Believe It, Say It, Do It

Memory Verse:

Say with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord." Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved. Romans 10:9 (NIrV)

Scripture References:

- Romans 10:9
- Acts 8:26-39
- ☐ John 20:29
- Matthew 28:19-20
- Acts 16:31

Materials Needed:

- □ Bible
- □ Seeker Series #5, "Transformation" for each child
- ☐ Salt shaker with sugar in it
- Blindfold
- □ Coin
- ☐ Perfume or cologne
- ☐ Salt shaker with sugar in it
- ☐ 2 pieces of wood, sticks or heavy cardboard
- ☐ 1 nail or thumbtack
- □Hammer
- □ Black Marker
- ☐ Paper 5 sheets
- Markers
- ☐ Chalkboard and chalk
- □ Scissors
- □Bag
- ☐ Poster board or butcher paper
- ☐ Card stock
- ☐ Red marker
- ☐ Pencils or pens
- ☐ Scramble Strips from Page 11 of this lesson
- Balloons

Life Point:

Believe in Jesus and you will be saved.



This lesson is based on Seeker Series Issue #5: Transformation. It is recommended that you read this story before class so that you are familiar with it. Make sure each child has their own copy.

Lesson Summary

In this lesson, the children will learn:

- We must believe in Jesus to be saved
- · What it means to believe in Jesus
- Our belief in Jesus is shown by our words and actions

Teacher Introduction:

PowerMark Seeker Series Issue #5, "Transformation", clearly explains how to become a Christian. PowerMark explains to the Seekers that the Christian faith begins when we personally choose to believe in Jesus and live for Him. Therefore, our belief in Jesus should be shown by a change in our actions and attitudes.

In this lesson, the children will discover that the key to salvation and becoming a Christian is to believe in Jesus. They will learn the difference between just knowing about Jesus and believing in Jesus. When we truly believe in something, it will lead to a change in our actions and attitudes.

They will also learn what it means to believe in Jesus with all our "heart". They will discover what the word "heart" means in the Christian faith.

Large Group Time

Supplies:

- □ Bible
- □ Blindfold
- ☐ Coin
- ☐ Salt shaker with sugar in it.
- ☐ Perfume or cologne

© Lesson Introduction

Title: "Have Faith"

Show a picture of PowerMark. (Page 13 in Seeker Series #5)

Say: Who is this?

Children's response: PowerMark.

Say: How do you know?

Children's response: We can see him.

Ask the children to close their eyes. Clap your hands.

Say: What is this?

Children's response: Clapping hands.

Say: How do you know?

Children's response: We can hear it.

Put a blindfold on a child. Give them a coin.

Say: What is this?
Child's response: A coin.
Say: How do you know?
Child's response: I can feel it.

Put a blindfold on another child. Put a bottle of perfume or cologne under

their nose.

Say: What is this?

Child's response: Perfume. Say: **How do you know?** Child's response: I can smell it.

Show a salt shaker (filled with sugar). Shake some in the children's hand

to taste.

Say: What is this? Child's response: Sugar. Say: How do you know?

Children's response. We can taste it.

We believe things are what they are, because we can hear, smell, feel, taste and see them. Is it possible to believe in something that you may not hear, smell, touch, taste or see? (Allow response.) It is possible. What are some things we know exist even if we cannot hear, smell, feel, taste or see them? (Allow response.) Possible answers: electricity, gravity, cell phone signals, wind, or radio frequencies. When we believe in something we cannot see, it is called having faith.

The word "believe" means to have faith or confidence in something or someone. It also means to put your faith or belief into action. Today we are going to learn that the only way that we can be saved from our sins is to believe in Jesus. Even though we may not see or touch or hear Jesus, we believe that He came to earth, lived a sin-

less life, died on the cross for our sins and rose again on the third day.

After Jesus died and rose from the dead, there were still many people who did not believe in Him. One of Jesus' followers, Thomas, didn't believe it until He saw Jesus after His resurrection. Jesus told Thomas, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed" (John 20:29).

This truth about Jesus is hard for some people to accept. Some people do not accept the truth that Jesus is the only way to be saved from our sins. There are also some people who may believe in Jesus but have never put their belief into action – they have never asked for and received God's forgiveness of sins through Jesus.

A Christian is someone who believes in Jesus and all that was said about Him in the Bible. They know that believing in Jesus is the only way to be saved.

Bible Lesson

Title: "Philip and the Ethiopian Man"

Purpose: For the children to learn that we are saved when we believe in Jesus.

Preparation: Instruct the children to stand at their chair and run in place for 1 second each time you say the word "Philip."

Just before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His followers to "Go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20). His followers obeyed Him and continued to share the Good News about Jesus. The followers would also meet together regularly for prayer, worship, teaching and to encourage each other. It was the beginning of the Christian church.

Philip (pause for response), one of Jesus' followers, had a very important job in the church in Jerusalem. He, along with six other men, was chosen to take care of the needs of the poor. During this time, there were many people who tried to stop the church in Jerusalem from growing. They would arrest the Christians and even put some of them to death. Many of Jesus' followers fled the city of Jerusalem but they didn't stop telling other people about Jesus.

Philip (pause) left Jerusalem, too, and went to Samaria. He preached the Good News of Jesus throughout Samaria and many people believed in Jesus and were saved.

Supplies:

■ Bible

Scriptures:

Acts 8:26-39

⊃ Note: Be sure to pause after saying "Philip" so the children can respond.

One day, when He was in Samaria, the Holy Spirit told Philip (pause) to go to the road that leads to Jerusalem. He started on the road and met up with a man from Ethiopia. He was an important official of Candace, the Queen of Ethiopia. He took care of the Queen's treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was on his way back to Ethiopia. He was riding in a chariot and reading from a scroll.

The Holy Spirit told Philip (pause) to run alongside the chariot. Philip (pause) did what the Spirit said and as he ran beside the chariot, He heard the Ethiopian official reading from the book of Isaiah. Philip (pause) asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The man replied, "How can I? I need someone to explain it to me." The Ethiopian stopped the chariot and invited Philip (pause) to sit with him in the chariot.

The man had been reading one of Isaiah's prophecies about Jesus. However, he had never heard about Jesus and didn't know what the prophecies meant. He asked Philip (pause), "Tell me, please. Who is the prophet talking about?"

Beginning with Isaiah's prophecies, Philip (pause) told the Ethiopian official the good news about Jesus. He told the man how Jesus had come to die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. He explained how Jesus rose from the dead and returned to heaven. Philip (pause) told him that to be saved he needed to repent and believe in Jesus. As they were traveling together they came to some water. The official said, "Look! Here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized?" Baptism is a sign that someone has believed in Jesus and wants to live for Him.

Philip (pause) answered the official, "If you believe with all of your heart, you may be baptized." The Ethiopian said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." When Philip (pause) heard that the man believed in Jesus, he went with him down into the water. Philip (pause) baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip (pause) away. The official never saw Philip (pause) again but He went back to his home in Ethiopia full of joy and a new life in Jesus. Philip (pause) continued traveling from city to city, spreading the good news.

Object Lesson

Supplies:

□ Bible

 2 pieces of wood, sticks or heavy cardboard -1 piece measuring 25 cm (10 inches) and 1 piece measuring 19 cm (7.5 inches) Title: "Believe"

Purpose: To illustrate that our salvation and relationship with Jesus comes through believing in Him.

Preparation: Write "God" on 1 piece of wood and "You" on the other. Have supplies displayed so the children can see them. The writing on the wood should be hidden from view.

Last week we learned that the main reason Jesus came to earth was

	pplies: Bible Chalkboard and chalk Marker Science	to pay the price for our sins by dying on the cross. However, we need to do something to be saved. Just knowing that Jesus came is not enough. We have to choose to do what? (Allow response.) We have to believe in Jesus. We have to believe that He is God's Son, He died on the cross for our sins, He rose again and He is the only way to be saved from our sins.
		The word "Believe" means to have faith or confidence in Jesus and what He did for you. It means that you trust that Jesus is real and true even if you can't see Him. It is so much more than just knowing about Jesus. Many people know about Jesus but they don't put their hope, faith and confidence in Him. Because you believe in Jesus, you act upon what you believe.
		Hold up the 2 pieces of wood. Say: I would like to join these 2 pieces of wood together. How can I do that with the materials I have here? (Allow response.) I can use the hammer to pound the nail into the 2 pieces of wood. We believe the nail will join the 2 pieces of wood together. Will it get done if I just leave the materials lying there on the table? (Allow response.) No, I have to pick up the hammer and nail and pound the nail into the wood. In other words, an action is required of me. Place the pieces of wood together, one on top of the other. Pound the nail into the wood.
		I knew the nail could join the 2 pieces of wood together but until I acted on my knowledge it did nothing to solve my problem. Our knowledge about Jesus is much the same way. The Bible tells us about our problem of sin and the solution Jesus provided. But until we believe what the Bible teaches us and act on it, the problem is not solved. Pivot the 2 pieces of wood to form a cross. The cross is the way Jesus solved our problem. His death and our belief in Him will join us together with God so we can have a relationship will him. Turn cross around to reveal the words.
		John 3:16 (NIrV) says, "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."
		Bible Verse
		Say with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord." Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved. Romans 10:9 (NIrV)
		Purpose: When the verse is taught using actions or an activity, the children will learn the verse easier and will retain it in their memory longer.

an example of what the verse will look like:

□ Paper – 5 Sheets

■ Bag

Preparation: Write the verse on the board leaving the following key words blank (put a blank line to represent the words "_____"): say, mouth, Jesus, Lord, believe, heart, raised, dead, saved, Romans. Here's

with your	,	_ is"	in your
that God	him from the _	Then you will be)
10:9			

Cut the sheets of paper into four sections and write one missing word on each piece of paper. Then write 5-10 words that do not fit in the verse on the remaining pieces of paper. For example: doubt, know, head, happy, 1 John, sleep, pulled. Mix all the pieces of paper together and put them in a bag.

Choose five to ten children and have them join you at the front of the room. I have written the Bible verse for today on the board. However, it is missing several words. I have put the missing words plus several other words that don't belong to the verse in this bag. Each of you are going to take turns drawing a word from the bag and then deciding if it fits in the verse or not. If you think the word belongs in the verse, go to the board and write the word above the blank line where you think the word belongs. If you do not think the word belongs, put the piece of paper on the ground and return to the back of the line. If you need help deciding, you can ask the class what they think. When all of the words have been drawn from the bag and the blanks are filled in, I will let you know if the verse is correct.

Do the activity using the directions above. When finished, read the verse aloud and let them know if it is correct. If any words are incorrect, circle or erase the words and let the children guess the correct word. When the verse is complete, have the children say the verse with you several times.

Small Group Time

Supplies:

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Poster board or butcher paper
- □ Card stock
- □ Scissors
- □ Red marker
- Pencils or pens

Small Group Activity #1

Title: "Heart to Heart"

Purpose: To reinforce the fact that we must believe in Jesus with all of our heart.

Preparation: Make a large heart from the poster board or butcher paper. It should be at least 1 ft. by 1 ft. Cut the cardstock into business card size pieces (3.5 in. by 2 in.). Draw a red heart on one side of each card.

Practice: Lay the large heart on the floor. Hold a heart card vertically about 2-3 feet above the large heart (with the edge of the card facing the large heart). Drop the card and it should flutter to the left or right of the heart but will probably not land on the heart. Now, hold a card horizontally above the heart (with the heart shape on the card facing the large heart on the floor). Release the card allowing it to drop straight down toward the heart. This card should land on the large heart. Practice each drop a few times until you get the desired results.

Today we have learned that the key to salvation and becoming a Christian is believing in Jesus with all of our hearts. The Bible verse from Romans 10:9 tells us to "believe in your heart".

Hold up the large heart. The heart shape is used to represent several different things. Who can tell me some of the different meanings of a heart shape? Possible answers: love, life, physical health, etc. In the Christian faith, the word "heart" is used to describe all that makes up who you really are – your feelings, thoughts, desires, and spirit. It is the real "you" that only you and God knows. It is the very center of your spiritual and physical life.

When you believe in Jesus with all of your heart, then your actions, feelings, thoughts and choices reflect what you believe. That is why our beliefs, or what we believe, lead to action. We believe in Jesus and that effects how we feel, what we think, and how we choose to act.

Point to the large heart on the floor. This heart represents the salvation that is found only in Jesus, the Son of God. Hold up the small heart cards. These cards represent our hearts, the center of our lives that makes up all that we are.

Hold a "heart card" vertically, on edge, over the large heart. If we do not believe in Jesus, if our hearts are turned away from Him, then we miss His salvation. Drop the card. If we allow our hearts to become hard and we refuse to believe in Jesus, we will not be saved. Drop another card the same way. If our hearts are turned away from Jesus and toward other things such as people and possessions, then we miss the gift of His salvation. Drop another card.

God wants all of us to receive the gift of salvation through Jesus. What is the key to salvation and becoming a Christian? (Allow response). Answer: believe in Jesus with all your heart. We need to turn our heart toward Jesus and believe in Him with all of our heart. Hold the heart card so that the colored heart faces the large heart on the floor. When we choose to believe in Jesus, we can receive God's gift of salvation. Drop the card so that it lands in the large heart. When we believe that Jesus is God's Son, He died on a cross for our sins, and He rose to life again, we are saved. Drop another card so that it lands on the large heart. Believe in Jesus and you will be saved. Drop another card.

Allow the children to take turns dropping the heart cards. Show them how to hold the cards to either miss the large heart or land in the large heart. Give each child one of the heart cards and tell them to write the key to salvation on the heart card.

Small Group Activity #2

Supplies: Title: "Bible Story Scramble"

Purpose: To review the Bible lesson.

Preparation: Cut Page 11 into strips. One strip for each sentence. Roll up the strips of paper. Put one strip in each balloon and inflate the balloons.

Have the children form a circle. Toss the balloons into the air, one at a time, and have the children bat the balloons around. When you say, "Stop and Pop!" have the children each grab a balloon, pop it and find the slip of paper. Then together, have the children work out the correct sequence of the Bible story without looking at the Bible.

Bible Verse Review

Say with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord." Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved. Romans 10:9 (NIrV)

Purpose: To review the Scripture Verse and encourage the children to memorize it.

Game: "Action Verse"

Preparation: None

Activity Instructions: Divide the children into 2 or 3 teams. Have each team make up actions or hand motions to use as they say the verse. Allow them time to rehearse as a team. Have each team present the verse using the actions they created. Say the verse all together several times.

© Life Application

Purpose: To find ways to apply this lesson to daily living and encourage the children to change their lives in order to live the way God wants them to live.

If the children have not yet read this book, take time to read the book as a group. Here are some ways to read the book together:

- You read the book aloud as the children follow along.
- The children can take turns reading. Each child reads one page.
- You can assign the children to read the parts of particular character(s) (PowerMark, Yaro, Shanti, Amber, Mr. Bala, etc.)
- The children can read the book on their own, quietly.

Read up to page 9 and ask the following questions. Have the children

Supplies:

☐ Bible

■ Balloons (one for each child)

☐ Page 11 of this

lesson

Scissors

☐ Bible

Supplies:

 □ PowerMark Seeker Series #5 "Transformation" books (one for each child) raise their hand if they want to answer a question. Only one child should answer at a time. Make sure the discussion is not dominated by only one or two children. Encourage all of the children to be involved in the discussion.

Be careful not to approach this time as a test with you, the leader, asking questions and the children giving the correct answer. Instead, spend the time in a conversational manner with the children. Listen to what the children have to say about the book, especially the Bible portion of the story. By listening you will be able to assess how well they understand the gospel presentation through the Seeker's Series.

- 1. What was the big decision the Seekers needed to make? They needed to decide whether they would take the cool stuff and join Mindfree or continue studying Christianity (page 1-2).
- 2. What did Geetah tell Shanti the Christians were doing to the Seekers? Geetah told Shanti the Christians were brainwashing the Seekers (page 4).
- 3. How many of the Seekers rejected Mindfree's offer? All of them (page 5-6).
- 4. Can anyone make the decision to follow Jesus for you? No. Each person must decide whether or not they want to follow Jesus (page 8).
- 5. What do you have to do to be a true Christian? Believe in Jesus and follow Him (page 8).
- 6. Are you a Christian just because you were born into a Christian family? No. You have to choose for yourself (page 8).
- 7. Can you be a Christian if your parents are not Christians? Yes (page 8).
- 8. What does the word "Christian" mean? It means to live like Jesus did (page 8).
- 9. **How do we learn how to live like Jesus?** By reading the Bible and studying His life here on earth (page 8).
- 10. If we admit that we have sinned and ask God to forgive us, will He do it? Yes (page 9).

Next week, we'll learn more about following Jesus and living a life that pleases God.

Answers to the questions on the last page:

- 1. To be a true Christian, you have to choose to believe in Jesus and **follow** Him. (page 8)
- 2. If you are born into a Christian family, it doesn't mean that you are a Christian. You have to **decide** for yourself. (page 8)
- 3. The word "Christian" means to live like **Jesus** did. (page 8)
- 4. Everyone who has lived on earth is **sinful** except for Jesus. (page 9)
- 5. Only God can forgive us of our **sin** and make us **clean**. (page 9)
- 6. If you are a Christian, your eternal life will be spent with Jesus in heaven. If you are not a Christian, the Bible says you will spend

- eternity in a place of **punishment**. (page 11)
- 7. When you are a Christian, all other Christians become your **brothers** and **sisters** in Christ. (page 11)
- 8. Jesus wants **everyone** to live with Him. 2 Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord doesn't want anyone to be destroyed, instead he wants all people to turn away from their **sins**." (page 12)
- 9. Jesus is the only way to enter **heaven**. (page 12)
- 10. Christians around the world have the responsibility of **sharing** Jesus with others. God wants everyone to know how their sins can be **for-given**. (page 13)

© Closing Prayer

Since this lesson teaches that we can be saved when we believe in Jesus, take this opportunity to invite the children to accept Jesus as their Savior. Draw their attention to pages 8-9 in Seeker Series #5, "Transformation." Take some time to briefly explain the way of salvation through Jesus, God's Son.

End the small group time in prayer. Instruct the children to bow their heads and close their eyes. Ask if anyone would like to ask Jesus to take away their sin. Lead those that respond in a salvation prayer. Break the prayer into small phrases and have the children repeat the prayer after you. Here is a sample prayer of salvation:

Dear God,
I am sorry for all of my sin.
Please forgive me...
For all of the wrong things...
I have done, said, and thought.
I believe Jesus died on the cross...
So my sins could be taken away...
And He came back to life...
Three days later.
Please come into my life...
And help me love you...
And live like you want me to live.
Thank you for taking my sin away...
And loving me.
In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

In addition to the prayer of salvation, allow time for the children to share prayer requests or praise reports. After they have shared, pray for their needs and praise God for their praise reports. You can also have the children volunteer to pray for each others' needs. As you are praying, summarize what was learned today.

Small Group Activity 2 "Bible Story Scramble"

Philip was sharing the Good News of Jesus in Samaria.

An angel of the Lord told Philip to go to the road that leads to Jerusalem.

Philip saw an Ethiopian official riding in a chariot reading from a scroll.

The Holy Spirit told Philip to run beside the chariot.

Philip heard the Ethiopian reading the prophet Isaiah.

Philip asked the Ethiopian, if he understood what he was reading.

The official invited Philip into the chariot to explain the meaning of the prophecy.

Philip told the Ethiopian official about Jesus.

The Ethiopian believes in Jesus with all his heart.

Philip baptizes the Ethiopian official in some water beside the road.