

LARGE GROUP TIME SERIES


WEEK 2: "PASS THE SALT"

Ready?

- Preprint each letter of the word "SALT" on separate pieces of poster board. On the reverse side of each piece, write the letter's corresponding word as defined in the lesson. (For example, "S" on one side; "Search" on the other side.) Color poster board is more visually interesting than white, but be sure that your letters and words are large and dark enough to be read by all the kids in the room.
- Arrange ahead of time for volunteers to hold each letter card and turn them over at the appropriate time to reveal the word.
- Print several items from the [Great ShakeUP](http://www.awana.org/shakeup) Web page (www.awana.org/shakeup), photocopy them and be ready to hand them out at the end of your Large Group Time, at your closing ceremony, or at whatever time works best for your club:
 - ❖ Tracking charts (for kids' use in tracking progress through the SALT steps)
 - ❖ Invitations ([Great ShakeUP](http://www.awana.org/shakeup)-theme invitations available free or link to pre-printed invitations available for purchase)
 - ❖ Parent/guardian letters (explains [Great ShakeUP](http://www.awana.org/shakeup) event and asks for assistance, especially in the area of transportation)

Set ...

- For too many clubbers, inviting a friend to Awana becomes a last-minute, hectic scramble – something to check off in order to get an award. (Some kids even invite friends who attend Awana at other churches and then return the favor another week!) This is certainly NOT the original intent of the "invite a friend" components of the Awana program. But then someone raised the question – have we ever **trained** kids to invite others to club? Have we given them a method they can use to identify and invite unsaved acquaintances to Awana? That's exactly what this lesson does! It's a simple, yet thoughtful and **prayerful** method that your kids can pick up in one night and begin to use immediately.
- Repetition is the key to learning. This lesson will help you introduce, review and then re-review the [Pass the SALT](http://www.awana.org/shakeup) method with your clubbers. The better you know it, the more effective you'll be in teaching it! Use your four volunteers to keep visual interest by holding the posters in different configurations (horizontal, vertical, angled up and down, etc.) as you go through the four steps. You could also have the four line up in single-file, S-A-L-T order with each letter going to the back of the line after being reviewed.

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- Inviting others to Awana is a great way for your clubbers to spread the gospel. But of course, we want to encourage direct kid-to-kid evangelism as well. Awana now offers several tools to help children proclaim their faith. See pages 12-13 of the 2007-2008 *Awana Ministry Catalog* (or visit the *Ministry Catalog Online* at www.awana.org/catalog) to consider the options.

Go!

Hey, wasn't it great having all that popcorn last week? Who can remember what that was all about? (*Engage in a quick review of the concepts from last week's lesson.*) What did the popcorn represent? (God's gift to us, Christ the Savior, salvation.) Will God's good gift ever run out? (No!) Who else should have this gift? (Everyone.) Who should give out the gift? (All of us.) Who remembers the name of the big event coming in two weeks? (*Give a "The Great ..." hint if needed.*) Right! The **Great ShakeUP**. Why are we doing the **Great ShakeUP**? (To invite kids who haven't heard about and trusted in Jesus to come to Awana.) And who remembers what we're going to talk about tonight? (Give a "**Pass the ...**" hint if needed.) So let's talk a little bit about SALT.

You all know I love popcorn. But you know what I think makes popcorn taste so good? SALT! Salt makes so many things taste so much better. Have you ever eaten popcorn that didn't have any salt on it? It sure does taste different from popcorn that has salt on it, right? Many people like popcorn WITH salt better than popcorn WITHOUT salt because of how the salt makes the popcorn taste different.

Here's something interesting about salt. Scientists tell us that salt is really made of two different things. Salt is mostly made of something called chlorine with a little bit of something else called sodium. What do we know about chlorine (pure chlorine, NOT the same as what's in our drinking water or in the swimming pool)? Well, the pure chemical chlorine itself is deadly. It can kill you. But when chlorine combines with a little bit of sodium to make salt, everything changes. You can eat it on your food, like popcorn, and it makes it taste great!

What do we know about sin? Sin is deadly. Romans 6:23 says what? (*Quote verse.*) But what happens when a sinful person believes that Jesus died for them? (*Ask a clubber to read or quote 2 Corinthians 5:17.*) That's right. Everything changes. Their sins are forgiven, they have a home in heaven, and they can start obeying Jesus – it's great! Just like a little bit of sodium can cancel out a deadly substance like chlorine, a little bit of faith in Jesus is all that's needed to cancel out the penalty for your sin. If you have questions about this, please ask a leader when the Large Group Time lesson is over.

So why are we talking about "**Pass the SALT?**" In Matthew 5:13 Jesus said, "*Ye are the salt of the earth.*" Why do you think Jesus would call Christians "salt"? Because salt changes things. When Christians spread the good news about Jesus, it can change people's lives.



Tonight, we want to look at four things that you can do to spread the good news and be like salt. (These aren't the only things you can do, but they will help you invite friends to the **Great ShakeUP** – and that might help you think of other ways to be like salt.) Basically, **Pass the SALT** is about bringing your friends to the **Great ShakeUP** so they can have as great a time as you do and so they can hear and learn about Jesus. And maybe they will believe in Jesus and be saved – wouldn't that be cool?!

To help us remember the four things you can all do, we're going to use the word "SALT." Each letter will help us remember one of the four things.

The first letter in the word SALT is S, and S stands for ... (*motion to first "poster child" to turn poster board over*) ... **Search**. The first thing you need to do is **search** for someone to invite to the **Great ShakeUP**. (Remember, the **Great ShakeUP** is the big event in two weeks where we want lots of new kids to come who haven't heard about Jesus!) Do you know someone who needs to come to the **Great ShakeUP** to hear about Jesus? At your school? In your neighborhood? On a sports team or other activity you go to? (*Take suggestions, let this be interactive, praise kids for great ideas.*) Pray and ask God to help you think of people who could come to the **Great ShakeUP**. Then write those names down on the special **Great ShakeUP** chart we're going to give you before you leave tonight. It's important to write them down so you won't forget them. OK, so let's say it together. S stands for _____ (Search!)

The next letter in SALT is A, and A stands for ... (*motion to second "poster child" to turn poster board over*) ... **Ask God**. Remember last week when we said that if you have trusted Christ as your Savior, you were given the gift of God's grace? That means the penalty, or punishment, of sin is forgiven and that we are saved forever, that we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us, that we can actually talk to God! One of the things you can talk about with Him is the people that you wrote down on your chart. Ask God to make them want to come to the **Great ShakeUP** and hear about Him. Ask for the courage to invite them. Ask that they would trust Jesus as their Savior. Talk to God about this every day ... He loves to hear from us!

Here's something important to know about asking God for things. He doesn't always say yes! Sometimes He says yes, and other times He says no, or wait. But here are two things we can know for sure when we talk to God in prayer:

1. He hears our prayers. 1 John 5:14 says: *And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us.*
2. We can trust Him. Philippians 4:6-7 says: *Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

Now, let's review. S is for _____ (Search), A is for _____ (Ask God).



The third letter in SALT is L, and L stands for ... (*motion to third "poster child" to turn poster board over*) ... **Link**. After you've searched out friends and asked God about them coming, it's time to link them to Awana by inviting them to come! When you ask them to come, be sure to tell them:

What it is – the **Great ShakeUP** ... fun Awana games and a cool Bible lesson

When it is – night and time

Where it is – location of our club

The last letter in SALT is T, and T stands for ... (*motion to fourth "poster child" to turn poster board over*) ... **Transport!** So, that just means make it easy for the kids you link, or invite, to the **Great ShakeUP** to come! Do they need a ride? Make sure it's OK with your parent or whoever brings you to Awana, then tell them they can get a ride with you! But it's not only about giving someone a ride. Other things might keep them from coming to the **Great ShakeUP**. Can you think of anything else? Are they shy about meeting new people? Tell them they can stay with you during the **Great ShakeUP!** Are they not sure they'd like the games? Tell them they can just watch! Do whatever you can to help someone get to the **Great ShakeUP**. (Remember, though, that sometimes a parent won't let a kid come no matter what you do to help or answer questions – all you can do is try!)

So, let's run through S-A-L-T again – along with some ideas to help you really do it!

- S stands for what? **Search** – Think of friends who need to come to the **Great ShakeUP** and hear about Jesus. Remember to write their names on your chart!
 - ❖ **Idea:** There are kids all around you who need to know Jesus! Think of your school class, sports teams, neighbors, kids on the bus, maybe even cousin, brother or sister.
 - ❖ **Idea:** The more kids who know that you're in Awana; the more interested some of them might be in what it's all about. Here are some ways you can show them:
 - ❖ **Idea:** (Leaders, only if you are purchasing the rubber wristbands. See the **Great ShakeUP** Web page.) Show friends your latest wristband – the official **Great ShakeUP** one! And, if they come to the **Great ShakeUP** with you, they'll get one too!
 - ❖ **Idea:** If it's OK with a parent and your school dress code, wear your Awana uniform to school one day in the next couple of weeks.
- A is for what? **Ask God** – That the people on your chart would want to come to the **Great ShakeUP** – and that they would trust Jesus as Savior.
 - ❖ **Idea:** Use your chart as you talk to God; go down the chart and ask Him about each person!



❖ **Idea:** If your parent or guardian is a believer, show them your chart and ask them to pray with you.

- L is for what? **Link** – Invite the people on your chart to come to the **Great ShakeUP** and make sure they know what, when and where it is.

❖ **Idea:** Use one of our special invitations when you make the link with the people on your chart. *(Leaders, information on several invitation options is available on the [Great ShakeUP Web page](#).)*

❖ **Idea:** Make sure your Mom, Dad or guardian gets the letter we're sending home with you tonight. *(Leaders, the letter is on the [Great ShakeUP Web page](#) It's always good to let adults know of special plans like inviting people to Awana. Plus, they may be able to help you deliver your invitations!*

- And what about T? **Transport** – Help solve whatever problem might stop someone from coming to the **Great ShakeUP!**

❖ **Idea:** I just said this, but I'll say it again because it's important. Make sure your Mom, Dad or guardian gets the letter we're sending home with you tonight. We want them to know about the **Great ShakeUP**, so they can help too.

So, one more time! S is for ____, A is for ____, L is for ____, T is for ____. Great!!
Now that you know the four things to do, are you ready to **Pass the SALT**?
Let's do it and see how many kids we can get here in two weeks for the **Great ShakeUP!**

(Close in prayer, asking the Lord to help each child remember how to [Pass the SALT](#) and to do the things the letters represent)