation. Help us to have beautiful feet as we pass that message on. And as we move on through our lives, if it is your will, help us to become full-time messengers for you as your pastors or teachers. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Kindergarten & Primary Grades Devotion

IV. Shining Lights

Psalm 119:105 - *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."*

(A flashlight with batteries is needed.) Hold up the flashlight - but don't turn it on yet.

Can anyone tell me what this is? What does a flashlight do? But this one isn't giving any light. Why not?

(Let them answer: it needs to be turned on, it needs batteries.) Put the batteries in, turn it on, and show that it shines.

Our reading today speaks of a light too. But this light is more important than any flashlight. This light is God's Word, and it shows the way to heaven. The power behind this light is God himself - and God's Word will never run out of power, even though flashlight batteries will.

When God works faith in our hearts, he turns on the light so we can see the way to heaven. Faith works like the ON switch of our flashlight. It changes us from sinners lost in darkness to redeemed children of light.

Just what does the light of God's Word show us? It shows us that Jesus is the only way to heaven. No wonder Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

How wonderful that we have that special light! Now that we have it, what should we do with it? We use it to light our path through life, and we share it with others so they might learn to know Jesus as their Savior.

Sometimes, though, there is a special way for Christians to share their faith - by becoming a pastor or teacher in the Lord's church. This work offers wonderful chances to share your faith on a daily basis. Why not think about it?

PRAYER

Dear Father, Giver of the light that leads us to you, help us to let our Gospel lights shine so that others may learn of Jesus and may some day be with him in heaven. And, if it is your will, help us become one of the special carriers of your light as pastors and teachers who may help guide more people to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.