



## TEACH IT TALK SESSION 2

This talk guide is just that: a guide. It’s not intended to be a manuscript to read aloud. It’s here to give you ideas, structure, and stories to blend with your personal study (Prep It) as you prepare your talk.

The content complements the other Teach It guides, allowing you to give a talk on the same topic students are studying in other settings (such as small groups) without too much overlap.

### 1. Materials (Optional)

- **Movie Trailer:** *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Play the trailer from the DVD, or search for it on a video-sharing Web site such as YouTube.
- Some simple lighting effects in the room where you meet, such as: darkness (as dark as possible), minimal light (flashlight), full light (all available room lights, stage lights, or even a light show)

### 2. Optional Openings

#### VISUAL ILLUSTRATION

Before the session, preview the movie trailer from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. You’ll want to stop or fade out before the comment about the squirrels. Show the trailer to your students (you’ll focus on Charlie entering the chocolate factory). Segue into your talk by commenting on what a privilege it must have been to gain access to the greatest place on earth—a chocolate factory!

#### PERSONAL STORY

Tell a story about a time you received something you didn’t deserve or gained access to an incredible venue. Here’s an example:

**I had a friend in Pennsylvania who was pretty well-off. He had some money, but his dad had a lot of money. Private-jet kind of money. Well, his dad thought I was an okay kid, so he offered me a couple of box seats to a Steelers game. Turns out these weren’t the box seats that are pretty close to the action. These were practically on the field during the game! These were the kinds of seats where you show up and the usher already knows your name. “Mr. Murphy, I see you’re sitting in Mr. Schmidt’s box for today’s game. Is there anything I can do for you while you’re waiting for the game to begin?” “Um, can I get a Diet Coke?” “Coming right up.” These seats were ridiculous. What made me uncomfortable at first was the fact that I didn’t do anything to deserve these seats. I knew a rich guy’s son. That was the whole deal. I didn’t pay for the seats. I didn’t earn the seats. I just got the reward of this guy’s hard work. I got the perk without paying the price. It’s good to know people in high places.**

#### OPTIONAL MIX-INS

You may want to point out a few facts about the opening of John’s Gospel:

*-John may have been bored with “orderly accounts” (Luke) and genealogies (Matthew), so he put it all together—theology, philosophy, history—in an expressive way that explained the “Good News.”*

*-John didn’t start with a nativity scene, but jumped in with a very poetic account of the start of Jesus’ ministry.*

*-At the time of John’s writing, a lot of theories were going around about who Jesus was: Some said he was all spirit; some said he was an “emanation” (offshoot) from God, but all human. In other words, there were a lot of “gray areas” about Jesus. Funny how some things never change.*

### 3. Digging In

Continue with—

John 1:6-13 says,

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

John the Baptist was kind of a strange bird. He didn't necessarily play by the world's rules. He dressed a little differently, talked a little strangely, and didn't really care about the same things most of us get wrapped up in. He wasn't the guy you'd ask to be in your fantasy-football pool. He never won any sports championships, wrote any best sellers, or held a political office—but he did do some remarkable things.

John the Baptist is the guy who “writer John” is talking about in John 1. John the Baptist probably wouldn't even have wanted to be mentioned in the Bible. That's the kind of guy he was. It wasn't about him. It was about Him—big-“H” Him. Yet Jesus himself said this: “Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist...” (Matthew 11:11).

So John the Baptist was a big deal. Getting a small mention in the Bible is a big deal. John was the star of several scenes in Scripture. I like John. He's a little different. He stands out because of his passion and his humility. John had a passion for pointing people to Jesus because he understood. He got it! It makes sense that if the greatest thing or greatest person ever to walk this planet was hanging around—and you got it—you'd point him out. And as much as it'd be fun to be the big important person “chosen by God,” next to the light of the world, we'd all just fall a bit short. It's humbling. It's sort of like being picked captain of the basketball team and then playing against Michael Jordan. I was a big deal a few minutes ago. I had a big crowd all around me. But now I'm pointing to the God of the universe. It's humbling—and John got that.

He was pointing to the person who loved us enough to give us the right to be called children of God! Because of what Jesus did, we have access to God. Because of his love, we are born of God. It doesn't get any bigger than that. John got that—and we ought to sit up and notice ourselves.

### 4. Taking It Inward

Continue—

The message John the Baptist is telling us is this: The world is now changed. Every person in the world now has a chance to have full access to God. We can all receive the golden ticket into the chocolate factory. Jesus is our guide into a whole new world unlike anything we've ever imagined—not to say that Jesus is Willy Wonka, but you get the picture.

## **VISUAL ILLUSTRATION**

*Before Jesus—Darkness*

Make your room as dark as possible. In the darkness, share something like—

**Think about life before Christ. Think about your soul trying to find its way out of a dark tunnel and seeing nothing but pitch black. Here is how Scripture describes us before we know Jesus...**

### **Colossians 1:13-18**

**I was in the dominion of darkness (v. 13).**

### **1 Peter 1:17-25**

- **I had an empty way of life (v. 18).**
- **I was born of perishable seed (destined to perish!) (v. 23).**

### **1 John 1:1-7**

**I walked in darkness (v. 6).**

## **DURING JESUS—BEGINNING LIGHT**

Turn on a flashlight or some minimal light, and share something like—

**But God wasn't about to leave us in darkness. Love is his number-one characteristic. He loves us too much to let us die in darkness. That's why he's always had a plan, since before time began. John writes—**

**There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.**

**He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. (John 1:6-13)**

## **AFTER JESUS—FULL LIGHT**

Turn on every light you have. If there's a stage and a band, you may want to produce a brief light show and have the band play an appropriate song or just hit some great chords. If you don't have a stage and a band, you may want to play a song on a CD player. Then share:

**We can now have full contact with the light! We have total access to God through Jesus, who came to light up the world. The Bible says...**

### **Colossians 1:13-18**

- **I was rescued from the power of darkness (v. 13).**
- **I was brought into the kingdom of the Son (v. 13).**
- **I have redemption, forgiveness of sins (v. 14).**

### **1 Peter 1:17-25**

- **I was redeemed with the precious blood of Jesus (v. 18-19).**
- **I was purified by obeying the truth (v. 22).**
- **I was born again of imperishable seed (v. 23).**

## 1 John 1:1-7

- I have fellowship with the Father and Son (v. 3).
- I have fellowship with other Christians (v. 7).
- I'm purified from all sin (v. 7).

Share—

**This is the state God desires for all of us: to be in full light, brought there by Jesus himself, rescued from darkness and given full access to full light.**

## 5. Wrapping It Up

Finish with—

**I'm hoping you can now better visualize what life is like “before, during, and after” Jesus. So the question is: What state of Jesus are you in? Before, during, or after?**

**If it's “before,” think about moving out of the darkness and into the light. You can flip the switch today!**

**If it's “during,” then you're probably searching, still figuring it out. Maybe you've said a tentative yes to Jesus, but you're still not sure. Or maybe you've said no to Jesus, but you're still not sure. Let today be the day you lock into the light of Jesus for sure!**

**If it's “after,” then commit to living a life that reflects the fact that you are an heir of God. You get the perks. And God's perks are far better than the ticket to the chocolate factory or the incredible box seats at the ball game—all because of who you know: Jesus. Knowing Jesus gives our souls the light they need to grow and live. Knowing Jesus helps us love people and experience a secure life—secure in the fact that we will live forever. So enjoy!**