

POWERFUL PULL

*[Jesus said,] "I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all people to myself."*

—John 12:32

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever been afraid to do something, and then when you worked up the nerve to do it, it turned out to be a wonderful experience? Or maybe you tried something that was hard at first, and even a little painful, but in the end it was really, really worth all your trouble? Sometimes that's what telling others about Jesus is like. It can be scary, it can be hard, and it can even hurt a little—especially if a friend or family member makes fun of you when you try to share the gospel with them. But Jesus promised two things about witnessing for him. First, he promised to be with you (Matthew 28:19–20). Second, he promised that when people hear the good news about what he has done for them, many will respond by believing in him. And when someone you care about does that, it makes everything worth it!

Today's devotion is about this second promise. It's based on John 12:32, in which Jesus said, "I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." The devotion is called "Powerful Pull."

DEVOTION

Sitting at the desk in his bedroom, Dylan wound copper wire around a large nail. "What are you doing, Son?" his father asked, walking into the room.

Dylan looked up. "Making an electromagnet. I saw the instructions for it in a book." As his dad watched, Dylan taped one end of the wire to the positive side of a D-cell battery. Then he taped the other end to the negative side. "Okay, I'm ready to test it," he said.

Scattering small nails on his desk, Dylan held the point of the large nail over them. They leaped up and stuck to it.

Some Christians are afraid to tell people about the gospel. They think others won't like hearing about how Jesus was nailed to a cross on the ground and then was lifted up to die. But when people understand that he died to save them, they see the cross differently. The love Jesus showed the world by dying on the cross draws people to him like a magnet. Don't be afraid to share the gospel with others! You'll help them realize how much Jesus loves them.

LIFE IN BIBLE TIMES

To the people of Jesus' time, a cross was a symbol of death. But Jesus cared about sinners enough to die on a cross to save them. So the cross has become a symbol of love. (See John 3:16; 15:13.)

QUESTIONS

1. How did you feel the first time you rode a bicycle, went snowboarding, jumped off a high dive, or flew in an airplane? Were you a little nervous or afraid? What helped you get over your fear and do it anyway?
2. Have you ever experienced pain and frustration while you were learning to do something challenging, like playing the guitar or playing sports? How were you able to get through that?
3. How does really wanting to do something help you overcome obstacles—like fear, hurt, and frustration—that might otherwise keep you from doing it? Do you feel a strong desire to help others understand how much Jesus loves them and find salvation by putting their faith in him?
4. What drew you to Jesus the first time someone told you about him? Does remembering that inspire you to want to tell others about him?
5. Does knowing the two promises Jesus made give you more confidence to share the gospel with the people you care for? What can you do to remind yourself of these promises when you need to remember them?