



WOW: Word Of the Week

Show-and-Tell
June 11, 2025

I remember “show-and-tell” from my days in elementary school. The idea was to bring something to school, show it to the rest of the class, and tell about it. I remember that the teacher quickly outlawed dreams from show-and-tell. Not only was there no object to be shown; elementary school students can make up some “whoppers.”

Words for this life and eternal life. Jesus came as God’s “show-and-tell.” We have seen his glory. He came and lived, perfectly showing us grace and truth. His words were reinforced by his life. His example said it all. He showed truth; he spoke truth. He showed grace; he spoke grace.

On one occasion, the Pharisees came to Jesus asking for a “show-and-tell” – give us a sign. Jesus replied that God had already done that—in the sign of Jonah. They knew the story of Jonah—they were Old Testament experts. But they did not know that Jonah was a “show-and-tell.” They did not know that Jonah was a sign. Jonah had been sent by God on a “show-and-tell” mission, to warn Nineveh of God’s judgment. Jonah did not want to participate in “show-and-tell.” He had his own selfish reasons and prejudices. God showed Jonah! I guess the big fish can be described as another “show-and-tell.”

The Old Testament prophet Joel makes clear that a locust plague was also a “show-and-tell” from God. The locusts were the show; the words of the prophet were the tell.

Christians today are called to be involved in “show-and-tell.” Or perhaps we should call it “tell-and-show.” Sharing the good news of Jesus requires telling, but it also requires showing. Paul gives an interesting description of how we tell and show in Ephesians 4. He calls it “truthing” in love. The Greeks had a verb based on the word for truth. We can invent a parallel, as I just did. The word does not technically exist in English, but the idea is valid. Truthing in love. Telling and showing. Telling about the one who came as God’s “show-and-tell.” Showing what it means to follow Him.

This week, remember that God has invited you to “show-and-tell.”