

# **Yesterday. Today. Forever.**

## **Module: Telling The Story**

### **Lesson 2: Living With Consistently Active Faith**

#### **Objectives:**

- Students will learn about Jesus' example of active faith.
- Students will see that they can tell the story of God's love through active faith.
- Students will understand that active faith should be consistent and that without action, faith goes stale.

#### **Materials Needed**

- ☐ List of scenarios (involving serving or helping others) for the students to act out in a game like charades. Examples include:
  - Helping a blind person across the street
  - Helping someone lift something very heavy
  - Helping someone rake leaves/shovel snow
  - Offering to give someone a ride (who they see walking)
  - Sitting with someone who is homeless and buying them a coffee
  - Any other example you can think of.
- ☐ Min. 1 piece of paper per student (extras would be recommended)
- ☐ 1 pen per student
- ☐ Half piece of paper for the short message
- ☐ Optional: small prizes
- ☐ Flipchart and markers OR LCD projector with laptop

## **Minds On**

**Ask:** Why do you think people enjoy watching movies like Batman, Spiderman and Superman? How does the story of Jesus compare?

**Prompt:** Jesus did not just sit at home and hope that people would knock on his door so he could speak to them. Jesus went out and lived a faith of action. Action was at the heart of what Jesus came to do. His life told the story of God's love, grace and compassion. However, he also inspired other people to action too. When people came into contact with Him they were not left unchanged.

Inform students that you are going to play a variation of the game of charades. Invite two of the students to come to the front. Give them a scenario to act out while the group watching has to guess what is going on. If applicable, award a small prize to those who get the right answer.

**Ask:** When was the last time you saw someone do something extraordinary **for** someone else?

**Prompt:** We'll continue our look at active faith. However, you are going to look a little deeper and see that it should not be something that is a part time characteristic. A faith that has landed should be consistently active. The way we live our lives should tell the story of God's love.

## **Action**

Have 2 volunteers read John 8:2-11.

**Ask:** If you were in the same position as Jesus what would you have done?

Did Jesus plan this moment of action or was it just natural to Him?

**Prompt:** We can sometimes believe that to have a faith that includes action we have to do really big things like feed 5,000 people or heal the blind. In this passage we see Jesus stand up for someone who needed help. This lady, by Law, was to be put to death for her actions. She did not have a defence. The only way out was for someone to show her active Mercy and Grace. That is exactly what Jesus does. There are small opportunities every day for us to tell the story and put our faith into action.

Divide all students into groups of 3-4. Each group will make a list of 10 simple ways they could tell the story of God's love through active faith (e.g. picking up garbage you see on the floor, etc.) Then have two groups combine and sort which would be the top 5 from their combined suggestions. Afterwards, take the top 5 list from the new groups and compile them into a list (either on screen or on flipchart).

Have students return to their original groups and read James 2:14-19. Have groups evaluate whether people know what they believe in God by the way they live their life. Remind them that this is about "pass or fail" but whether we are making better conscious efforts in living out our faith. (**Leader's note:** It may be helpful for you to provide an example from your life.)

## **Consolidate/Debrief**

Remaining in their groups, using the compiled list or another personal example, encourage them to talk about one aspect of their life that they are going to change. If applicable, they should also think of a specific individual they can demonstrate their faith to actively. Remember, it does not have to be anything big. (Mother Teresa said, "We can do no great things, only small things with love.") The members of each group, if possible, should check in with each other in 3-4 days to see if they are each following through with their intention. If they feel comfortable to do so, ask them to pray for each other to carry out those intentions; otherwise, they can all pray silently individually.

**Prompt:** Jesus' faith was consistent. He was always ready to tell the story of love, kindness and compassion through action. He interrupted the social norms of the day and through His actions displayed the love of God and drew people to the Father. We are called to have an active faith. One that stands up for the broken and one that serves other people. There are opportunities to do this every single day (and we have been listing ways that we can do that).

Close in prayer.