

July 1-7 Acts 1-5

# "YE SHALL BE WITNESSES UNTO ME"

## 1. The Gospel Can Change Us:

- Can people change? Show pictures of different characters the kids know (pictures in chart at the end of this lesson plan). Have them briefly explain how each one changed.
- Then show the picture of Peter crying after he denied Christ. Review what happened. Do you think he changed after this? How?
- Explain how after Jesus's resurrection, Jesus came back, taught them some more, and gave them the Holy Ghost. Read/summarize/discuss how in Acts 4:18-20 and Acts 4:33, people commanded them not to even talk about Jesus. Did they stop talking about Him? How had he changed since denying Christ 3 times? Watch video "Peter Preaches and is Arrested" [https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media-library/video/2011-10-045-peter-preaches-and-is-arrested?lang=eng&\\_r=1&category=acts-of-the-apostles](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media-library/video/2011-10-045-peter-preaches-and-is-arrested?lang=eng&_r=1&category=acts-of-the-apostles). Point out how even when they said they were going to arrest him (take him to jail), he wouldn't stop talking about Jesus Christ. Clarify that it was Jesus and the Holy Ghost who helped Peter change. Talk about the importance of Jesus and the Holy Ghost in our lives.
- Go through real life examples of how Christ can help us change. Explain that it's not always a quick thing, but as we make good choices, we can slowly become more kind, loving, and perfect like Him. Talk about times when it might be appropriate for us to be bold with our testimonies of Christ as well. Read/summarize/discuss Alma 5:14-19.

## 2. Prophet Peter: Share *The Friend* story here <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/friend/2019/07/jesus-said-to-share-the-gospel?lang=eng>. Talk about how when Christ went back to heaven, Peter was the prophet and he and his apostles were in charge of helping others have faith in Christ. Discuss some of the miracles they performed in these chapters and remind them that the Holy Ghost was what helped give them power to do these things.

## 3. Current Prophet and Apostles: What do you remember about our current prophet and apostles? Were they prophets and apostles when they were born? Help them see that these are normal people who made good choices to help them become more like Jesus.

- Prophet/Apostles Matching Game: Cut apart the pictures and descriptions from *The Friend*. As each match is found, read the descriptions and talk about how these are real people like us. Discuss how they must have made really good choices throughout their lives in order to help them become the people they are today. Ask questions about the decisions they might have made throughout their lives. (Do you think President Ballard ever had anyone try to get him to be dishonest while he owned a car dealership? Do you think Elder Cook ever wanted to skip scripture study with his brother? etc.)
- Watch "Living Apostles Testify of Jesus Christ" [https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media-library/video/2018-09-0010-living-apostles-testify-of-jesus-christ?lang=eng&\\_r=1](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media-library/video/2018-09-0010-living-apostles-testify-of-jesus-christ?lang=eng&_r=1). Remind them that the things prophets and apostles teach us are meant to help bring us closer to Christ.
- Sing "Follow the Prophet" (Children's Songbook) and talk about ways we can follow the prophet.

## 4. Crippled Man: Show video "Peter and John Heal a Man Crippled Since Birth" [https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media-library/video/2011-10-044-peter-and-john-heal-a-man-crippled-since-birth?lang=eng&\\_r=1](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media-library/video/2011-10-044-peter-and-john-heal-a-man-crippled-since-birth?lang=eng&_r=1). Explain that this man had been crippled (not able to walk). How were Peter and John able to help him? Point out how when they blessed him to rise up, they did it "in the name of Jesus Christ." Remind them that Christ is who gives prophets and apostles power to heal and do miracles. How did the man react? What do you think you would have done if you had seen this man be healed? Would it have helped you believe in Christ more? Explain that not everyone had good reactions to this amazing thing that happened. Have them act out different people's responses to this miracle as you read the scripture verses about it.

- The lame man Acts 3:1-8
- Peter and John Acts 3:12-13

- The witnesses at the temple Acts 3:9-10
- The high priests and rulers Acts 5:17-18
- Other saints Acts 5:12-14

5. **Not Even a White Lie Activity:** One thing prophets and apostles teach us is to be honest. Read/summarize/discuss the story of Ananias and Sapphira being dishonest (Acts 5:1-11). Explain that we won't actually die if we lie, but this helps show important it is to be honest. Follow instructions from this website <https://artscrackers.com/2015/07/07/pinocchio-and-what-it-teaches-biblically/> to talk about being honest. Print up Pinocchio face and cut apart the scenario cards. Read each flash card scenario and have them decide if it's a truth or lie. For each lie, add another block onto Pinocchio's nose. Also talk about better ways they could have handled the "lie" situations. Review the importance of being honest and how it can help us become more like Christ.



6. **Straw Necklace:** Remind them where their hearts are. Even though we can't see our hearts, we can pay attention to how they feel. Have them do some different short activities (running in place, singing a song, laying down on the floor, etc.). Have them pay attention to and describe what their heart feels like as they do each activity. Talk about what it feels like to have our hearts "pricked" and share the story of the group of people who made changes in their lives because their hearts were "pricked" (Acts 2:36-47). What should we do when we feel "pricked in our heart"? How do our hearts feel when we obey the prophets and apostles?
- What are some things prophets/apostles have taught us to do? (Be honest, kind, etc.) Give each kid a string, paper hearts, and cut up straw pieces. For each way they can think of for how to follow the prophets and help their hearts change to have more faith in and become more like Christ, they can add another straw and heart piece to their necklace. (instructions for making these necklaces: <https://www.homeschoolantics.com/simple-straw-and-flower-necklace-instructions/> )
7. **Treat:** Follow directions here <https://overthemoon.com/an-object-lesson-for-kids-on-honesty/> to make ice cream sundaes. Pour lots of salt on one of the ice cream scoops. Ask if it would be best to cover the salt with chocolate so you can't see it anymore or to totally get rid of the salt. Compare this to being honest about mistakes. If we cover them up and lie, it doesn't make them go away. How can we be better at being honest? How can being honest help us become more like Christ?

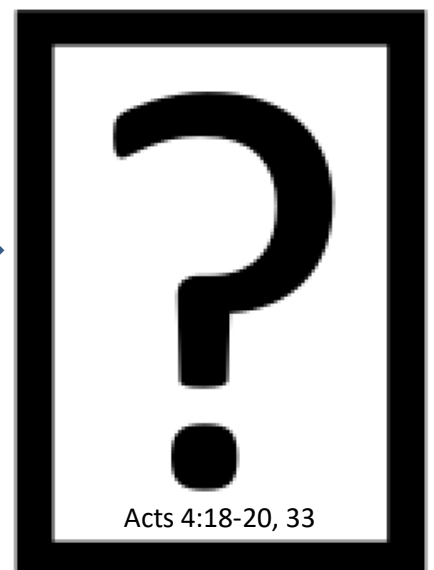
#### Additional Ideas:

- Honesty Train <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/friend/1987/01/sharing-time-be-honest?lang=eng>
- Story and printable figures of Joseph F. Smith being honest and bold with his testimony: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/liahona/1996/10/sharing-time-honest-and-truthful-at-all-times?lang=eng>
- Story about honesty with printable characters to act it out with <https://thelovedwelling.com/church/come-follow-me/july-2019/week-26-july-1-7-acts-1-5/>

The Gospel Can Change Us



Peter When He Denied Christ:





Prophet/Apostles Matching Game: Cut apart these pictures and descriptions from *The Friend*. Lay them upside-down and take turns looking for matches. As each match is found, read the descriptions and talk about how these are real people like us. Discuss how they must have made really good choices throughout their lives in order to help them become the people they are today.





# Our PROPHETS and APOSTLES Today

Jesus Christ leads The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints through prophets and apostles. Read about them below. Then cut out the pictures on page 5 and tape them in place on the chart. Put tape at the top of each picture so you can still read the facts underneath!

- Cleaned a radio repair shop as his first job
- Became a lawyer and Utah Supreme Court judge
- Was president of BYU



2

**President Dallin H. Oaks**  
First Counselor in the First Presidency

- Was a heart surgeon
- Studied several languages, including Mandarin
- Has 10 children—9 girls and 1 boy



1

**President Russell M. Nelson**  
12th President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

- Played basketball in high school
- Learned physics from his father on their family chalkboard
- Was president of Ricks College, now BYU-Idaho



3

**President Henry B. Eyring**  
Second Counselor in the First Presidency

- Was nicknamed “the bishop” in college because of his high standards
- Owned a car dealership
- Served as a missionary in England and as mission president in Toronto, Canada



4

**President M. Russell Ballard**  
Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

- Was a mission companion with Elder Cook in England
- Worked for the Church Education System
- Was president of BYU



5

**Elder Jeffrey R. Holland**  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

- Was a refugee twice as a child
- Was an airplane captain
- Enjoys skiing with his children and grandchildren



6

**Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf**  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

- Was a quarterback on his high-school football team
- After serving a mission in Germany, baptized his father a member of the Church
- Was president of Ricks College when it became BYU-Idaho



7

**Elder David A. Bednar**  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

- Gained a testimony after studying scriptures and praying with his older brother
- Saw his future wife at a junior-high talent show
- Served as a Church leader in the Philippines and Pacific Islands



8

**Elder Quentin L. Cook**  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

- Baked homemade bread for his family growing up
- Participated in the Mill Comarrah Pageant as a teenager
- Worked as a lawyer before being called as an Apostle



9

**Elder D. Todd Christofferson**  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

- Grew up on a dairy farm in Idaho, USA
- Served as a missionary and mission president in France
- Speaks French, Portuguese, Spanish, and English



10

**Elder Neil L. Andersen**  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

- Was mission president in New York City, USA
- His motto is “It’s people that matter most”
- Dedicated the first LDS Church building in the Czech Republic



11

**Elder Ronald A. Rasband**  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

- Served as a missionary and mission president in Japan
- Started a business manufacturing and selling exercise equipment
- Served as bishop over the whole Church



12

**Elder Gary E. Stevenson**  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

- His middle name, Gunnar, means “brave soldier”
- Moved to Sweden as a teenager
- Worked as a heart doctor



13

**Elder Dale G. Renlund**  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

- Likes animals, including penguins
- Loves meeting people in every country
- Has family history records back to First Dragon Gong in 837 AD



14

**Elder Gerrit W. Gong**  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

- Is from Brazil, and served as a missionary there and mission president in Portugal
- Learned about the Church with his family as a young boy
- Started getting ready for a mission when he was 12 years old



15

**Elder Ulisses Soares**  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Check your answers on [lds.org/prophets-and-apostles](https://www.lds.org/prophets-and-apostles).

ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRAD TEARE



<p>Sally had something green in her teeth. Yuck! She asks, "Do I have anything in my teeth?" You tell her, "No, looks good."</p> <p>Lie</p>	<p>Mom serves something that's not the best thing she's ever made. "How do you like your food, dear?" she asks. You respond, "Honestly, it's not my favorite. I love when you make ____ (insert another dish) ____"</p> <p>Truth</p>
<p>Running around the house, you accidentally knocked over a glass from the table. "Did you break that glass?" Dad asks. "Katie did it," you reply.</p> <p>Lie</p>	<p>Today at school, some kids bullied you and took your lunch. At dinner, Mom asks you if you had fun at school today. "Ya, everything was great," you respond.</p> <p>Lie</p>
<p>"Where did my chocolate bar go?" cries your sister. You ate it earlier on accident, thinking it was the one you got from school. "I don't know, maybe the dog ate it," you suggest.</p> <p>Lie</p>	<p>Dad went to wash his hands and noticed the floor was soaking wet. You had a little too much fun earlier when you were washing your hands and you made a mess. When he asks how the floor got wet, you tell him the baby spilled a cup of water.</p> <p>Lie</p>
<p>Your little brother ate a ring that was sitting on a dresser. When Mom asks you if your brother ate it, you don't want him to get into trouble, so you say no.</p> <p>Lie</p>	<p>"Did you already open one of your gifts?" Dad asks when he sees wrapping paper scattered around the room. You were just so curious to see what you got and only meant to take a quick peek, so you tell him you didn't.</p> <p>Lie</p>
<p>You saw freshly-baked cookies sitting on the counter. They smelled so yummy, you just had to try one. Mom notices one missing and asks you where it went. You know you will get into trouble, but you tell her you ate one.</p> <p>Truth</p>	<p>You asked your dad if you could play outside and he told you not now. You went and asked your mom if you could play outside and she asked if you talked to Dad. "Yes," you reply. "What did he tell you?" she asks. You respond, "He said I could."</p> <p>Lie</p>

From <https://artscrackers.com/2015/07/07/pinocchio-and-what-it-teaches-biblically/>

Not Even a Little White Lie Activity: Follow instructions from this website <https://artscrackers.com/2015/07/07/pinocchio-and-what-it-teaches-biblically/> to talk about being honest. Print up Pinocchio face and cut apart the scenario cards. Read each flash card scenario and have them decide if it's a truth or lie. For each lie, add another block onto Pinocchio's nose. Review the importance of being honest and how it can help us become more like Christ.

# Not Even a Little White Lie

Read the printable flash cards out loud and determine if they are lying or telling the truth.

Each lie is represented by a building block (or anything else you find that you can stack.)

For each lie told, stack a block on Pinocchio's nose. Even little lies count. This shows how lying just grows.



Straw Necklace: What are some things prophets/apostles have taught us to do? (Be honest, kind, etc.) How do those things help us become closer to and more like Christ? Give each kid a string, paper hearts, and cut up straw pieces. Punch holes in the hearts with a hole puncher. For each way they can think of for how to follow the prophets and help their hearts change to have stronger faith in and become more like Christ, they can add another straw and heart piece to their necklace.

