

WEEK 3

LESSON GUIDE

**WORTH
SHARING**

BIG IDEA

Sharing the good news sometimes requires risk.

BIBLE

1 Samuel 15:34–16:3; 2 Corinthians 5:13–17;
John 20:21

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

STORY | The Time I Did Something Embarrassing

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell a story about when you accidentally posted something embarrassing. How did you feel? Was it worth the risk? How did you feel then, and what do you think about it now? Or, if you want a different angle, tell about a time you tried to post something seemingly embarrassing, decided to take this risk, and it wasn't as awkward as you thought. You could also have a volunteer share.
- Sometimes, we find ourselves so comfortable with being online that we decide to take a *more significant* risk by posting something ourselves. Maybe you start small with a tweet or a Snapchat story.
- Maybe you go all in by posting your first TikTok or launching your art page. Perhaps you'll have an awful take or post something untrue. Who knows? Either way, there's a risk that something embarrassing might happen.

IMAGE | Embarrassing Posts

- When we share things online or in life, we're inherently taking a risk. Sometimes, it doesn't go so well.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a teaching tool, show the image of embarrassing tweets like this [one of a teacher](#) or this one about [the Lion King](#), photos [like these](#) that are appropriate for your group's culture. Make sure the content catches something embarrassing, not making fun of someone.
- We battle feelings of not being good or under qualified. We're posting something that matters to us and hoping that someone else validates it or that they can recognize how important it is to us. Sometimes, we're pushing through fear or insecurity to post what we do.
- We're showing versions of ourselves that we believe are true or an image we think we should be. If people don't like what you post online, it can raise the question, "Do they not like me, either?"
 - Because of this, there's a sense of second-guessing ourselves. We wonder about who will respond and how and what they will say. We go back through our feeds and delete or archive posts to ensure that our feed stays fresh and keeps the aesthetic we have planned.
 - Or we delete them because we have this regret — hoping people's memories are short, like those posts that disappear after a day.
- With all the risk of rejection, embarrassment, having an awful take, or worrying about our supervisors watching cringe dance moves when we've applied for a new job, we can start to wonder, why share anything at all?
- That's a great question, which is why today, we'll be focusing on risks and how they relate to what God has given us to share.

DISCUSSION

- What was the riskiest thing you have seen someone do or share online?
- *Describe your experience with taking risks. How would you define what a risk is for you?
- On a scale of one to five (five being most often), how much do you try to avoid taking risks? Why?

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | 1 Samuel 15:34–16:3

- In this series, we have been looking at the life of Samuel, a prophet who paved the way for Jesus. Last week, we looked at how Samuel was tasked with finding a king for Israel. He knew that the people were obsessed with this idea of a king, and he knew that a *better* choice was to continue to be led by God. But, after spending time with God, Samuel was told to find the first king of Israel, Saul.
- Saul had a ton of promise. He was strong and good-looking, but after becoming king, it was clear that he had some significant issues, particularly with his pride. At one point, Saul blatantly disobeys God, and he disqualifies himself from serving as king.
- It culminates in this bitter, emotional confrontation between Samuel and Saul, where their already rocky relationship shatters. We read about the aftermath at the end of 1 Samuel 15.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read 1 Samuel 15:34–16:3.
- Samuel was devastated. In a moment where he could be boasting to the people and saying, "I told you so!" He simply sat and grieved. He processed everything that has happened.
- Saul had been king for about 25 years by this time, and Samuel was grieving the loss of his long-time friend and someone whom he had seen God use remarkably. Samuel had invested his heart in a man chosen by God, and friendship is always risky.
- God asked Samuel to find another king, but the stakes were much higher this time. Samuel knew that Saul would look for him if he found out he was searching for a replacement king.
 - Following through on this command that God has given him was a considerable risk — it was dangerous. Maybe even life-threatening.
 - God has given Samuel a calling. God has given him a message and an opportunity to continue to be a voice for the community of God's people. Samuel has the choice to ignore God's instructions, just like Saul did, or to take the risk and go for it.

DISCUSSION

- *Who do you most identify with in the story of Samuel this week? Samuel, Saul, or David? Why?
- What do you think about the risk Samuel took to appoint a new king?

SCRIPTURE | 2 Corinthians 5:13–17

- People might have looked at Samuel and this decision that he was making and say he was out of his mind, or taking unnecessary risks. They may have believed he was trying to do too much, too fast. Samuel understands what motivates him to move, and he's not the only person in the Bible to be accused of being too much.
- Samuel was hesitant to take a risk but ultimately did. Paul gives us an example of what this could look like for us to jump in with both feet.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read 2 Corinthians 5:13–17.
- Jesus transformed Paul's life, so Paul wanted others to experience the change he was experiencing. He wanted them to know how loved and accepted they were by Jesus. He wanted to tell everyone he could

about the Son of God, who loves them so much that he came to reconcile and restore them to God. *He helps us see that God's love motivates us toward action.*

- Paul did some incredibly risky things throughout his life. He used to search for Christians to have them arrested and possibly killed. But then, the love of Jesus changed his life, and he became one of the most outspoken leaders in the Early Church.
 - He knew other religious people would probably question or judge him. He also knew that sharing about Jesus in his context was very risky. Remember, the Roman Empire had executed Jesus as a criminal. Saying you were a follower of Jesus could be seen as a revolutionary act punishable by death.
 - That wouldn't stop Paul. At a point in history where travel wasn't very safe, he wanted to go anywhere he could to share the good news of Jesus' love.
- The risks in sharing the good news can be hard to overcome for everyone! We wonder if we'll be rejected, made fun of, lose friends, or even forget what to say or say the wrong thing!
- We see in the lives of Paul and Samuel that God honors these risk-taking moments. When the person we share with is encouraged or may even begin to follow Jesus, we see that the risk was worth it, and we become more confident because we know that **sharing the good news sometimes requires risk**.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

IMAGE | Do Small Things With Great Love

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write out on the whiteboard "Do small things with great love" -Mother Theresa.
- We're all motivated by the things that we love. One of the great voices for social change in the last few decades, Mother Theresa, picked up on this idea in the Bible when she said, "Do small things with great love."
 - For Samuel, he understood his love for God would be the force that let him go on his search for a new king, knowing that God would be with him along his journey.
 - Similarly, the love of Jesus changed Paul's life to such a degree that it became one of the driving factors behind everything he did. His love for Jesus was the engine behind helping start the early church.
- Love was their motivating factor. Love for God is what drove them forward. It helped them overcome the risks and dangers of sharing the good news and communicating the message God gave them.

DISCUSSION

- ***What surprised you about the way Paul thought about taking risks?**
- **What keeps you from taking risks to share the good news? How can we help you overcome that barrier?**

STORY | Simple Risks Have An Incredible Impact

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell about a time when someone's love for you and God overcame challenges or risks. Ensure the story has examples of the four action steps below, which you can call back as you discuss them. You could also have a student or volunteer share.
- Here is what I hope we take from this story:
 - **SHARING DOESN'T RELY ON YOU:** It's not our job to get people to receive the good news, but our job is to share it. Sometimes we are hesitant because "what if someone rejects our God?" The good news is — once we share, we can leave the results to God.

- **SHARING IS SUCCESS:** Success doesn't mean converting someone but simply sharing your story. You have a story to share. Like Samuel, merely be faithful to sharing the message God has given to you and leave the rest up to God.
- **SHARING ISN'T FOR EXPERTS ONLY:** We do not have to be experts to take a risk and share the good news. Simply share stories of what God has done in your life. God is at work in your life. That is wonderful news to share with people who care about you.
- **SHARING IS RISKY BUT NOT BONKERS:** Let's be clear about something. This doesn't mean taking risks just for the sake of being extreme for Jesus. I am not saying you should take risks to increase your view count or improve social content, like doing bonkers stunts that have nothing to do with the love of Jesus and then suddenly shouting, "Jesus loves you!" at the end of the video. We are talking about taking healthy, appropriate risks attached to the mission of God and the community we all find ourselves.

DISCUSSION

- *Does knowing sharing your story doesn't mean converting someone change the way that you share the good news? How?
- Read John 20:21. What two steps would you need to take to feel peace as you share what Jesus is doing in your life with someone?
- What is one way you will take a risk and share the good news this week?

REFLECTION | How Will Love Motivate You?

- So, today, we want to spend some time reflecting on this question: How is God's love motivating you to take risks?
 - Maybe love will motivate you to talk to someone new and share how God is moving in your life and why that is connected to the good news about Jesus. Or invite someone to church for the first time.
 - Maybe love will motivate you to send an encouraging message, eat lunch with someone new, or find common ground with someone with different views.
 - Maybe you're caught up thinking about something stopping you from moving forward to love others and share with them. If that's the case, perhaps love will motivate you to listen instead of speaking, to apologize or ask for forgiveness, or maybe to finally come clean about something that is getting in the way of sharing God's love with someone.
- If we want to be people who can share this message God has given, then we need to remember that **sharing the good news sometimes requires risk**, and God will lead us through.