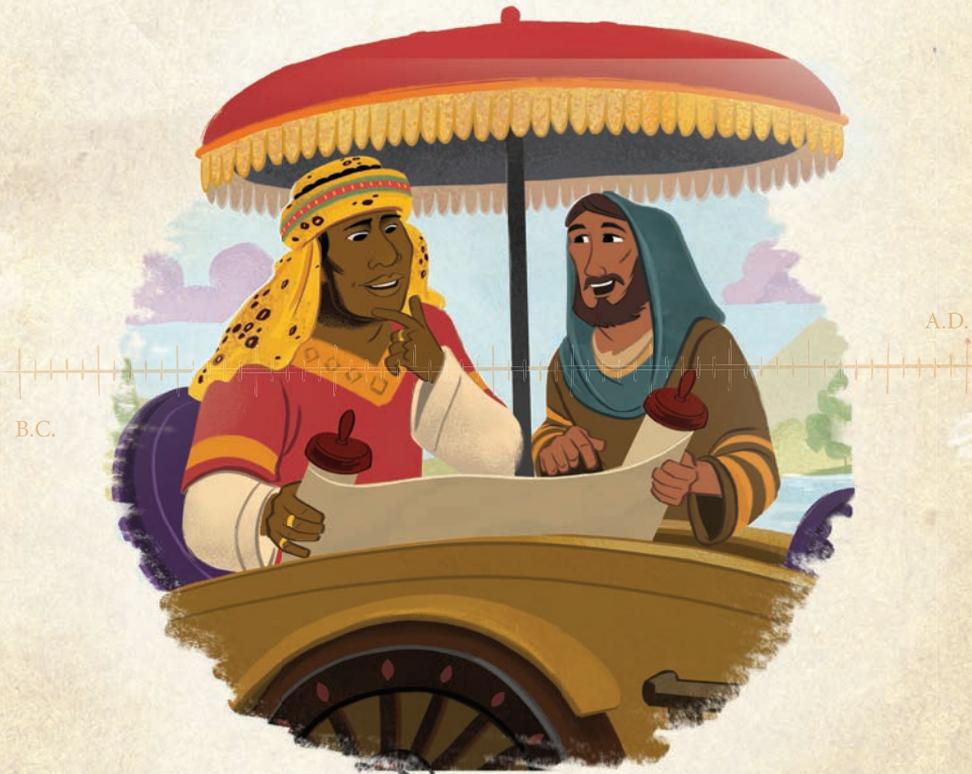


THE  
**GOSPEL**  
**PROJECT**  
FOR PRESCHOOL

# The Church on Mission

— PRESCHOOL WORSHIP GUIDE —



Ed Stetzer General Editor Trevin Wax Managing Editor

LifeWay | **Preschool**

THE  
**GOSPEL PROJECT**  
 FOR PRESCHOOL

*The Gospel Project for Preschool:  
 Worship Guide*

**The Church  
 on Mission**

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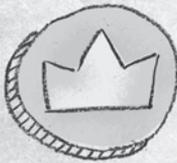
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↑ \_\_\_\_\_ Write the dates for each session here! \_\_\_\_\_

# THE GOSPEL

## GOD'S PLAN for PRESCHOOLERS

While preschoolers might not be ready to respond to the gospel, use this guide to help little minds begin to grasp big truths about Jesus and the kingdom of God.



### **GOD IS KING.**

Ask: "Who is in charge at home? Who is in charge over the whole world?" Explain that God made everything! He is King over everything, and He is in charge.



### **WE SINNED.**

Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell preschoolers that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin makes God sad.



### **GOD SENT JESUS.**

Explain that God must punish sin. He loves us and He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus came to take away the punishment for sin.



### **JESUS LOVES.**

Ask: "Do you like presents?" Explain that Jesus gives us the best present. He never did anything wrong, but He was punished in our place. Jesus wants to take away our sin because He loves us.

*Pray that God will save your preschoolers. As you faithfully teach the Bible, you are planting gospel seeds in children's hearts. Ask God to grow the preschoolers into children who love and trust in Jesus.*

# Worship at a Glance

**Start here**

## Leader Bible study

Familiarize yourself with the content and context of the Bible story and how it relates to God's plan of redemption

## Preparation

Pray for your preschoolers and contact families during the week. Gather and prepare session materials.

- Pray for your preschoolers
- Send a parent e-mail
- Print/download printables
- Assemble supplies
- Prepare videos

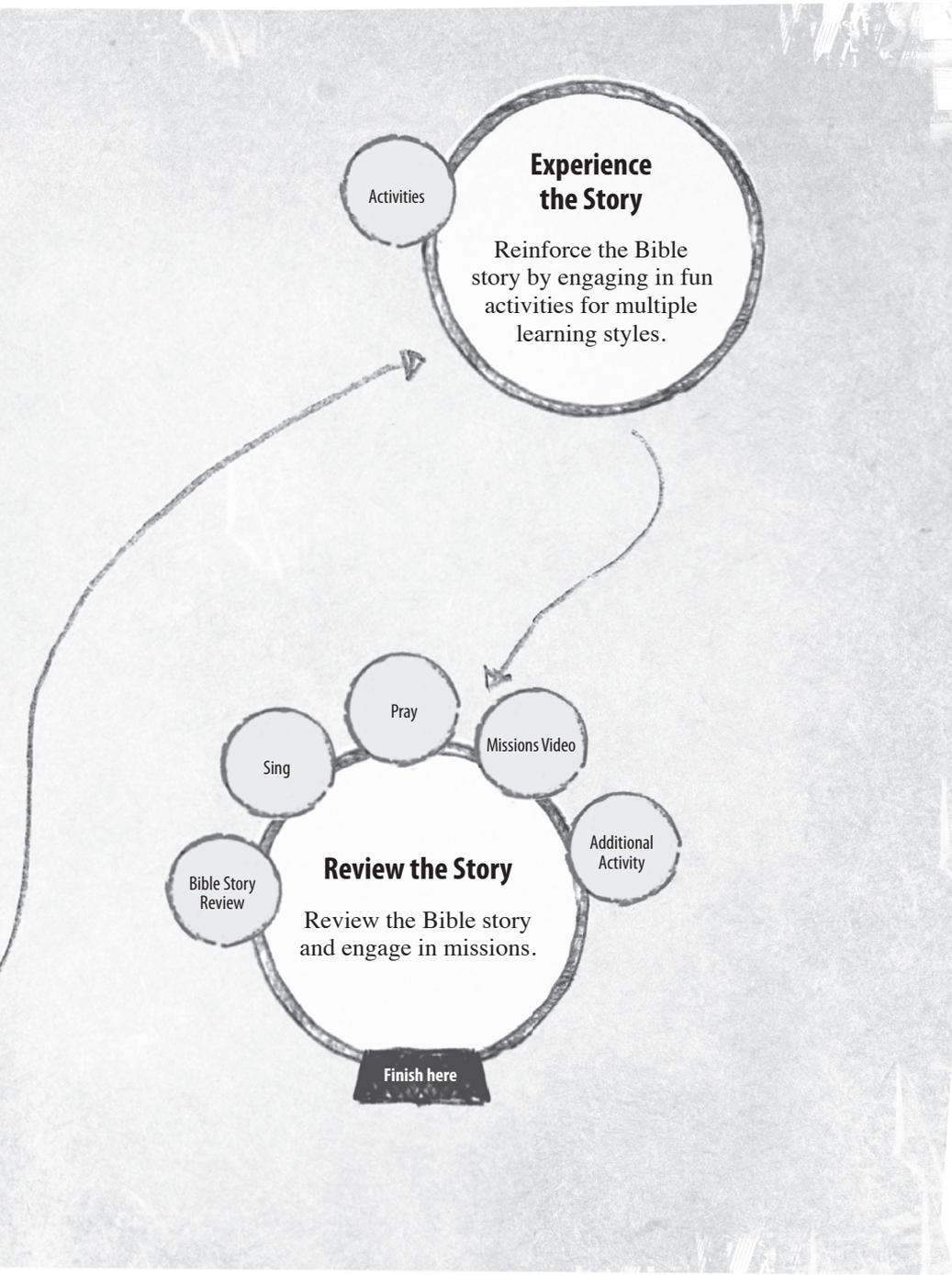
**Suggested times**  
The times provided allow you to complete the session plan in an hour. Lengthen or shorten the session as needed.

## Tell the Story

Worship through music. Communicate the day's Bible story and discover God's big story.

- Songs & Music Videos
- Bible Story
- Key Passage
- Big Picture Question
- Pray

**Say what?**  
Use the suggested "Say" dialogue to easily move between segments.



### Experience the Story

Reinforce the Bible story by engaging in fun activities for multiple learning styles.

Activities

### Review the Story

Review the Bible story and engage in missions.

Bible Story Review

Sing

Pray

Missions Video

Additional Activity

Finish here

# Unit 28: The God Who Empowers

## Unit Description:

After Jesus returned to heaven, the Holy Spirit—whom He had promised to send—was given to the disciples. Filled with the Holy Spirit's power, the small group of disciples shared the gospel and the early church grew rapidly.

## Key Passage:

Philippians 2:13

## Big Picture Question:

What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.



## Unit 28: The God Who Empowers

### Session 1:

**Bible Story:**

The Holy Spirit Came

**Bible Passage:**

*Acts 2:1-4, 22-42*

**Main Point:**

The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers.

### Session 2:

**Bible Story:**

Peter Healed a Beggar

**Bible Passage:**

*Acts 3:1-10; 4:5-31*

**Main Point:**

In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man.

### Session 3:

**Bible Story:**

Stephen's Address

**Bible Passage:**

*Acts 6:8-7:60*

**Main Point:**

Stephen told people about Jesus, even when he would be hurt for it.

### Session 4:

**Bible Story:**

The Ethiopian Official Believed

**Bible Passage:**

*Acts 8:26-40*

**Main Point:**

Philip told the Ethiopian man about Jesus.

### Session 5:

**Bible Story:**

Peter Visited Cornelius

**Bible Passage:**

*Acts 10*

**Main Point:**

Peter learned the gospel is for all people.

## 1 The Holy Spirit Came

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 2:1-4,22-42

**MAIN POINT:** The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers.

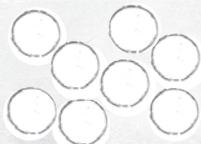
**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

**TELL  
THE STORY**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 10**



**EXPERIENCE  
THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 12**



**REVIEW  
THE STORY**  
(10+ MINUTES)  
**PAGE 14**



## Leader BIBLE STUDY

When Jesus ascended to heaven, He instructed the disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon them. So the disciples went back to Jerusalem, where they waited and prayed.

The time came for the Jewish festival called Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks. As with the Passover festival, Jews from all over the Roman Empire would be at the temple in Jerusalem.

During this festival, the Holy Spirit came to believers in Jerusalem. They heard a sound like a violent, rushing wind. When the Holy Spirit filled the disciples, they were able to speak in foreign languages. They went out into the city and began to preach, and the Jews from all over the world were amazed. These disciples were from Galilee, but they were speaking in languages the visitors could understand.

The disciples told people about God's plan. The Holy Spirit helped Peter teach: Jesus is the Messiah; Jesus was killed, but He is alive! (Acts 2:22-36) The Holy Spirit convicted the crowd and they asked, "Brothers, what must we do?" Peter told them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus. (Acts 2:37-38) That day, three thousand people received salvation!

God kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit's help, Jesus' disciples could share the gospel with the entire world.

God gives the Holy Spirit to those who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. As you teach preschoolers, emphasize that the Holy Spirit gives us power to do God's work, and He changes us to be more like Jesus.



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training made simple

Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

Check out the video "The Big Story" for a picture of this quarter's part in God's big story of redemption.

# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use sound effects:** Locate sound effects for a strong, rushing wind; other languages; and water splash (for people being baptized). Play the sound effects at appropriate moments in the Bible story.
- **Tell the Bible story in another language:** Invite a guest who speaks another language to tell the Bible story to your class. Ask the guest to tell the Bible story in English and then in the other language. Encourage them to use the same hand motions, tone, and facial expressions in each storytelling.

## The Holy Spirit Came

*Acts 2:1-4,22-42*

People came from far away to the city of Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost. **Jesus' friends were meeting together. All of a sudden, a sound like a strong, rushing wind came from heaven and filled the whole house. The Holy Spirit filled the friends.** When they started talking, they sounded different. **They could speak in languages they didn't even know!**

Other Jews in Jerusalem came to see what was going on. The **people were from many nations;** they spoke different languages. But all of them **could understand what Jesus' friends were saying!**

**Peter stood up to talk to the crowd.** "You saw the miracles Jesus did," he said. "God planned for Jesus to die. Then God raised Jesus from the dead! Now, Jesus is sitting beside God in heaven, and He sent the Holy Spirit to us."

Then **Peter said, "Jesus is the Lord and Messiah! You killed Him on a cross!"**

**The people knew Peter was telling the truth. "What should we do?" they asked.**

**"Turn away from your sins and be baptized," Peter said. "God will forgive your sins, and you will get the Holy Spirit too."**

That day, three thousand people turned away from their sins and were baptized. **They all believed and became followers of Jesus.**

*Christ Connection: God sent the Holy Spirit just as He promised. Now Jesus' friends had everything they needed to make more followers of Jesus! God gives the Holy Spirit to those of us who trust in Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us do God's work and changes us to be more like Jesus.*

# Tell THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** The Holy Spirit Came

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 2:1-4,22-42

**MAIN POINT:** The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

---

- "Into the World" song
- "The Story" song

## Welcome and worship with song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as "Into the World" to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in "The Story."

- Bible
- "The Holy Spirit Came" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

## Watch or tell the Bible story

Invite a few preschoolers to help you prepare for the Bible story by getting your Bible, holding the posters, or pointing to the timeline. Thank them for their help.

**SAY** • Does anyone know whom God sent to His people to be their Helper after Jesus went back to heaven? God sent the Holy Spirit to help His people! Let's listen to the Bible story to learn what happened the day God sent the Holy Spirit.

Open your Bible to Acts 2. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

- orange construction paper
- scissors
- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- "Working in You" song

## Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

Cut out a flame shape from orange construction paper and place it at Philippians 2:13. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

Read the key passage together several times.

**SAY** • Our key passage explains that God is working in us. Do you know how God is working in us? He is working in us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us to do God’s work.

Sing the key passage song “Working in You” together.

## Learn the big picture question and answer

**SAY** • Our big picture question is, *What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.* God sent the Holy Spirit to His followers. Then they went out and told everyone that Jesus is the Messiah!

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Respond through song and prayer

**SAY** • **The Holy Spirit came to Jesus’ followers.** God sent the Holy Spirit just as He promised. Now Jesus’ friends had everything they needed to make more followers of Jesus! God gives the Holy Spirit to those of us who trust in Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us do God’s work and changes us to be more like Jesus.

Sing “The Story” and “Mighty Fortress (Our God Is Faithful)” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “Wherever You Go.” You may also collect an offering.

**SAY** • God, thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to Your people. We need help to follow You, to obey You, and to do Your work. Thank You for giving us the best Helper in the Holy Spirit. Use Him to work in our lives so that we can be more like You. Amen.

• Main Point Poster  
• “The Story” song  
• “Mighty Fortress (Our God Is Faithful)” song  
• “Wherever You Go” song  
• offering basket

## Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

# Experience THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** The Holy Spirit Came

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 2:1-4,22-42

**MAIN POINT:** The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

---



## Speak a different language

Invite children to come up with their own language for the main point. Ask the children to say the main point in their made-up language. Then say it in English all together.

**SAY** • When each of you spoke in your own language, no one else was able to understand you. When **the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers**, they were able to tell people about Jesus no matter what language they spoke. Many people believed the good news!

## Look for wind

- bubbles (optional)
- walking rope (optional)

Invite preschoolers to look out the window or take them outside to look at trees. Ask them to look for signs of the wind. Explain that leaves blow in the wind and trees will sometimes move with the wind. Blow bubbles and watch them move with the wind.

**SAY** • We can't see the wind, but we can see what it moves. You cannot see the Holy Spirit, but you can see how the Holy Spirit helps us. *What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.*

- "Into the World" song (optional)
- "Working in You" song (optional)

## Sing about God's power

Invite the preschoolers to sing along and perform hand

motions to “My God Is So Big” or other songs about God’s power. If you are unfamiliar with the song or hand motions, check them out online before class. You may also sing the key passage or theme song.

**SAY** • There is nothing our God cannot do! He sent His Son, Jesus, to live on earth and die on the cross to save His people from sin. Then He sent the Holy Spirit to come and help His people! **The Holy Spirit came to Jesus’ followers** to help them obey our God who can do anything!

## Make a kite

Direct preschoolers to decorate a paper bag with markers. Open the bag and hole punch the bottom center of the bag. Tie a 3-foot piece of yarn to a craft stick. Place the craft stick in the bag and run the yarn through the hole. Glue streamers to the open end of the bags. Show the preschoolers how to hold the yarn and make the bag a kite.

**SAY** • You can use your kite in the wind! Jesus’ friends heard a sound like a strong, rushing wind. Then **the Holy Spirit came to Jesus’ followers**, and they told others about Jesus. The people they told about Jesus turned away from their sins and were baptized!

- lunch-size paper bag
- markers
- hole punch
- craft stick
- yarn
- scissors
- streamers
- glue

## Look at books in other languages

Set out books in different languages for preschoolers to browse. If possible, provide the same book in different languages. Read the books as preschoolers show interest.

**SAY** • **The Holy Spirit came to Jesus’ followers** and helped them speak in languages they did not know. God gives the Holy Spirit to those of us who trust in Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us do God’s work.

- books in different languages

Tip: If you do not have books on hand, check out some from your local library.

## Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

# Review THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** The Holy Spirit Came

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 2:1-4,22-42

**MAIN POINT:** The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

---

## Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "The Story" song
- "Working in You" song

1. What did Jesus' followers hear when they were praying? (*a sound like a loud, rushing wind*)
2. When the Holy Spirit filled Jesus' friends, what language did they speak? (*They were speaking different languages, even ones they didn't know!*)
3. Whom did Peter tell the people about? (*Jesus*)
4. How did people respond when Peter told them to turn away from their sins and be baptized? (*Three thousand people turned away from their sin and trusted in Jesus!*)
5. ***What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.***

**SAY** • **The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers** to be their Helper. Now Jesus' friends had everything they needed to make more followers of Jesus! God gives the Holy Spirit to those of us who trust in Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us do God's work and changes us to be more like Jesus.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

## Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

**SAY** • God, thank You for Your Son, Jesus, whom You sent to rescue us from our sin so that we can be with You forever. Thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to us so that we can have a Helper until we get to be with You forever. We love You! Amen.

## Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, introduce the activity and the reasons for it. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how we can share the gospel with confidence knowing that the Holy Spirit will help us. You may also show the “Worth It All” video.

**SAY** • Jeremy, Robert, and their friends live in Africa with people from a different culture and who look different than they do. They live there because God loves all people and wants them to hear the good news of Jesus! Let’s pray for Jeremy, Robert, and their friends and ask the Holy Spirit to continue to help them tell the good news.

- “Worth It All” video
- “Missions Prayer Cards” printable, 1 per child

## Draw things about church

Explain to preschoolers that the first church began in today’s Bible story. Ask the preschoolers if they know the name of your church. Invite them to draw pictures of their favorite things to do at church.

**SAY** • A church is not just a building. A church is a group of Jesus’ followers. **The Holy Spirit came to Jesus’ followers.** God gives the Holy Spirit to those of us who trust in Jesus. The Holy Spirit grows God’s church by helping God’s people tell others the good news so they will turn from their sin and believe.

- paper
- crayons

## Peter Healed a Beggar

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 3:1-10; 4:5-31

**MAIN POINT:** In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

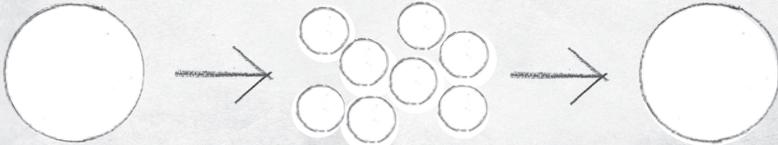
**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

2

**TELL  
THE STORY**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 20**

**EXPERIENCE  
THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 22**

**REVIEW  
THE STORY**  
(10+ MINUTES)  
**PAGE 24**



### Leader BIBLE STUDY

With the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Jesus' disciples were empowered to carry out Jesus' mission for them—to take the gospel to all the nations. More and more people believed in Jesus. They met together at the temple to praise and worship God, and the first church began.

One afternoon, two of Jesus' disciples—Peter and John—went to the temple to pray. They encountered at the gate a man who could not walk. Rather than give the man money,

Peter gave him something much more valuable: immediate physical healing in Jesus' name.

As you teach this Bible story to preschoolers, keep three things in mind. First, Peter's healing the beggar was not magic; it was a miracle. Beginning in Acts 3:12, Peter responded to the people who were amazed at what had happened. "Why are you amazed at this ... as though we had made him walk by our own power?" The man wasn't healed because Peter was a super-believer. Peter explained that it was by Jesus' power the man was healed.

Second, the man's healing made him happy and thankful. He entered the temple and rejoiced! Consider the wonderful miracle of salvation. We are dead in our sin, and God makes us alive in Christ! How we should rejoice and give thanks to the Lord!

Finally, Peter and John were bold in their witness. When confronted by the religious leaders, they did not shy away. Peter and John preached about the salvation found in Jesus. In fact, they said they were "unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).

The same power that enabled Peter to heal the man who was lame—the power of the Holy Spirit—enables believers today to live on mission for Jesus. Pray that God would give the preschoolers you teach a willingness to be used by Him for His glory and for the fame of Jesus' name.



Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

2

# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Play it out:** Invite preschoolers to pretend to be the man who could not walk. Invite them to sit down and pretend to ask for money. When you come to the part of the story where the man is healed, invite preschoolers to stand up, jump, and walk around the room praising God.
- **Make it physical:** Guide preschoolers to stand at one end of the room while you tell the Bible story. Invite them to take a step forward every time you say “walk.”

## Peter Healed a Beggar

*Acts 3:1-10; 4:5-31*

One day, **Peter and John went to the temple to pray. They saw a man sitting by the gate. The man could not walk, so every day his friends carried him to the temple. As people went into the temple, the man asked them for money since he could not work.**

**The man asked Peter and John for help.** Peter said to him, “Look at us.” The man looked at Peter and John. He thought they were going to give him money.

**“I do not have silver or gold,” Peter said.** But Peter did have something better. **“In the name of Jesus, stand up and walk.”**

**Peter helped the man up. The man was healed! His feet were strong, and he could walk and jump. Then the man went into the temple with Peter and John, and he praised God.**

**Everyone who saw the man was amazed.** This was the man who could not walk, but now he could walk! How could such a wonderful thing happen?

**The next day, the religious leaders met together. They asked Peter and John, “How did you heal this man?”**

**Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and said, “This man was healed by the power of Jesus.” Then Peter told the religious leaders that Jesus is the most important One of all.**

**The religious leaders did not know what to say. They told Peter and John to be quiet and to stop telling people about Jesus.**

**But Peter said, “We cannot keep quiet. We must tell people what we have seen and heard.” Peter and John met**

with other believers and prayed that God would give them power to be brave and tell people about Jesus.

*Christ Connection: After Jesus went back to heaven, the Holy Spirit gave Jesus' followers power to begin working. With the power of Jesus' name, Peter healed a man who could not walk. The religious leaders could not stop Jesus' followers from telling people the good news about Jesus.*

# Tell THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Peter Healed a Beggar

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 3:1-10; 4:5-31

**MAIN POINT:** In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

---

- "Into the World" song
- "The Story" song

## Welcome and worship with song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as "Into the World" to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in "The Story."

- Bible
- "Peter Healed a Beggar" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

## Watch or tell the Bible story

Ask preschoolers if anyone has ever carried them anywhere. Suggest times when a person might be carried.

**SAY** • A man in today's Bible story was unable to walk. He did not have a wheelchair. Someone always had to carry him. One day, Jesus' friends Peter and John met this man and by the power of Jesus' name they changed the man's life. Let's listen to the story from the Bible to see how this man's life was changed.

Open your Bible to Acts 3. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

- orange construction paper
- scissors
- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- "Working in You" song

## Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

Cut out a flame shape from orange construction paper and place it at Philippians 2:13. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

Invite all the boys to say the verse with you. Then invite all the girls to say the verse with you.

**SAY** • God worked His plan for the man who could not walk, and He used Peter and John to do it. Our key passage reminds us that God gives us the same Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit works in us to make us more like Jesus and through us to tell others about Jesus.

Sing the key passage song “Working in You” together.

## Learn the big picture question and answer

**SAY** • Let’s say our big picture question: *What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.*  
The Holy Spirit helped Peter by giving him power to heal a man who could not walk.

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Respond through song and prayer

**SAY** • After Jesus went back to heaven, the Holy Spirit gave Jesus’ followers power to begin working. **In Jesus’ name, Peter and John healed a man** who could not walk. The religious leaders could not stop Jesus’ followers from telling people the good news about Jesus.

Sing “The Story” and “God Is Always with Me” as children move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “Wherever You Go.” You may also collect an offering.

**SAY** • God, thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to help Peter and John heal the man and for making them unafraid to tell others about You. Help us to be unafraid to tell others about You too. Amen.

• Main Point Poster  
• “The Story” song  
• “God Is Always with Me” song  
• “Wherever You Go” song  
• offering basket

## Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

# Experience THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Peter Healed a Beggar

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 3:1-10; 4:5-31

**MAIN POINT:** In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.



## Play “Simon Says”

Play “Simon Says” according to the traditional rules.

Explain that you will give commands, but children should only obey commands that begin with “Simon Says.”

**SAY** • Great job doing exactly what Simon said to do! **In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man.** Peter told the man to stand up and walk. Did the man do what Peter told him? Yes! He was able to stand up and walk for the first time because the Holy Spirit gave Peter power to heal him.

## Sort coins

- coins
- hand sanitizer

Invite preschoolers to sit around a table. Place different kinds of coins in the center of the table. Invite preschoolers to sort the coins into piles by size, color, and so forth. Sanitize hands after touching the coins.

**SAY** • The man in the story asked for money every single day. He thought that was what he needed to make his life better. But Peter and John offered the man something better than money—Jesus! **In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man.**

## Make coin rubbings

Demonstrate how to place a coin under a sheet of paper and rub over it with the side of an unwrapped crayon.

Encourage children to experiment with different coins.

**SAY** • **In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man** who could not walk. The man who couldn't walk was asking for coins, but Peter and John gave him something better! The Holy Spirit helped them. *What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.*

- different types of coins
- paper
- unwrapped crayons

Tip: Make sure preschoolers do not put coins in their mouths.

## Make footprint puzzles

Invite a preschooler to stand on a sheet of construction paper while you trace his feet. Guide him to cut out his footprints and cut each one into three pieces to make a puzzle. Encourage preschoolers to trade puzzles with each other to work. Put each preschooler's foot puzzles in a ziplock bag to take home.

**SAY** • **In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man** who could not walk. The religious leaders wanted to know how the man was healed. Peter told them: the power of Jesus healed the man. The religious leaders could not stop Jesus' followers from telling people the good news about Jesus.

- construction paper
- marker
- blunt-tipped scissors
- ziplock bag

## Play out the Bible story

Encourage the children to play out the Bible story as you read it again. Choose children to be Peter, John, the man, and the people in the temple.

**SAY** • The Holy Spirit gave Peter and John the power to heal a man in Jesus' name! *What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.*

- Bible times dress-up clothes (optional)

## Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

# Review THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Peter Healed a Beggar

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 3:1-10; 4:5-31

**MAIN POINT:** In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

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## Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. Why did the man ask for money at the temple? (*He could not walk so he could not work.*)
2. What did Peter give the man instead of money? (**In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man.**)
3. What did the man do after Peter healed him? (*He went into the temple and praised God!*)
4. What did Peter and John pray for at the end of the story? (*They prayed that God would give them power to be brave and tell people about Jesus.*)
5. ***What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.***

**SAY** • After Jesus went back to heaven, the Holy Spirit gave Jesus' followers power to begin working. With the power of Jesus' name, Peter healed a man who could not walk. The religious leaders could not stop Jesus' followers from telling people the good news about Jesus.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "The Story" song
- "Working in You" song

## Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

**SAY** • God, thank You for giving us the Bible so we can learn about Your power. Thank You for giving Peter and John Your Holy Spirit to heal the man. Thank You for giving us that same Holy Spirit to make us brave in telling others about Jesus. Amen.

## Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how the Holy Spirit helped Peter and John, and He is our Helper as well. The Holy Spirit never leaves God's people. You may also show the "Being Bold" video.

**SAY** • Trevor and Elaine are being bold in Uganda and telling others about Jesus. Do you know who is helping them to be bold? The Holy Spirit is their Helper! Let's pray for them to be refreshed by the Holy Spirit when they are tired so that they can continue serving God as missionaries in Uganda.

- "Being Bold" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

## Do the "Hokey Pokey"

Form a circle. Lead preschoolers to sing the "Hokey Pokey" lyrics and move the mentioned body parts at the appropriate time. If you are unfamiliar with the tune or lyrics, look them up online before the session.

**SAY** • We used our legs to play the hokey pokey! The man in today's Bible story could not walk, but **in Jesus' name, Peter healed a man.** The man went into the temple with Peter and John, and he praised God.

## Stephen's Address

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 6:8–7:60

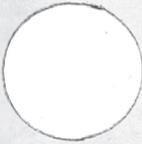
**MAIN POINT:** Stephen told people about Jesus, even when he would be hurt for it.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

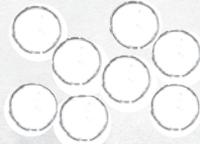
**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

3

**TELL  
THE STORY**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 30**



**EXPERIENCE  
THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 32**



**REVIEW  
THE STORY**  
(10+ MINUTES)  
**PAGE 34**



## Leader BIBLE STUDY

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen to serve as leaders in the early church at Jerusalem. (See Acts 6:1-7.) God blessed Stephen and gave him power to do wonders and miracles like some of the apostles.

Some of the Jews accused Stephen of blasphemy and dragged him to the Sanhedrin, a group of Jewish leaders who acted as a legal council. Stephen addressed the group. He drew from the Jewish history, which the leaders in the

Sanhedrin would have known well. But Stephen taught from the Old Testament things the Jewish leaders had likely never realized.

As Stephen preached, he showed how the Old Testament pointed to a coming Savior and how that Savior was Jesus. Stephen pointed out that the Jews' ancestors had rejected God's prophets. And they were just like their fathers; they rejected the Messiah, the Lord Jesus. Not only did they reject Jesus, they killed Him!

The Jewish leaders rushed at Stephen. Stephen looked into heaven. He saw God's glory, and Jesus was standing at God's right hand. The Jews forced Stephen out of the city, and they stoned him.

Remind preschoolers of Jesus' words in Matthew 10:22: "You will be hated by everyone because of My name. But the one who endures to the end will be delivered." Following Jesus will include difficulty and suffering. Jesus gives words of both warning and comfort: "Don't be afraid" (Matt. 10:26).

Stephen was killed because he was a Christian. Jesus told His followers that they would be persecuted—hated, hurt, or even killed—for loving Him. (Mark 13:9-13; John 16:2) Jesus also said that those who suffer for Him would be blessed. (Matthew 5:11) Stephen was not afraid to die because he saw Jesus waiting for him in heaven. We can face suffering in this life because we know great joy is waiting for us in heaven.



Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

3

# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Tell the story in the round:** Stand in the middle of the children as you tell the Bible story. Move around at appropriate moments.
- **Use Old Testament Bible Story Pictures:** Print and cut apart the “Old Testament Stories” printable. Hold up the appropriate picture as you mention that person in the Bible story.

## Stephen’s Address

*Acts 6:8–7:60*

**Stephen** was a man who **loved Jesus and served the church. God** was good to Stephen and **gave him power to do great things. One day, some Jews told lies about Stephen.** They did not like Stephen, and they wanted him to get in trouble.

**The high priest asked Stephen if the Jews were telling the truth. No, they were not. Stephen taught the Jewish leaders about Jesus. He started in the Old Testament** with stories about Abraham and Isaac, Joseph, and Moses.

**In those days, God was working out His plan to bring someone into the world who could save people from their sin.** God chose to do great things through His people, the Israelites. He rescued them from slavery in Egypt. And even though the people did not obey God or love God like they should, God did not give up on them.

God worked through Joshua and King David and King Solomon. **Stephen taught the religious leaders new things. He said that Jesus is the Messiah, and the religious leaders were wrong to reject Him and kill Him on the cross.**

**The religious leaders were so angry! They did not like what Stephen was saying. But Stephen looked up and said, “I see the heavens opened and Jesus is standing at God’s right side.” Suddenly, the people yelled and rushed toward Stephen. They made Stephen leave the city, and then they threw rocks at him until he died.**

*Christ Connection: People hurt Stephen because he followed Jesus. Jesus told His friends that people would hurt them for loving Him. (Mark 13:9-13; John 16:2) When people are mean to us because we love Jesus, we can be brave because people hurt Jesus too. Jesus died and came back to life, and one day we will live with Him forever.*

# Tell THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Stephen's Address

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 6:8–7:60

**MAIN POINT:** Stephen told people about Jesus, even when he would be hurt for it.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

---

## Welcome and worship with song

- "Into the World" song
- "The Story" song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as "Into the World" to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in "The Story."

## Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- "Stephen's Address" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Point to the timeline or big story circle as you review previous Bible stories from the Old Testament.

**SAY** • Last week we heard a story from the New Testament about how the Holy Spirit helped Peter and John heal a man who could not walk. Listen to how the Holy Spirit helped Stephen in today's Bible story.

Open your Bible to Acts 6. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

## Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- orange construction paper
- scissors
- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- "Working in You" song

Cut out a flame shape from orange construction paper and place it at Philippians 2:13. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage. Guide preschoolers to say the verse using different tones of

voice such as loud, soft, high, or low.

**SAY** • God is always working in His people according to His good purpose. It was sad that Stephen was hurt because he loved Jesus, but we know that Jesus was with him no matter what and His plan for Stephen was good.

Sing the key passage song “Working in You” together.

## Learn the big picture question and answer

**SAY** • Let’s say our big picture question together: *What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.* The Holy Spirit made Stephen brave to tell others about Jesus even when it was scary. The Holy Spirit gave Stephen courage to do God’s work.

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Respond through song and prayer

**SAY** • Stephen told people about Jesus, even when he would be hurt for it, and he was. Jesus told His friends that people would hurt them for loving Him. When people are mean to us because we love Jesus, we can be brave because people hurt Jesus too. Jesus died and came back to life, and one day we will live with Him forever.

Sing “The Story” and “Mighty Fortress (Our God Is Faithful)” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “Wherever You Go.” You may also collect an offering.

**SAY** • God, thank You for Stephen and for using him to tell others about Jesus. Help us to trust You always, to tell others about You, and to love You more than anything else. Please give us Your Holy Spirit to help us when we are scared.

• Main Point Poster  
• “The Story” song  
• “Mighty Fortress (Our God Is Faithful)” song  
• “Wherever You Go” song  
• offering basket

• countdown video (optional)

## Transition to experience the story

# Experience THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Stephen's Address

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 6:8–7:60

**MAIN POINT:** Stephen told people about Jesus, even when he would be hurt for it.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

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LOW PREP

- red paper
- green paper

## Decide between true and false

Give children a red paper and a green paper. Explain that you will say a statement and preschoolers will decide if the statement is true or false. If a preschooler thinks the statement is true, he will raise his green paper; if he thinks the statement is false, he will raise his red paper. Say a few silly statements that are obviously false, such as “I have green hair” or “The sky has purple polka dots.” for fun.

**SAY** • Great job deciding what was true and what was false! In the Bible story, the religious leaders said false things about Stephen, but **Stephen told people about Jesus, even when he would be hurt for it.**

## Sing a song

Sing to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.” Each time you repeat the song, substitute a different person to tell about Jesus.

“Go and tell \*your family, family, family!

Go and tell \*your family

That Jesus loves them so!”

**SAY** • God wants us to tell others about Jesus like Stephen told others about Jesus. **Stephen told people about**

Suggestions for different rounds:

- friends in class
- T-ball team
- karate teacher
- ballet class

**Jesus, even when he would be hurt for it.**

## **Talk about Jesus everywhere**

Label buckets with simple pictures of a school, grocery store, church, and playground. Invite preschoolers to line up and take turns tossing beanbags into one of the buckets. When the beanbag lands in a bucket, ask children to think of a person at that location they could tell about Jesus.

**SAY • Stephen told people about Jesus, even when he would be hurt for it.** People are all around us who do not know about Jesus. The Holy Spirit can help us share the good news about Jesus with them!

- buckets, 4
- paper
- markers
- tape
- beanbags

## **Paint rocks**

If weather permits, take a nature walk outside to collect rocks. Return to class and invite preschoolers to decorate their rocks with markers or washable paints.

**SAY • Stephen told people about Jesus, even when he would be hurt for it.** When people are mean to us because we love Jesus, we can be brave because people hurt Jesus too. When you look at your decorated rocks, remember Jesus died and came back to life, and one day we will live with Him forever.

- rocks
- markers
- washable paint
- paintbrushes
- painting smocks
- hand wipes (for cleanup)

## **Look at Bible stories**

Provide Bible storybooks and show preschoolers some of the Bible stories Stephen told about, such as Moses, David, and the prophets.

**SAY • Stephen told people about Jesus, even when he would be hurt for it.** Stephen said the Bible is about Jesus, the Messiah.

- Bible storybooks

## **Transition to review the story**

- countdown video (optional)

# Review THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Stephen's Address

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 6:8–7:60

**MAIN POINT:** Stephen told people about Jesus, even when he would be hurt for it.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

---

## Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. Who was Stephen? (*Stephen was a man who loved Jesus and served the church.*)
2. What did Stephen teach the Jewish leaders? (*He taught them the Bible said Jesus is the Messiah.*)
3. Why did the religious leaders get angry with Stephen? (*They did not like what he said about Jesus.*)
4. When Stephen was being hurt, whom did he see? (*He saw Jesus standing at God's side.*)
5. ***What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.***

**SAY** • People hurt Stephen because he followed Jesus. Jesus told His friends that people would hurt them for loving Him. When people are mean to us because we love Jesus, we can be brave because people hurt Jesus too. Jesus died and came back to life, and one day we will live with Him forever.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "The Story" song
- "Working in You" song

## Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

**SAY** • God, thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to help us. We need help telling others about Jesus. We need help to always trust and believe You. We love You, God. Help us to share Your love with others. Amen.

## Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how the Holy Spirit will give us courage to tell people about Jesus no matter what. You may also show the "Cattle Call" video.

- "Cattle Call" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

**SAY** • Many people all over the world have never heard Jesus' name. In this video we learned about a group of people in Madagascar who have never heard about Jesus. God sent Grant and his family to tell the people about Jesus. Let's pray that the people will hear and believe the truth about Jesus.

## Sing "Father Abraham"

Sing "Father Abraham" and perform the motions with the children. If you are unfamiliar with the song or the motions, check them out online before class. Remind children that Stephen told the religious leaders that Abraham pointed to Jesus.

**SAY** • **Stephen told people about Jesus, even when he would be hurt for it.** The Holy Spirit helped him, and the Holy Spirit will help us too. *What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.*

## The Ethiopian Official Believed

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 8:26-40

**MAIN POINT:** Philip told the Ethiopian man about Jesus.

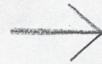
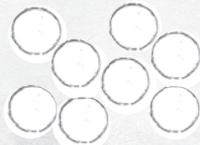
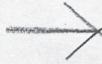
**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

**TELL  
THE STORY**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 40**

**EXPERIENCE  
THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 42**

**REVIEW  
THE STORY**  
(10+ MINUTES)  
**PAGE 44**



4

### Leader BIBLE STUDY

The believers in the early church faced intense persecution. After Stephen was killed, Jesus' followers at the church in Jerusalem scattered; however, they did not stop talking about Jesus. They continued to share the good news. One man, Philip, took the gospel to Samaria. The crowds there listened and believed, and they had great joy.

In today's Bible story, Philip was instructed by an angel of the Lord to go to a certain road in the desert. Philip obeyed. The Spirit led Philip to a chariot, where an Ethiopian

official was reading the Scriptures from the prophet Isaiah. The Ethiopian man did not understand what he was reading, so Philip explained it to him.

The man was reading from the prophet Isaiah: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter ... In His humiliation justice was denied Him. ... For His life is taken from the earth” (Acts 8:32-33). The official wondered if Isaiah was speaking about himself or another person. Philip told the official that Isaiah’s words weren’t about Isaiah; they were about the Messiah—Jesus! The official believed in Jesus and was baptized.

Guide preschoolers to consider the role of the Holy Spirit in this interaction between Philip and the Ethiopian official. Who was responsible for Philip’s going to the desert? Who helped Philip explain the Scriptures? Who changed the heart of the official so he would believe?

After his interaction with the Ethiopian official, Philip continued sharing the gospel in all the towns on his way to the town of Caesarea.

In our mission of making disciples, believers must be willing instruments to be used in the hands of the Lord. Philip didn’t go into the desert today with a strategy for converting another man; the Holy Spirit led Philip, and he obeyed. As believers, we can be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and willing to follow His lead. He will go with us.



Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Travel with Philip:** Use a brown or yellow sheet to represent a desert road. Cut a large cardboard box to look like a chariot. Use a blue sheet to represent water. Place the items around the room. Lead preschoolers to travel to each setting at the appropriate time as you tell the Bible story.
- **Pantomime action:** Invite two male guests to pantomime the actions of the Bible story as you tell it.

## The Ethiopian Official Believed

*Acts 8:26-40*

**Philip was one of the men Jesus sent out to tell people about Him. One day, an angel told Philip to go to a desert road. So Philip went.**

**On the road, Philip saw a man from Ethiopia. The man was an important official who worked for the queen of Ethiopia. He was riding in a chariot and reading the words of the prophet Isaiah.**

**The Holy Spirit led Philip to go to the man. Philip ran up to him and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”**

**The man said, “I need someone to teach it to me.” Then he invited Philip into his chariot.**

**Philip sat with the man, who was reading these words from Isaiah: “He was led like a sheep to be killed, and just like a lamb is quiet when its wool is cut, He does not say anything. What happened to Him was not fair. His life was taken away.”**

**The man asked, “Was Isaiah talking about himself or someone else?”**

**Isaiah was talking about the Messiah, so Philip began to teach the man the good news about Jesus.**

**As they traveled down the road, they came to some water. The man asked the chariot to stop. He wanted to be baptized because he believed in Jesus. Philip baptized the man in the water and the man went home happy.**

*Christ Connection: The man from Ethiopia knew what the Bible said, but he did not know that the prophets were speaking about Jesus. The Holy Spirit led Philip to help the man understand the good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sin, and He is alive, just like the prophets said.*

# Tell THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** The Ethiopian Official Believed

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 8:26-40

**MAIN POINT:** Philip told the Ethiopian man about Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

---

- “Into the World” song
- “The Story” song

## Welcome and worship with song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “Into the World” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in “The Story.”

- Bible
- “The Ethiopian Official Believed” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

## Watch or tell the Bible story

Invite preschoolers to stand up, high-five three friends, and sit back down.

**SAY** • When Jesus went back to heaven, He sent His friends to go out and tell others about Him. Philip was one of those friends! Let’s listen to how God used Philip to tell others the good news of Jesus.

Open your Bible to Acts 8. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

- orange construction paper
- scissors
- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- “Working in You” song

## Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

Cut out a flame shape from orange construction paper and place it at Philippians 2:13. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

Form two groups. Invite the first group to say the first part of the key passage and the second group to say the

second part of the key passage. Say the passage several times then switch assignments and say it several more times.

**SAY** • Just like our key passage says that God is working in us for His good purposes, God worked in Philip to tell others about Jesus!

Sing the key passage song “Working in You” together.

## Learn the big picture question and answer

**SAY** • Let’s say our big picture question, *What does the Holy Spirit do?* [Allow for responses.] *The Holy Spirit helps Christians.* The Bible is full of stories about the Holy Spirit helping Jesus’ friends to tell others the gospel. In today’s story, **Philip told the Ethiopian man about Jesus.**

- Big Picture Question Poster

## Respond through song and prayer

**SAY** • The man from Ethiopia knew what the Bible said, but he did not know that the prophets were speaking about Jesus. The Holy Spirit led Philip to help the man understand the good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sin, and He is alive, just like the prophets said.

Sing “The Story” and “God Is Always with Me” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “Wherever You Go.” You may also collect an offering.

**SAY** • God, thank You for helping Philip tell the Ethiopian man about Jesus! Thank You that the Holy Spirit will help us tell others about You too. Amen.

- Main Point Poster
- “The Story” song
- “God Is Always with Me” song
- “Wherever You Go” song
- offering basket

## Transition to experience the story

- countdown video (optional)

# Experience THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** The Ethiopian Official Believed

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 8:26-40

**MAIN POINT:** Philip told the Ethiopian man about Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.



- masking tape
- transportation toys

## Follow a tape path

Invite the preschoolers to make a road around the room using masking tape. Guide them to drive toy cars or walk along the road.

**SAY** • An angel told Philip to go down a desert road. Do you remember who Philip saw? He saw a man from Ethiopia! The Holy Spirit helped Philip to talk to the man and to tell him about Jesus. *What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.*

## Play in water

- plastic tubs or water table
- water
- water toys
- towels (for cleanup)

Provide tubs of water or a water table and plastic toys. While the children play in the water, talk about what baptism is and when people should be baptized.

**SAY** • **Philip told the Ethiopian man about Jesus** and the man believed! They stopped along the road when they saw water because he wanted to be baptized. Philip baptized the man in the water because he trusted in Jesus!

- paper plates
- construction paper
- scissors
- glue
- cotton balls

## Make a paper plate lamb

Before the session cut out a lamb's face, two ears, and two feet from black construction paper. Find a cutting template

online if needed. Provide a preschooler with a paper plate and invite her to glue cotton balls to cover the plate. Then help her glue the face and ears in the center of the plate and the two feet to the bottom of the plate. Give the preschooler large googly eyes to glue on her lamb's face.

**SAY** • Philip helped the Ethiopian official to understand Isaiah's message. Isaiah compared Jesus to a sheep and a lamb. **Philip told the Ethiopian man about Jesus.** The Bible says Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away our sin.

## Sort Bibles

Set out 8 to 10 Bibles of different sizes, colors, and shapes. Invite preschoolers to inspect the Bibles and to sort them into different categories.

• various Bibles, 8 to 10

**SAY** • These Bibles may all look different on the outside, but on the inside the words are all the same. The Bible is God's Word, and He gave it to us so that we could learn about Him and know Him. **Philip told the Ethiopian man** about Jesus through God's message to the prophet Isaiah. Philip used God's words to tell the Ethiopian man about Jesus.

## Sit in a chariot of chairs

Line up chairs in the classroom two by two to make a long train or chariot. Instruct the preschoolers to find a seat on the chariot. Pretend to drive down a dirt road like Philip and the Ethiopian man did. Encourage children to think of something they love about Jesus and share with one another.

• chairs

**SAY** • The Ethiopian man was riding down the road in his chariot when Philip saw him. **Philip told the Ethiopian man about Jesus**, and the man believed!

## Transition to review the story

• countdown video (optional)

# Review THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** The Ethiopian Official Believed

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 8:26-40

**MAIN POINT:** Philip told the Ethiopian man about Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

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- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "The Story" song
- "Working in You" song

## Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. Why did Philip go to the desert road? (*An angel told Philip to go there.*)
2. Whom did Philip meet on the road? (*an Ethiopian official riding in a chariot*)
3. What was the man reading? (*words from Isaiah*)
4. Whom did Philip teach the man about? (**Philip told the Ethiopian man about Jesus.**)
5. ***What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.***

**SAY** • The man from Ethiopia knew what the Bible said, but he did not know that the prophets were speaking about Jesus. The Holy Spirit led Philip to help the man understand the good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sin, and He is alive, just like the prophets said.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

## Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

**SAY** • God, help us to be like Philip and share the good

news of Your Son, Jesus, with others. We need the Holy Spirit to help us be brave and tell everyone we meet about You. Thank You for loving us, we want others to know Your love like we do. Amen.

## Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how about Philip was like a missionary telling others about Jesus. Remind children that the Holy Spirit helped Philip and He will help us too. You may also show the video "A Farmer Speaks."

- "A Farmer Speaks" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

**SAY** • Maroun is an olive farmer in the Middle East who loves Jesus. He reminded us that Jesus said to send workers out to tell others about Him. Philip obeyed and went out to tell others. To whom will we tell the gospel this week? Let's pray for God to help us tell someone about Jesus this week.

## Hopscotch the big picture answer

Write each word of the big picture answer on a separate piece of paper. Tape the papers to the floor in a hopscotch pattern. Instruct children to line up at the base of the hopscotch board. Ask, "*What does the Holy Spirit do?*" Then the first child in line will hop as you say the answer, "*The Holy Spirit helps Christians.*" Repeat with each child encouraging him to say the answer with you.

- paper
- markers
- tape

**SAY** • Philip listened to the Holy Spirit. **Philip told the Ethiopian man about Jesus. *What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.***

## Peter Visited Cornelius

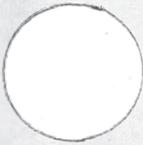
**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 10

**MAIN POINT:** Peter learned the gospel is for all people.

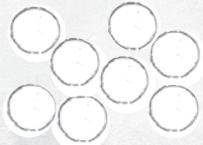
**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

**TELL  
THE STORY**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 50**



**EXPERIENCE  
THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 52**



**REVIEW  
THE STORY**  
(10+ MINUTES)  
**PAGE 54**



5

### Leader BIBLE STUDY

The apostle Peter preached and taught boldly after Pentecost. Jesus had commanded His followers to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. Acts 10 shows us how God made clear to Peter that the gospel is for everyone—not only the Jews but also the Gentiles.

The story begins in Caesarea (sess uh REE uh), the capital city in the Roman province of Judea. Cornelius, a Roman centurion, lived in Caesarea. Like many of the people in

Caesarea, Cornelius was a Gentile; however, he did not worship the Roman gods. Cornelius worshiped the one true God, and one day, God spoke to Cornelius in a vision. In the vision, an angel told Cornelius to send for Peter. Now Peter was in Joppa (JAHP uh), about 30 miles south of Caesarea. As Cornelius's men approached the city, Peter had a vision too. He was on a rooftop when God showed him a sheet of animals and commanded him to eat. The problem was that some of the animals were considered "unclean" by Jewish food laws. Three times, God said to Peter, "What God has made clean, do not call impure."

Peter visited Cornelius and others who had gathered with him. Peter understood that God did not want a Jewish man to call anyone unclean just because he was a foreigner. (See Acts 10:28-29.) Peter preached the gospel to the Gentiles there, and they believed. The Holy Spirit filled them, and they were baptized.

The gospel is good news for everyone. As you teach preschoolers, emphasize that God showed Peter that just as there is no "clean" and "unclean" food, there are no "clean" and "unclean" people. God calls believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus, no matter who they are or where they come from. Jesus is the Lord of all!



Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use props for Peter's vision:** Fill a sheet with stuffed and plastic animals. Enlist a leader to lower the sheet and open it in front of children at the appropriate moment in the Bible story.
- **Move locations:** Designate one side of the room as Cornelius's house and the other as the house where Peter was in the city. Lead preschoolers from side to side as you tell the Bible story.

## Peter Visited Cornelius

*Acts 10*

**Cornelius was a Roman soldier. He loved God, helped other people, and prayed to God. One day, God sent an angel to Cornelius.** The angel said, "Cornelius, God heard you when you prayed."

**The angel told Cornelius to send some men into the city to find Peter.** When the angel left, **Cornelius sent two servants and one soldier to the city.**

**In the city, Peter went up on the roof of a house to pray. Then Peter saw a vision. A vision is like a dream, but Peter was awake. He saw a big sheet coming down from heaven. In the sheet were all kinds of animals, snakes and lizards, and birds. A voice said, "Get up, Peter. Eat!"**

**But Peter didn't want to. He thought the animals were unclean. A voice said, "God has made these clean." Peter saw the vision three times, and he tried to understand what it meant.**

Then the men Cornelius sent into the city found the house where Peter was staying. They told Peter to come to Cornelius's house. So the next day, Peter went with the men.

**When Peter saw Cornelius, he told him that the good news about Jesus is for all people, not just Jews. "Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven," Peter said.**

**The people there believed. Cornelius, his family, and his friends were baptized; and Peter stayed with them for a few days.**

*Christ Connection: God used a vision to show Peter that the good news about Jesus is for everyone. God wants believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus no matter who they are or what they do. Jesus is the Lord of all.*

# Tell THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Peter Visited Cornelius

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 10

**MAIN POINT:** Peter learned the gospel is for all people.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

---

## Welcome and worship with song

- “Into the World” song
- “The Story” song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “Into the World” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in “The Story.”

## Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- “Peter Visited Cornelius” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Invite preschoolers to stand up, walk around, and tell three different children, “The good news is for you!”

**SAY** • Before Jesus, people thought that the Messiah was going to come only to save the Jewish people. But the good news about Jesus is for everyone! Let’s listen to the Bible story to hear how **Peter learned that the gospel is for all people**, not just Jews.

Open your Bible to Acts 10. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

## Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- orange construction paper
- scissors
- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- “Working in You” song

Cut out a flame shape from orange construction paper and place it at Philippians 2:13. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

Invite volunteers to say the key passage from memory.

Offer prompts as needed.

**SAY** • Our key passage tells us that it is God who is working in you! God works in all people who love Jesus, just like He works in you and in me! It doesn't matter what we look like or where we live, when we trust in Jesus, His Spirit works in us!

Sing the key passage song "Working in You" together.

## Learn the big picture question and answer

**SAY** • Let's say our big picture question, *What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.*

The Holy Spirit helped Peter understand that the gospel is for all people, not just Jews. Then the Holy Spirit helped Peter share the gospel with Cornelius. The Holy Spirit will help us too!

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Respond through song and prayer

**SAY** • **Peter learned the gospel is for all people.** God used a vision to show Peter that the good news about Jesus is for everyone. God wants believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus no matter who they are or what they do. Jesus is the Lord of all.

Sing "The Story" and "Mighty Fortress (Our God Is Faithful)" as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing "Wherever You Go." You may also collect an offering.

**SAY** • God, thank You for showing Peter that the gospel is for everyone! Please give us the courage and confidence to share the gospel with everyone we meet. We need Your help. Thank You for the Holy Spirit's help when we are afraid or nervous to tell others about Jesus. Amen.

• Main Point Poster  
• "The Story" song  
• "Mighty Fortress (Our God Is Faithful)" song  
• "Wherever You Go" song  
• offering basket

## Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

# Experience THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Peter Visited Cornelius

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 10

**MAIN POINT:** Peter learned the gospel is for all people.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

---



LOW PREP

- beach ball
- permanent marker

## Toss a ball

Form a circle. Use a permanent marker to alternate drawing a person and a mouth in each section of the ball. Demonstrate how to gently toss the beach ball to a child. If the child's thumb is on a person drawing, ask her to share someone who helps her learn about Jesus. If her thumb is on a mouth drawing, ask her to share someone she can tell about Jesus.

**SAY** • God wants believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus no matter who they are or what they do.  
**Peter learned the gospel is for all people.**

## Sing a song about God

Sing "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" with the preschoolers. Provide shakers and rhythm instruments for the children to play along with as you sing. You may also sing the unit theme or key passage song.

**SAY** • God made everything and takes care of everything. God loves all people and sent His Son, Jesus. In the Bible story today, **Peter learned the gospel is for all people.**

- shakers or rhythm instruments
- "Into the World" song (optional)
- "Working in You" song (optional)

## Decide whom the gospel is for

Ask the preschoolers yes or no questions and instruct them to jump in the air when they answer yes and squat to the ground when they answer no.

**SAY** • God loves people so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross and come back to life. Anyone who trusts in Jesus will be rescued from their sins. **Peter learned the gospel is for all people.**

Is the gospel for . . .

- kids? (yes)
- grown-ups (yes)
- people in Asia? (yes)
- people in America? (yes)
- people everywhere? (yes)

## Dig for animals in rice

Fill a plastic tub with a few inches of rice. Hide plastic animals in the rice. Invite preschoolers to dig for the animals.

**SAY** • God used a vision to show Peter that the good news about Jesus is for everyone. Peter saw all kinds of animals, snakes and lizards, and birds in the vision. **Peter learned the gospel is for all people.** God wants believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus no matter who they are or what they do. Jesus is the Lord of all.

- plastic tub
- rice
- plastic animals

## Work puzzles

Set out a variety of puzzles depicting people of all kinds. Review the Bible story as preschoolers work.

**SAY** • God makes each person unique. No two people are exactly alike, but the gospel is for all people. **Peter learned the gospel is for all people.** God wants believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus no matter who they are or what they do. Jesus is the Lord of all.

- puzzles depicting people

## Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

# Review THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Peter Visited Cornelius

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 10

**MAIN POINT:** Peter learned the gospel is for all people.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 2:13

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

---

## Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "The Story" song
- "Working in You" song

1. Who was Cornelius? (*a Roman soldier who loved God*)
2. What did God tell Peter through a vision? (*The gospel is for everyone.*)
3. What did Peter tell Cornelius? (*the good news about Jesus*)
4. What happened after Peter shared the gospel with Cornelius and Cornelius's family and friends? (*They believed and were saved.*)
5. ***What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.***

**SAY** • Peter learned that the gospel is for all people; no matter where they live or what language they speak. God used a vision to show Peter that the good news about Jesus is for everyone. God wants believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus no matter who they are or what they do. Jesus is the Lord of all. Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

## Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

**SAY** • God, thank You that You sent Your Son to save us from our sin, no matter who we are or where we are from. Please help us to share the good news about Jesus with everyone! Amen.

## Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how Jesus came for all people, so we need to tell all people about Him. You may also show the "Musicianary" video.

**SAY** • Sean Michel went to South Africa to share music about Jesus with the people there! God used Sean Michel to connect with the people there in order to tell them about Jesus as our Savior. The gospel is for all people, so we can be bold like Sean Michel and go tell others about Jesus. Let's pray that God will continue to use music in South Africa to bring people in God's family.

- "Musicianary" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

## Sing a song

Lead children in singing "I'm in the Lord's Army." If you are unfamiliar with the lyrics, tune, or motions, look them up online before the session.

**SAY** • Peter shared the gospel with Cornelius, who was in the Roman army. Cornelius and his whole family believed in Jesus!

## Unit 29: Christmas

### Unit Description:

God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to be born as a baby in humble surroundings. Jesus was no ordinary baby. He was the One who would save God's people from their sin. Christmas is the time to celebrate God's greatest gift of Jesus Christ.

### Key Passage:

1 John 4:9

### Big Picture Question:

Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.



# Unit 29: Christmas

## Session 1:

**Bible Story:**

Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph

**Bible Passage:**

*Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 1:26-56*

**Main Point:**

God chose a family for Jesus.

## Session 2:

**Bible Story:**

Jesus Was Born

**Bible Passage:**

*Luke 2:1-20*

**Main Point:**

Jesus was born as God promised.

## 1 Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 1:26-56

**MAIN POINT:** God chose a family for Jesus.

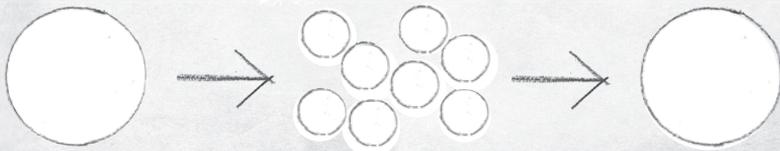
**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 John 4:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.

**TELL  
THE STORY**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 62**

**EXPERIENCE  
THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 64**

**REVIEW  
THE STORY**  
(10+ MINUTES)  
**PAGE 66**



### Leader BIBLE STUDY

People had been waiting a long time for Jesus. God hinted at His coming in the garden of Eden when He promised a seed to conquer the serpent. (Gen. 3:15) The prophets told of His coming hundreds of years before His birth. God was working out His plan to bring His people back to Himself.

In the Bible, God sometimes used angels to communicate His message to people. Angels spoke to Abraham in Genesis 18. The Angel of the Lord spoke to Balaam in Numbers 22. Now Mary and Joseph, the earthly parents

of Jesus, each received a special visit from an angel to announce the birth of God's promised Messiah.

The angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary surprised her. By His grace, God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus. The angel's message revealed much about this promised child.

First, He would be great in both being and nature. He would be the Son of the Most High. Jesus is the Son of God, and the Lord God promised to give Him the throne of His father David. These words fulfilled the prophecy given to David in 2 Samuel 7:12-16. He would reign over the house of Jacob forever. His kingdom would have no end.

The good news that Jesus was coming into the world was good news because of why He was coming. An angel revealed Jesus' purpose to Joseph in Matthew 1:21, "He will save His people from their sins." The gospel is the good news of what God has done for us through Christ.

The announcement of Jesus' birth is not the beginning of the gospel; God had been planning for this moment since before the beginning of time. (See Eph. 1:3-10.) Help the preschoolers you teach understand that God's plan has always been to save sinners and bring them back to Himself. Jesus, whose name means "Yahweh saves," is the culmination of that plan.



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# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use props:** Make paper bag or craft stick puppets for each person in the story: Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, and the angel(s). Ask four or five adults to act out the story as the storyteller narrates it.
- **Move with the story:** Invite four or five adult helpers to dress up in Bible times clothes to play out the story. Encourage the adults to move around the room and use each corner as a different scene: Mary's house, Elizabeth's house, and Joseph's house.

## Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph

*Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 1:26-56*

**One day, God sent an angel named Gabriel to a town called Nazareth. The angel went to visit a young woman named Mary. Mary was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph.**

The angel said to Mary, "Be happy! God is happy with you. He is with you." Mary was afraid and did not understand. Why would God be happy with her? She hadn't done anything special.

"Do not be afraid," **the angel** said. **He told Mary that she was going to have a very special baby. The baby's name would be Jesus.**

Mary asked the angel, "How can that happen?"

**The angel said, "God will be the father of the baby. The baby will be God's Son."**

Then the angel said, "God can do anything!" **He told Mary that her relative Elizabeth was pregnant, even though she was old and did not have any children.**

"May everything happen just as you said," Mary said. Then the angel left.

**Mary hurried to Elizabeth's house. When she arrived, the baby inside Elizabeth leaped for joy!** The Holy Spirit filled Elizabeth and she said, "What an honor, Mary! You and your baby will be blessed!"

Mary was so happy. She **praised God with a song about how great God is.** Mary knew families in the future would say she was blessed because God was going to do great things through Jesus. God would keep His promise to Abraham to bless the whole world through his family by sending Jesus. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months.

Then she went home.

**Joseph found out Mary was going to have a baby, but Joseph knew it was not his baby;** Mary and Joseph were not married yet! Soon after Joseph thought these things, **an angel appeared to him in a dream.**

**“Joseph!” the angel said. “Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. Mary is going to have a son. Name Him Jesus because He is going to save His people from their sins!”**

When **Joseph** woke up, he did just what the angel said. He **married Mary, and when she had a son, Joseph named Him Jesus.**

*Christ Connection: Many of God's prophets talked about Jesus before He was born. Everything they said about Jesus came true. Before God created the world, He planned to send Jesus. Jesus came to do God's plan, to rescue people from sin.*

# Tell THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 1:26-56

**MAIN POINT:** God chose a family for Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 John 4:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.

---

## Welcome and worship with song

- “Joy to the World” song
- “O Come” song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “Joy to the World” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in “O Come.”

## Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- “Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Ask preschoolers: “How would you feel if you saw an angel? What would you do if the angel spoke to you?” Invite them to share their answer with someone sitting next to them.

**SAY** • An angel visited two people in our Bible story to tell them about God’s plans. Mary and Joseph listened to the angel and obeyed God’s plan.

Open your Bible to Matthew 1 or Luke 1. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

## Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- construction paper
- scissors
- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- “One and Only Son” song

Cut out a star shape from construction paper and place it at 1 John 4:9 in your Bible. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage. Say the key passage together as a group using different voices, such as high, low, loud, or soft.

**SAY** • Our key passage reminds me of our Bible story. The angel told Mary and Joseph that God was sending His Son, Jesus, to earth as a baby. God sent His one and only Son into the world because of His great love. Jesus came to rescue people from their sin. Sing the key passage song “One and Only Son” together.

## Learn the big picture question and answer

**SAY** • Let’s learn our new big picture question and answer.  
*Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.*  
Jesus was born as a baby, and He grew up and never once disobeyed God. He died on the cross and rose again to give us life forever with Him.

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Respond through song and prayer

**SAY** • Many of God’s prophets talked about Jesus before He was born. Everything they said about Jesus came true. Before God created the world, He planned to send Jesus. Jesus came to do God’s plan, to rescue people from sin. **God chose a family for Jesus.** That family was Mary and Joseph.

• Main Point Poster  
• “O Come” song  
• “His Name Will Be Jesus” song  
• “Christ the Lord of All” song  
• offering basket

Sing “O Come” and “His Name Will Be Jesus” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “Christ the Lord of All.” You may also collect an offering.

**SAY** • God, thank You for making a plan to send Jesus to rescue us from our sin. Thank You for choosing Mary and Joseph to be Jesus’ family. Help us to trust You so that we can be a part of Your family, too. Amen.

## Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

# Experience THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 1:26-56

**MAIN POINT:** God chose a family for Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 John 4:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.

---



LOW PREP

## Show your emotions

Call out different emotions: happy, sad, scared, angry, surprised, shocked, frustrated, excited, and so forth. Invite preschoolers to show that emotion on their faces and look around at their friends' faces too.

**SAY** • At first, Mary was afraid [*make a scared face*] of the angel. But the angel told her that **God chose a family for Jesus**—she and Joseph! Mary and Joseph were happy [*make a happy face*] to obey God's plan.



LOW PREP

Tip: Find a large open space for this activity.

## Play angel tag

Choose a preschooler to be the angel. The angel will try to tag the other children. When he tags a child, he will say the main point. The tagged child must freeze in place. Once everyone has been frozen, invite another preschooler to be the angel and play again.

**SAY** • The angel Gabriel told Mary and Joseph God's plan. **God chose a family for Jesus.** Many of God's prophets talked about Jesus before He was born. Everything they said about Jesus came true. Before God created the world, He planned to send Jesus. Jesus came to do God's plan, to rescue people from sin.

## Make paper bag puppets

Give each preschooler a paper bag and craft supplies. Invite preschoolers to create a puppet: Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, or the angel(s). Encourage the preschoolers to find other friends with finished puppets and retell the story.

**SAY** • **God chose a family for Jesus.** God sent an angel to tell Mary and Joseph that they would be Jesus' family. We can be in Jesus' family too. When we trust Jesus to rescue us from sin, God calls us His children.

- paper lunch bags, 1 per child
- crayons and markers
- stickers
- googly eyes
- yarn
- scissors
- glue

## Play out family scenes

Invite the preschoolers to play out family scenes. Consider arranging six chairs in two lines to serve as a car or van.

**SAY** • Before God created the world, He planned to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. Jesus is God's very own Son, but **God chose a family** for Jesus when He came to earth as a baby. That family was Mary and Joseph.

- dress-up clothes
- baby dolls
- toy food and dishes (optional)

Tip: Be sensitive to family situations.

## Play the telephone game

Invite preschoolers to sit in a circle. Whisper a sentence from the Bible story in the first child's ear. Each child will whisper the sentence to the child next to them. Encourage the last child to say the sentence aloud and see if it is correct.

**SAY** • Many of God's prophets talked about Jesus before He was born. Everything they said about Jesus came true. **God chose a family for Jesus.** Jesus came to do God's plan, to rescue people from sin.

Suggestions:

- Do not be afraid!
- The baby will be God's Son.
- God can do anything!
- Jesus is going to save people from their sins!

## Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

# Review THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 1:26-56

**MAIN POINT:** God chose a family for Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 John 4:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.

---

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "O Come" song
- "One and Only Son" song

## Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. To whom did God send the angels? (*Mary and Joseph*)
2. What did the angel tell Mary and Joseph? (*God had chosen them to be Jesus' family.*)
3. Who would the baby be? (*God's own Son*)
4. What name would they call the baby? (*Jesus*)
5. ***Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.***

**SAY** • Many of God's prophets talked about Jesus before He was born. Everything they said about Jesus came true. Before God created the world, He planned to send Jesus. Jesus came to do God's plan, to rescue people from sin. God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' family on earth, and they obeyed God's plan.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

## Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

**SAY** • God, thank You that long before You created the world, You planned to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. Help us to turn from our sin and trust in Him. Amen.

## Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, introduce the activity and the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how telling other people about Jesus is part of God's plan to rescue people from sin. You may also show the "Scripture Songs" video.

**SAY** • Quinn has a cool job: He gets to help Christians create songs in their language to memorize Scripture! In this video, he helped Christians in Madagascar create their very first Scripture songs. Can we use Quinn's eight steps to create our own Scripture songs that will help us remember God's words?

- "Scripture Songs" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

## Play "The Angel Says"

Choose a child to be the angel. Instruct him to give directions for his friends to follow, such as touch your head, move your arms up and down, twist your hips, and so forth. After a few minutes, choose another child to be the angel. Continue playing as time allows.

For older preschoolers, play a form of "Simon Says" where children must only perform the actions that begin with "The angel says."

**SAY** • We followed the directions of our "angel" today. God sent angels to Mary and Joseph with a special message. **God chose a family for Jesus**, and God wanted Mary and Joseph to know their parts in His plan. Mary and Joseph believed the angel's message and obeyed God's words.

## Jesus Was Born

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 2:1-20

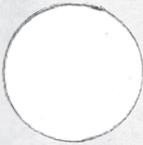
**MAIN POINT:** Jesus was born as God promised.

**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 John 4:9

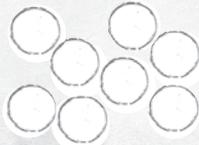
**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.

2

**TELL  
THE STORY**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 72**



**EXPERIENCE  
THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 74**



**REVIEW  
THE STORY**  
(10+ MINUTES)  
**PAGE 76**



## Leader BIBLE STUDY

Do you think it was just by chance that Caesar Augustus called for a census? Did it just so happen that Mary and Joseph were traveling to Bethlehem—the very place the Messiah was prophesied to be born? (Micah 5:2) God is in control of all things, which He showed by using a pagan emperor to bring about His plan.

After Jesus was born, Mary laid Him in a manger. A king in a manger! It was so unlikely. But Jesus was no ordinary

baby. He was God's Son, sent in the most humble of positions, "not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life—a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28).

Imagine the shepherds' surprise when an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared. The Bible says that they were terrified! But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David" (Luke 2:10-11).

What a relief! This angel had come to bring good news. First, he proclaimed a Savior. The people of Israel were well aware of their need for a Savior. They made sacrifices daily to atone for their sin. Finally, a Savior had come who would be the perfect sacrifice for sin, once and for all.

Jesus was also Messiah the Lord. The word *Messiah* means "Anointed One," especially a king. The Deliverer and Redeemer would be King over His people. And this was all happening in Bethlehem, the city of David—just as the prophet Micah said.

This is the best news ever! An army of angels appeared, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors" (Luke 2:14). The purpose of Jesus' birth was twofold: to bring glory to God and to make peace between God and those who trust in Jesus' death and resurrection.



Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

2

# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use a manger scene:** Move and arrange the pieces of a manger scene at the appropriate moments as you tell the Bible story.
- **Act it out:** Place a baby doll in a box. Invite two preschoolers to play Mary and Joseph. Choose several preschoolers to play shepherds and stand on the other side of the room. Encourage another child to be the angel and the rest of the group to be the host of angels singing praises. Lead preschoolers to act out their roles at the appropriate moments in the Bible story.

## Jesus Was Born

*Luke 2:1-20*

**When Mary was pregnant with Baby Jesus**, a man named Caesar Augustus sent out an order to all the people in the land: “Everyone must go to his hometown to be counted!” Caesar Augustus was the emperor of Rome, and he wanted a list of all the people who were living in the land.

Since **Joseph** was part of King David’s family, he **and Mary** left Nazareth and **traveled to Bethlehem**, the city of David.

While **they** were there, Mary was ready to have her baby. Mary and Joseph **looked for a safe place to stay, but every place was full** because of all the people who were in town to be counted. **So Mary and Joseph found a place where animals were kept, and that is where Mary had her baby, Jesus. She wrapped Him in cloth** so He would be snug and warm, **and she laid Him in a manger.**

**Nearby, some shepherds were staying out in the fields** and watching their sheep to protect them from thieves and wild animals. **All of a sudden, an angel of the Lord stood before them. A bright light shone around the shepherds, and they were scared!**

**But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid! I have good news for you: Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you** in the city of David.” Then the angel said, **“Go find the baby. He will be wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.”**

**All of a sudden, many angels appeared. They praised God and said, “Glory to God in the highest** heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!”

So **the shepherds went** straight to Bethlehem **to find Baby Jesus. They found Him, and they told others about Him. Everyone who heard about Jesus was surprised and amazed.** Mary thought about everything that was happening and tried to understand it. The shepherds returned to their fields, and they praised God because **everything had happened just as the angel had said.**

*Christ Connection: Jesus was born! This was very good news! Jesus was not like other babies. Jesus is God's Son. God sent Jesus to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world to save people from their sins and to be their King.*

# Tell THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus Was Born

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 2:1-20

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus was born as God promised.

**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 John 4:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.

---

## Welcome and worship with song

- “Joy to the World” song
- “O Come” song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “Joy to the World” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in “O Come.”

## Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- baby doll
- gift box
- wrapping paper
- “Jesus Was Born” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Wrap a baby doll in cloths. Place the baby inside a gift box. Wrap the box in Christmas wrapping paper. Show the preschoolers the gift box and invite them to guess the contents. Open the box to reveal the baby wrapped in cloth.

**SAY** • Today we’re going to hear about the most special gift God has ever given us: Baby Jesus! Jesus is God’s Son. Jesus came into the world to save us from our sins.

Open your Bible to Luke 2. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

## Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- construction paper
- scissors
- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- dry erase marker or chalk
- dry erase board or chalkboard
- “One and Only Son” song

Cut out a star shape from construction paper and place it at 1 John 4:9 in your Bible. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage. Read the verse. Write the verse on a dry erase board or chalkboard. Say the verse together as a class. Point to each

word as you say it. Erase a word or two and say the verse again. Continue until the words are all erased.

**SAY** • Our key passage reminds us who Jesus is. Jesus is God's very own Son. God sent Jesus to earth as a baby to rescue us from sin. We can live with God forever when we trust in Jesus.

Sing the key passage song "One and Only Son" together.

## Learn the big picture question and answer

**SAY** • Who remembers the answer to our big picture question? [*Allow responses*] Yes! That's right. ***Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.*** Before God created the world, He planned to send Jesus. Jesus came to do God's plan, to rescue people from sin.

- Big Picture Question Poster

## Respond through song and prayer

**SAY** • Jesus was born! This was very good news! Jesus was not like other babies. Jesus is God's Son. God sent Jesus to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world to save people from their sins and to be their King. **Jesus was born as God promised.**

Sing "O Come" and "Born in Bethlehem" as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing "Christ the Lord of All." You may also collect an offering.

**SAY** • God, we are so glad that Jesus was born to save people from sin. Thank You for keeping Your promise to send us a Rescuer and King. Help us to trust in You so we can be forgiven and have life forever with You. Amen.

- Main Point Poster
- "O Come" song
- "Born in Bethlehem" song
- "Christ the Lord of All" song
- offering basket

- countdown video (optional)

## Transition to experience the story

# Experience THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus Was Born

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 2:1-20

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus was born as God promised.

**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 John 4:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.

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## Play “Follow the Leader”

Invite preschoolers to follow you around the room in a single-file line. Perform simple movements for children to follow, such as tapping their own shoulders, stomping, and swinging their arms. Allow older preschoolers to take turns being the leader.

**SAY** • Like we followed the leader today, the shepherds followed the angel’s directions and traveled to Bethlehem to find Baby Jesus. **Jesus was born just as God promised!** Jesus came into the world to save people from their sins and to be their King.

## Play with play dough

Provide the preschoolers with play dough and invite them to sculpt Baby Jesus in the feeding trough.

**SAY** • **Jesus was born just as God promised.** Jesus came into the world to save people from their sins and to be their King.

## Play out the Bible story

Provide Bible time clothes for preschoolers to dress up as Mary, Joseph, shepherds, or angels. Retell the Bible story.

**SAY** • **Jesus was born as God promised!** This was very good news! Jesus was not like other babies. Jesus is

- play dough
- play dough utensils

- Bible times clothes
- baby dolls
- blanket

God's Son. God sent Jesus to earth from heaven.  
Jesus came into the world to save people from their  
sins and to be their King.

## Use musical instruments

Encourage the preschoolers to use musical instruments to praise God as you play music. They may also dance and sing. For older preschoolers, consider stopping and starting the music for the children to freeze and unfreeze.

**SAY** • Many angels praised God when Jesus was born. After the shepherds saw Baby Jesus, they praised God because everything had happened just as the angel had said. **Jesus was born just as God promised.**

- "O Come" song (optional)
- "One and Only Son" song (optional)
- rhythm or musical instruments

## Make a manger scene

Before the session, cut one 2-inch circle from tan paper and one 2-by-4-inch rectangle from white felt for each preschooler. Give each preschooler two craft sticks and a sheet of construction paper. Guide preschoolers to glue their craft sticks to the construction paper in the form of an *X*. Provide raffia or shredded brown or yellow paper for preschoolers to glue above the *X* to serve as hay. Lead each child to draw a face on her circle and to glue the circle and rectangle just above the hay to form Baby Jesus. Write the main point on each preschooler's artwork.

**SAY** • Mary laid Jesus in a manger. **Jesus was born as God promised.** Jesus was not like other babies. Jesus is God's Son. Jesus came into the world to save people from their sins and to be their King.

- construction paper
- white felt
- scissors
- jumbo craft sticks
- raffia or shredded brown or yellow paper
- markers

## Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

# Review THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus Was Born

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 2:1-20

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus was born as God promised.

**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 John 4:9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.

---

## Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. Where did Mary and Joseph have to travel to be counted? (*Bethlehem*)
2. Who visited the shepherds in the field? (*an angel*)
3. What did the angel tell the shepherds? (*"Do not be afraid! I have good news for you: Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David."*)
4. What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus? (*They praised God.*)
5. ***Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.***

**SAY** • God sent angels to tell the shepherds that Jesus was born! This was very good news! Jesus is God's Son. God sent Jesus to earth from heaven to save people from their sins and to be their King. The shepherds praised God!

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

## Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

**SAY** • God, we thank You for hearing our requests today

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "O Come" song
- "One and Only Son" song

and helping us. We thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us from our sin. Help us to share the good news of Jesus with others. Amen.

## Missions story

If your preschool ministry is participating in a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about ways that we can share the good news of Jesus with others, like the angel shared with the shepherds. You may also show the "Door of Hope" video.

**SAY** • How incredible that these Christians at Door of Hope help take care of babies! What a great way to share the love of Jesus with others. How amazing that God's very own Son came to earth like one of these little babies. Jesus came into the world to save people from their sins and to be their King. What are some ways that we can care for others and share the good news about Jesus with them?

- "Door of Hope" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

## Where's the baby?

Invite children to sit in a circle and encourage one child to close her eyes. Give a baby figure to a child in the circle and invite him to hide it under his legs. Encourage the child closing her eyes to make three guesses to find who is hiding the baby. Continue playing with other children.

**SAY** • Good job finding the baby! The shepherds found Baby Jesus and praised God for everything that had happened. **Jesus was born just as God had promised.**

- toy baby figure

# Unit 30: The God Who Sends

## Unit Description:

In time, Paul, who was one of the greatest missionaries of all time, took the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the Roman empire, growing the church even more. God's promise to bless all the people of the earth was being fulfilled.

## Key Passage:

Acts 1:8

## Big Picture Question:

How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.



## Unit 30: The God Who Sends

### Session 1:

**Bible Story:**

Paul's Conversion and Baptism

**Bible Passage:**

*Acts 9:1-25*

**Main Point:**

Jesus saved Saul from his sins.

### Session 2:

**Bible Story:**

Paul's First Journey

**Bible Passage:**

*Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-28*

**Main Point:**

The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.

### Session 3:

**Bible Story:**

The Message: "Christ Alone"

**Bible Passage:**

*Acts 15:1-35*

**Main Point:**

The church encouraged Gentile believers.

### Session 4:

**Bible Story:**

Paul's Second Journey

**Bible Passage:**

*Acts 16:11-34*

**Main Point:**

Paul and Silas told all kinds of people about Jesus.

### Session 5:

**Bible Story:**

Paul Preached in Europe

**Bible Passage:**

*Acts 17:16-34*

**Main Point:**

Paul taught the people in Athens about the one true God.

### Session 6:

**Bible Story:**

Paul's Third Journey

**Bible Passage:**

*Acts 18:1-4, 24-28; 20:17-38*

**Main Point:**

God helped Paul preach with courage.

## Paul's Conversion and Baptism

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 9:1-25

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus saved Saul from his sins.

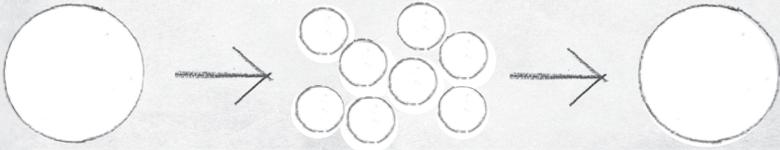
**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

**TELL  
THE STORY**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 84**

**EXPERIENCE  
THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 86**

**REVIEW  
THE STORY**  
(10+ MINUTES)  
**PAGE 88**



### Leader BIBLE STUDY

Saul was no stranger to religion. He grew up in a religious household. He was a devout Jew who was born in Tarsus (Phil. 3:5) and inherited his Roman citizenship from his father. So when people began talking about this man named Jesus and claiming that He was the promised Messiah, Saul was defensive.

Saul believed strongly in the Jewish faith of his ancestors. He violently persecuted God's church and tried to destroy it. (Gal. 1:13-14) He dragged believers from their houses

and put them in prison. He approved of the stoning of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Saul thought he was doing the right thing by defending Judaism, but God's purposes could not be stopped.

As Saul was on his way to arrest believers in Damascus, the Lord stopped him in his tracks. Jesus revealed Himself to Saul, and Saul was never the same. He was struck blind and led into Damascus, where a believer named Ananias placed his hands on Saul. Suddenly, Saul could see again. Saul was convinced that Jesus is Lord. Saul later described the experience as being like dying and receiving a new life. (Gal. 2:20; 2 Cor. 5:17)

God had a purpose and a plan for Saul. He had set Saul apart before Saul was even born. (Gal. 1:15) God said, "This man is My chosen instrument to take My name to the Gentiles" (Acts 9:15).

Jesus changed Saul's life. As you teach preschoolers, clarify that conversion happens when a person recognizes his sin, repents, believes in Jesus, and confesses Jesus as Savior and Lord. Jesus changes a person's heart, and as a result, his life is changed too.

Jesus appeared to Saul and changed him inside and out. Jesus called Saul, who was once an enemy of Christians, to spend the rest of his life telling people the gospel and leading them to trust Jesus as Lord and Savior.



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Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Act it out:** Invite the preschoolers to close their eyes for part of the story. Ask them what it was like to not be able to see.
- **Use lighting:** Enlist another leader to dim the lights and flash a bright light at the appropriate moment in the Bible story.

## Paul's Conversion and Baptism

*Acts 9:1-25*

In the early days of the church, **a man named Saul worked hard to stop people from telling about Jesus. He did not believe that Jesus is the Son of God.** He thought that people who believed in Jesus should be put in jail or be killed. Many believers left the city to get away from Saul.

**Saul** decided to go to the city of Damascus (duh MASS kuhs) to arrest believers there. **He was traveling along when all of a sudden, a very bright light came down from heaven. It flashed around Saul, and he fell to the ground. Then Saul heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you against Me?"**

**"Who are You, Lord?" Saul asked.**

**"I am Jesus," He said. Jesus told Saul to go into the city and wait for more instructions.**

**Saul got up** and opened his eyes, but **he couldn't see anything! So the men who were traveling with Saul led him into the city.**

**A man named Ananias** (an uh NIGH uhs) lived in the city. Ananias **loved Jesus. God** spoke to Ananias in a vision and **told him to go visit Saul.** Ananias knew that Saul was an enemy of Jesus, but God had a plan for Saul. **God said, "I have chosen Saul to tell many people about Me."**

**Ananias obeyed God. He went to Saul and said, "Jesus sent me here to help you." Then Ananias put his hands on Saul, and Saul could see again. Saul got up and was baptized.**

For the next few days, **Saul** stayed in the city with other people who believed in Jesus. He **went to the synagogues** to tell people about Jesus. **"Jesus is the Son of God!" Saul**

**said. The people were amazed. They knew Saul had been an enemy of Jesus, but now he loved Jesus!**

The Jews did not like what Saul was saying, so they made a plan to kill him. The other believers helped Saul sneak out of the city at night.

**Later, Saul started using the name Paul.**

*Christ Connection: Saul was an enemy of Jesus and His followers, but then God changed him. Jesus came to earth to save sinners like Paul. (1 Timothy 1:15). When we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out.*

# Tell THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Paul's Conversion and Baptism

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 9:1-25

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus saved Saul from his sins.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

---

## Welcome and worship with song

- "Kingdom Kid" song
- "Children of the Kingdom" song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as "Kingdom Kid" to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in "Children of the Kingdom."

## Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- "Paul's Conversion and Baptism" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Ask preschoolers to share what they want to be when they grow up.

**SAY** • God has a good plan for every one of us. He wants to use us in His good plan for the world. In today's Bible story, God had a plan for a man named Saul. Saul was an enemy of Jesus, but God planned to use Saul to tell many people about Him.

Open your Bible to Acts 9. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

## Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- pink or red construction paper
- scissors
- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- "You Will Be My Witnesses" song

Cut out a lip shape from red or pink construction paper and place it at Acts 1:8. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

**SAY** • Jesus told His friends right before He went back to

heaven that they would be His witnesses. A *witness* is someone who tells others what he or she has seen or experienced. We use our mouths to tell the good news. Jesus' friends told people what they had seen Jesus do and heard Him say. Jesus chose Saul to be His witness too.

Sing the key passage song "You Will Be My Witnesses" together.

## Learn the big picture question and answer

**SAY** • Our big picture question is, *How do people hear about Jesus?* The Bible tells us we must hear the good news about Jesus to believe it. But some people have never heard about Jesus. God sends Christians into the world to tell about Jesus. *How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.*

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Respond through song and prayer

**SAY** • Saul was an enemy of Jesus and His followers, but then God changed him. **Jesus saved Saul from his sins.** Jesus came to earth to save sinners like Paul. When we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out. Then we, like Paul, go tell others about Jesus.

Sing "Children of the Kingdom" and "Everywhere I Go" as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing "I Will Stand." You may also collect an offering.

**SAY** • God, thank You for changing Saul's heart so he could be a witness of Your good news about Jesus. Thank You for sending Jesus to earth to die for sinners like us. Amen.

• Main Point Poster  
• "Children of the Kingdom" song  
• "Everywhere I Go" song  
• "I Will Stand" song  
• offering basket  
• countdown video (optional)

## Transition to experience the story

# Experience THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Paul's Conversion and Baptism

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 9:1-25

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus saved Saul from his sins.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

---



## Play “Jesus ... saved ... Saul”

Form a circle on the floor. Direct children to close their eyes. Choose a child to be *Ananias*. *Ananias* will walk around the circle gently tapping children's shoulders while saying, “Jesus, Saved, Saul.” When *Ananias* says, “Saul,” the tapped child will jump up and chase *Ananias* around the circle, attempting to tag him. The rest of the group may open their eyes to watch the chase.

**SAY** • Everyone closed his or her eyes to remember that in our Bible story Saul could not see until Ananias put his hands on him. After that, Saul was baptized because he believed that Jesus is the Son of God.

**Jesus saved Saul from his sins.**

## Make shadow puppets

• flashlights

Dim the lights and shine a flashlight on the wall. Show children how to make shadow puppets. Look online before the session to learn how to make specific shadow puppets.

**SAY** • As Saul was traveling to Damascus, a very bright light shone around him. Whose voice did he hear? (*Jesus' voice*) After that, Saul could not see for days! But Jesus had a plan for Saul. Saul would tell others about Him. **Jesus saved Saul from his sins.**

## Make a paper plate Saul

On one side of a paper plate, invite preschoolers to draw a frown and either two horizontal lines or two Xs for eyes, to represent when Saul was blind. On the other side, help children draw “open” eyes and a smile.

**SAY** • Saul was an enemy of Jesus and His followers, but then God changed him. **Jesus saved Saul from his sins.** Jesus came to earth to save sinners like Paul. When we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out.

- paper plates, 1 per child
- crayons

## Pin the light on Saul

On a large sheet of paper or dry erase board, draw a simple picture of Saul kneeling. Cut out a cone shape from yellow paper to represent a beam of light. Place double-sided tape on the back. During class, blindfold a child or ask her to close her eyes. Gently spin her around, and help her place the shape above the picture of Saul kneeling.

**SAY** • Early in his life, Saul worked hard to stop others from telling about Jesus. But after Jesus met Saul on the road and spoke to him, Saul believed Jesus was the Son of God. **Jesus saved Saul from his sins.**

- large sheet of paper or dry erase board
- marker
- yellow construction paper
- scissors
- double-sided tape
- blindfold (optional)

## Spell Jesus with magnets

Write *JESUS* on a sheet of paper and display for preschoolers to see. Set out magnet letters. Invite preschoolers to search through the letters to find the letters in Jesus’ name. Help them place the magnets in the correct order on a cookie sheet.

**SAY** • Jesus came to earth to save sinners like Saul and you and me. **Jesus saved Saul from his sins.** When we trust in Jesus, God changes us from the inside out.

- paper
- marker
- magnet letters
- cookie sheet

## Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

# Review THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Paul's Conversion and Baptism

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 9:1-25

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus saved Saul from his sins.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

---

## Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. How did Saul treat Christians before Jesus changed him? (*He hurt Christians.*)
2. What happened when Saul was traveling to Damascus? (*A bright light shone around him.*)
3. After Saul could see again, what did he start telling others? (*Jesus is the Son of God!*)
4. Why did Saul act so different? (**Jesus saved Saul from his sins.**)
5. What other name did Saul use? (*Paul*)
6. ***How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.***

**SAY** • Before Saul met Jesus, he wanted to hurt people who believed in Jesus. After Jesus appeared to Saul, he was changed. Saul was baptized and started telling people that Jesus really was the Son of God. Saul had been an enemy of Jesus, but now he followed Jesus. Later, Saul started using the name Paul as he traveled and told people everywhere about Jesus.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "Children of the Kingdom" song
- "You Will Be My Witnesses" song

## Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

**SAY** • God, thank You for sending Jesus to earth to save sinners like us. We need You to save us just like You saved Saul. We need You to change our hearts. Show us how to be Your witnesses. Amen.

## Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, introduce the activity and discuss the reasons for it. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how God used Saul to be His witness, and God still uses Christians to tell others about Jesus today. You may also show the missions video, “The Hauns in Ghana.”

**SAY** • The Hauns are excited to tell as many people as they can about Jesus in Ghana. Let’s ask God that many Ghanans will believe in Jesus as William continues to preach in the local language.

- “The Hauns in Ghana” video
- “Missions Prayer Cards” printable, 1 per child

## Chant a fingerplay

Invite the preschoolers to follow your example. Bring your closed fists up to your face. Close your eyes. As you sing “open,” open your hands and your eyes. As you sing, “shut them,” close your fists and your eyes again. Chant:

“Open, shut them	Open, shut them
Open, shut them	Open, shut them
Open! Saul could see	Open! Saul said, ‘Jesus
again!	lives!’”

**SAY** • After Saul met Jesus on the road, he could not see. God sent Ananias to demonstrate His power to give Saul sight again. **Jesus saved Saul from his sins**, and Saul became a witness to the good news of Jesus.

## Paul's First Journey

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-28

**MAIN POINT:** The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.

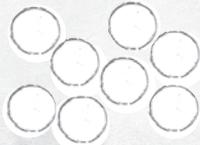
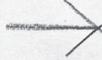
**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

**TELL  
THE STORY**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 94**

**EXPERIENCE  
THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 96**

**REVIEW  
THE STORY**  
(10+ MINUTES)  
**PAGE 98**



## Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jesus' followers preached the gospel in Jerusalem, and the good news spread to places like Judea and Samaria. More and more people believed, and new churches began as both Jews and Gentiles began to follow Jesus. Barnabas went to Antioch—a city about 300 miles north of Jerusalem—where he brought Paul to help teach the believers. The church in Antioch grew. It was in Antioch that the disciples first became known as Christians. (See Acts 11:26.)

The Holy Spirit told the believers at the church in Antioch to send out Paul and Barnabas to preach the gospel. The church obeyed, and Paul and Barnabas traveled to several cities and all over the island of Cyprus, telling both Jews and Gentiles about Jesus.

Consider Paul—once a devoted persecutor of Christians—now a Christian missionary, devoted to obeying God’s call to go and tell others the good news about Jesus. This was Paul’s first missionary journey, and it wasn’t easy. Paul and Barnabas faced rejection in every place that they traveled. Some of the people believed, but some of them were angry. Many people rejected the truth about Jesus. In some places, the Jews made plans to kill Paul.

In no place did Paul and Barnabas soften their message or abandon their mission. In Lystra, Paul healed a man, and when the witnesses to this miracle began to worship Paul and Barnabas, the two men emphatically gave credit to the one true God. When Paul’s enemies attacked him and left him for dead, Paul continued on. Paul and Barnabas shared the gospel in Derbe (DUHR bih), and many people believed.

The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell Jews and Gentiles about Jesus. If Paul had not taken the gospel to the Gentiles, many of us would probably not be believers today. God uses people to tell others about Jesus so that people all over the world can be saved from their sin by trusting in Jesus as Lord and Savior.



Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

2

# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Move with the story:** Designate three areas of the room to be Antioch, Lystra, and Derbe. Tell the parts of the story that take place in each city in those different parts of the room, directing the children to travel to the next area of the room before continuing the story.
- **Display a map:** Show a map of Paul's missionary journeys. Trace Paul's first journey as you tell the Bible story.

## Paul's First Journey

*Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-28*

**Paul and his friend Barnabas helped start the first churches.** The Holy Spirit told Paul and Barnabas that they had a big job to do. **The church put their hands on Paul and Barnabas and prayed for them,** and they left their city to go do the work God wanted them to do. **God led Paul and Barnabas to other cities to tell the good news about Jesus** to both Jews and non-Jews.

**Paul and Barnabas went to the city of Lystra** (LISS truh). **A man was there who had not been able to walk his whole life.** He listened to Paul talking about Jesus. **Paul saw the man and said in a loud voice, "Stand up!" The man jumped up and began walking around! The people saw this miracle, and they thought Paul and Barnabas were gods! Paul and Barnabas shouted, "No! We are not gods. We are men just like you. We want to tell you the good news of God."**

Then **some Jews** came from the other cities Paul and Barnabas had visited. They **made trouble** in this new city, **and the people decided to fight against Paul and Barnabas** too. They threw rocks at Paul and dragged him out of the city.

**The next day, Paul and Barnabas went to the city of Derbe** (DUHR bih). **They told the people about Jesus, and many of them believed. Finally, they returned to the church and told the other believers** everything that God had done on their journey and how **God helped them share the good news about Jesus with everyone.**

*Christ Connection: Paul obeyed the Holy Spirit and shared the gospel with anyone who would listen. People tried to stop Paul, but Paul did not give up. Many people believed in Jesus, and the church grew. The Holy Spirit wants us to tell others about Jesus so they can be saved from their sin.*

# Tell THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Paul's First Journey

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-28

**MAIN POINT:** The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

---

## Welcome and worship with song

- "Kingdom Kid" song
- "Children of the Kingdom" song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as "Kingdom Kid" to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in "Children of the Kingdom."

## Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- suitcase
- travel size items
- "Paul's First Journey" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Bring a suitcase with items you might take on a trip. Open the suitcase and pull out each item one by one, asking children how you would use the items. Clarify as needed.

**SAY** • People traveled differently back in Bible times than they do now. Our story today is about Paul, the man who met Jesus on the road to Damascus. After Paul believed in Jesus, God sent him to many places to tell people the good news.

Open your Bible to Acts 13. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

- pink or red construction paper
- scissors
- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- "You Will Be My Witnesses" song

## Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

Cut out a lip shape from red or pink construction paper and place it at Acts 1:8. Invite a few volunteers to come up

one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

**SAY** • A *witness* is someone who tells others what they have seen or experienced. Paul was a witness for Jesus. He traveled around to many places telling people that Jesus is the Son of God who could save them from their sins. We can be God’s witnesses too!

Sing the key passage song “You Will Be My Witnesses” together.

## Learn the big picture question and answer

**SAY** • Our big picture question is, *How do people hear about Jesus?* People cannot hear about Jesus if others don’t go and tell them. Paul and Barnabas went to Lystra and Derbe to tell people about Jesus. *God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.*

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Respond through song and prayer

**SAY** • **The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.** Paul and Barnabas obeyed the Holy Spirit and shared the gospel with anyone who would listen. People tried to stop them, but they did not give up. Many people believed in Jesus, and the church grew.

• Main Point Poster  
• “Children of the Kingdom” song  
• “John 14:6” song  
• “I Will Stand” song  
• offering basket

Sing “Children of the Kingdom” and “John 14:6” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “I Will Stand.” You may also collect an offering.

**SAY** • God, thank You for this story about Paul and Barnabas, who went on a journey to share the good news about Your Son, Jesus. You were with them wherever they went, and You are with us too. Amen.

## Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

# Experience THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Paul's First Journey

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-28

**MAIN POINT:** The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

---



• masking tape

## Follow a path

Make a masking tape path around the room. Invite preschoolers to roll cars and trucks along the path.

**SAY** • **The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.** They did not take a car or truck on their journey. They walked or rode on animals.



• blocks

## Build church buildings with blocks

Invite preschoolers to build church buildings with blocks.

**SAY** • Paul and his friend Barnabas helped start the first churches. Those churches met in homes instead of the temple. **The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.**

• paper plates, 6  
• markers  
• beanbags

## Happy/angry beanbag toss

Draw smiley faces on three plates and angry faces on three plates. Turn all the plates over in a 3-by-2 grid. Let the children take turns tossing beanbags and turning over the plates. If a child hits a smiley face, ask, "Who was happy in the story?" (*Paul, Barnabas, the healed man, the people in Derbe*) If she hits an angry face, ask, "Who was angry in this story?" (*some of the Jews*)

**SAY • The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.** Many people were happy to hear the good news and believed in Jesus. But some people got angry and tried to stop Paul and Barnabas. Paul and Barnabas never gave up.

## Make footprint art

Remove shoes and cover the bottom of each preschooler's feet with finger paint. Help a preschooler gently rest her feet on a sheet of paper. Lift her feet and wipe them clean. Write the main point below each preschooler's footprint.

**SAY • The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.** They traveled to many places, and it was not always easy. Some people tried to hurt Paul and Barnabas, but God protected them.

- finger paint
- large paintbrush
- construction paper
- marker
- wipes (for cleanup)
- plastic tablecloth

## Play out the story with a puppet

Use construction paper to make a man. Attach two strips of paper folded accordion style to serve as legs. Use a hole punch and yarn to attach a string to the top of his head.

“Paul met a man who could not walk. [*Paper man sits.*]

Paul said, ‘Stand!’ and the man did! [*Tug string so he jumps up.*]

The man tried to worship Paul and Barnabas. [*Lay him facedown.*]

Paul and Barnabas said, ‘Worship Jesus!’” [*Pull him up.*]

Help preschoolers make their own accordion leg puppet.

**SAY • The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.** In Lystra, they healed a man who could not walk. Then they told the people in Lystra about Jesus.

- construction paper
- scissors
- hole punch
- yarn

## Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

# Review THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Paul's First Journey

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-28

**MAIN POINT:** The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

---

## Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "Children of the Kingdom" song
- "You Will Be My Witnesses" song

1. Whom did Paul go on a journey with? (*Barnabas*)
2. What happened to the man who couldn't walk his whole life? (*Paul said, "Stand up!" and the man jumped up.*)
3. Did everyone want Paul and Barnabas to tell the good news about Jesus? (*No, some people tried to stop them by throwing rocks at them.*)
4. Did many people believe in the message about Jesus? (*Yes!*)
5. ***How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.***

**SAY • The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell people about Jesus.** The church prayed for them before they went on their journey. Some people were happy to receive their message; others were not. But Paul and Barnabas did not give up, no matter how people responded. They wanted everyone to get a chance to hear that Jesus is the Son of God who can save them from their sin.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

## Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

**SAY** • God, thank You for the missionaries who have gone before us to spread the good news of Jesus. We praise You that Your message is the same today as it was back then. If we believe in the Lord Jesus, we will be saved! Please save these preschoolers, and as they grow up, show them how they can be witnesses to Your good news. Amen.

## Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how Paul and Barnabas were some of the first missionaries of the good news. You may also show the "Answers from an MK" video.

**SAY** • They taught us a lot of what it's like to be a kid in another country, sharing the good news about Jesus! Let's pray for him and his family, that God would use them in mighty ways as they tell the good news about Jesus in Ghana.

- "Answers from an MK" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

## Sing a hymn

Sing the chorus of "Trust and Obey." If you are unfamiliar with the tune or lyrics, check them out online before class.

**SAY** • **The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas to tell others about Jesus.** Paul and Barnabas had to trust and obey Jesus on their journey, even when they got hurt for talking about Jesus. We can trust and obey Jesus too, no matter what.

## The Message: “Christ Alone”

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 15:1-35

**MAIN POINT:** The church encouraged Gentile believers.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

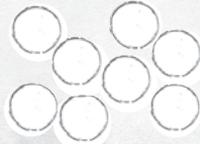
**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

3

**TELL  
THE STORY**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 104**



**EXPERIENCE  
THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 106**



**REVIEW  
THE STORY**  
(10+ MINUTES)  
**PAGE 108**



## Leader BIBLE STUDY

The church in Antioch praised God for His grace to Paul on his first missionary journey. Though Paul and Barnabas were strongly opposed in some places, many people heard the gospel and believed. Paul and Barnabas took the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles. But a problem arose when some Christians began saying that the new followers of Jesus—the Gentile believers—needed to obey the Law of Moses in order to be right with God.

Paul and Barnabas debated this issue with other church leaders in Jerusalem. They met together to answer a tough question: Can a person be saved by faith alone or was something more needed? When Paul addressed the council, he insisted that God saves Gentiles the same way He saves Jews: through the grace of the Lord Jesus.

Paul testified to the things God had done among the Gentiles. God had given Gentiles the Holy Spirit. James cited the prophets Amos and Isaiah in support. The group agreed that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, He alone is all we need to be saved. They also agreed that they should not make salvation more difficult for Gentiles by adding unnecessary rules.

The church chose two men—Judas and Silas—to go with Paul and Barnabas to the church at Antioch. They wrote a letter for the Gentile believers there, encouraging them and giving them instructions for how to live as followers of Christ.

The message for the Gentile believers was important: Whether Jew or Gentile, salvation comes only through faith in Christ. No one is saved by the law but by grace alone. Emphasize to the preschoolers you teach that, while the Bible does give us plenty of instruction for how to live, sinners are made right with God only by the grace of Jesus. Salvation is a gift. To receive this gift, Jesus is all we need.



Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

3

# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Read a letter:** Print a copy of the Bible story, fold it, and slide it into an envelope. Take it out and read it as if reading a letter aloud.
- **Act it out:** Assign volunteers the roles of Paul, Barnabas, Peter, and James. Set up a small lectern or podium. Invite children playing roles to stand at the lectern at the appropriate part in the Bible story.
- **Display a map:** Show a map of Paul's missionary journeys. Point to Jerusalem as you tell the Bible story.

## The Message: "Christ Alone"

*Acts 15:1-35*

**Paul and Barnabas had been teaching people—Jews and non-Jews—about Jesus.** Many people believed, and God's church was growing.

**But some of the people in the church began saying that non-Jews could only be saved if they followed the same rules as the Jews.**

**Paul and Barnabas knew this was wrong. They had a meeting with other church leaders to talk about what was true. Peter stood up and told the leaders about the Gentiles, the non-Jews, who had believed the good news about Jesus. God had given them the Holy Spirit!**

**Peter said that Jews could not obey God's law perfectly, so why should they tell non-Jews to obey perfectly? Jews and non-Jews are saved in the same way: by God's grace.**

Everyone listened as Paul and Barnabas talked about how they had seen God save Jews and Gentiles too. Then James showed how the words of the prophets showed that **God wanted to save both Jews and Gentiles. This was God's plan all along.**

**So the church leaders decided to write a letter to the Gentile believers.** The letter told the believers what they should not do now that they were believers.

**Paul and Barnabas delivered the letter with Judas and Silas, and the believers were encouraged.**

*Christ Connection: The church leaders met to answer a hard question: Can someone be saved by faith alone? Yes! The early church agreed that Jesus is all we need. Anyone who trusts in Him will be saved.*

# Tell THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** The Message: “Christ Alone”

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 15:1-35

**MAIN POINT:** The church encouraged Gentile believers.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

---

## Welcome and worship with song

- “Kingdom Kid” song
- “Children of the Kingdom” song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “Kingdom Kid” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in “Children of the Kingdom.”

## Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- “The Message: ‘Christ Alone’” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Group children in various versions of two categories: boys/girls, laces/no laces, light hair/dark hair, siblings/no siblings, brown eyes/light eyes, and so on. Bring them back together.

**SAY** • The Bible story today talks about two groups of people: Jews and non-Jews, or Gentiles. Jews followed many rules that the non-Jews, or Gentiles, did not. We’ll find out what the church decided about the Jewish rules for new Christians.

Open your Bible to Acts 15. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

- pink or red construction paper
- scissors
- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- “You Will Be My Witnesses” song

## Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

Cut out a lip shape from red or pink construction paper and place it at Acts 1:8. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage. Invite

the girls to say the key passage with you. Then invite the boys to say it. See which group can say the verse loudest.

**SAY** • Jesus is all we need to be saved. This means all the Jews and non-Jews, or Gentiles, who believed in Jesus were saved. They became witnesses and told people about Him wherever they went.

Sing the key passage song together.

## Learn the big picture question and answer

**SAY** • Our big picture question is, *How do people hear about Jesus?* When did you first hear about Jesus? Was it at home? In the car? At church? Whoever told you the good news about Jesus was probably a Christian. *How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus!*

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Respond through song and prayer

**SAY** • The church leaders met to answer a hard question: Can someone be saved by faith alone? Yes! The early church agreed that Jesus is all we need. Anyone who trusts in Him will be saved. Then **the church encouraged Gentile believers.**

Sing “Children of the Kingdom” and “Everywhere I Go” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “I Will Stand.” You may also collect an offering.

**SAY** • God, thank You for this story, which reminds us that Jesus is all we need. We do not need extra rules to be saved. Help us be witnesses to this truth today and for the rest of our lives. Amen.

• Main Point Poster  
• “Children of the Kingdom” song  
• “Everywhere I Go” song  
• “I Will Stand” song  
• offering basket

## Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

# Experience THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** The Message: “Christ Alone”

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 15:1-35

**MAIN POINT:** The church encouraged Gentile believers.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

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LOW PREP

## Do one thing

Lead preschoolers in performing a series of different actions, doing just one of each. Suggestions include one squat, one hop, one toe touch, one jumping jack, and so forth.

**SAY** • Doing just one thing was not hard. The church leaders understood that there is only one thing we need to do to be saved: believe in Jesus! We do not have to keep rules to be saved. Jesus already kept all the rules for us. Jesus is all we need. **The church encouraged Gentile believers.**



LOW PREP

Tip: For older preschoolers, give them the chance to ask you to take a type of step. Grant permission as appropriate, keeping the children about even as the race progresses.

## Play “Mother, May I?”

Explain that the preschoolers must stand shoulder to shoulder along one wall. You will stand across from them and give them a type of step to take (baby step, giant step, bunny hop). Before they can step forward, they must ask, “Mother, may I?” The child who reaches you first wins.

**SAY** • It’s hard to listen and follow instructions perfectly, isn’t it? Peter reminded the other church leaders that neither the Jews nor the Gentiles could obey God’s law perfectly. Both are saved by faith in Jesus alone. Then **the church encouraged Gentile believers.**

## Make big faith art

Print the word *FAITH* in big block letters on heavyweight paper. Let the preschoolers fill in the letters with paint daubers or dot stickers. Define *faith* for preschoolers as believing in something even when you cannot see it.

**SAY** • Faith in Jesus is all we need to be saved. The Jewish Christians weren't sure about this. They thought non-Jewish believers needed to follow other rules, so **the church encouraged Gentile believers** in a letter.

- heavyweight paper
- markers
- paint daubers
- dot stickers (optional)

## Play post office

Push four chairs together to serve as a mail truck. Set out envelopes, paper, markers, stickers, junk mail, stamp pads, plastic bins, empty cardboard boxes, and cloth grocery bags to serve as mail bags. Consider cutting a slit in a shoe box to serve as a mailbox. Set out a scale if available. Invite preschoolers to play out delivering letters.

**SAY** • The church leaders agreed that Jesus is all we need to be saved. They wrote a letter to the Gentile believers. The letter told the believers how they should live now that they were believers. Paul and Barnabas delivered the letter with Judas and Silas. **The church encouraged Gentile believers.**

- chairs, 4
- envelopes
- paper
- markers
- stickers
- junk mail
- stamp pads
- plastic bins
- empty cardboard boxes
- cloth grocery bags
- shoe box (optional)
- scissors (optional)
- scale (optional)

## Make modeling clay crosses

Set out modeling clay. Lead preschoolers to build a cross with the clay.

**SAY** • No one can obey all God's rules perfectly except Jesus! Jesus came to obey God's rules then take our place and die on the cross for our sins. **The church encouraged Gentile believers** to trust in Jesus.

- modeling clay

## Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

# Review THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** The Message: “Christ Alone”

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 15:1-35

**MAIN POINT:** The church encouraged Gentile believers.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

---

## Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today’s Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. What kinds of people believed in the good news about Jesus? (*Jews and non-Jews, or Gentiles*)
2. Who can obey God’s law perfectly? (*no one except Jesus*)
3. Was it God’s plan all along to save both Jews and Gentiles? (*Yes!*)
4. Why did the church write a letter to the Gentile believers? (**The church encouraged Gentile believers.**)
5. *How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.*

**SAY** • The church leaders met to answer a hard question: Can someone be saved by faith alone? Peter reminded the Jews that they could not obey God’s law perfectly. Nobody could! The early church agreed that Jesus is all we need, and they sent the Gentiles a letter encouraging them to live lives that honor Jesus. Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- “Children of the Kingdom” song
- “You Will Be My Witnesses” song

## Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

**SAY** • God, thank You for this story, which reminds us that everyone is saved by Your grace alone. We cannot be saved by following rules. We praise You because You encouraged the Gentile believers so long ago, and You encourage us today.

## Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how both Jews and non-Jews believed Paul and Barnabas' message about Jesus. You may also show the "More Mountains" video.

**SAY** • Many people around the world, just like in Lesotho, Africa, have never heard about Jesus. They do not have Bibles. They don't know they can pray to God and know Him. Hopefully one day, each and every one of you will be able to share the good news about Jesus with someone who has never heard. Let's bow our heads and pray for those people, that God would send more missionaries to them.

- "More Mountains" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

## Sing a song

Sing to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?":

"Jews and Gentiles, Jews and Gentiles  
Who is saved, who is saved?  
All who trust in Jesus, all who trust in Jesus  
By God's grace, by God's grace."

**SAY** • **The church encouraged Gentile believers.**

## Paul's Second Journey

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 16:11-34

**MAIN POINT:** Paul and Silas told all kinds of people about Jesus.

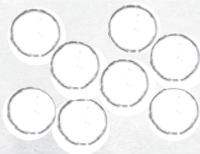
**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

**TELL  
THE STORY**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
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**EXPERIENCE  
THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
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**REVIEW  
THE STORY**  
(10+ MINUTES)  
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4

### Leader BIBLE STUDY

Paul was back at the church of Antioch in Syria. The church had sent out Paul and Barnabas to preach the gospel to Jews and Gentiles in places like Lystra and Derbe. Then they returned to the church of Antioch. Some time passed, and Paul wanted to return to some of the cities he visited on his first journey to see how the new believers were doing.

Silas accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey. The pair traveled through Syria and Cilicia (sìh LISH ih

uh), encouraging believers and strengthening churches. The number of believers in the churches increased daily.

The Lord called Paul and Silas to go to Macedonia, so they obeyed. Two major events happened while Paul was in Macedonia. First, a woman named Lydia became a believer. Paul and Silas had gone to the river to pray. They spoke to the women at the river. God opened Lydia's heart to the good news of the gospel.

Then, a jailer became a believer. This happened when Paul and Silas were thrown into prison after Paul commanded a fortune-telling spirit to come out of a slave girl. Late at night, an earthquake rocked the prison. The prisoners could have escaped, but they stayed where they were.

This was a huge relief to the jailer. Had the prisoners escaped, the jailer would have been punished. In fact, the jailer was ready to kill himself when Paul shouted, "We are all here!" The jailer asked Paul and Silas how to be saved. They told him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." The man believed and was baptized.

Lydia, the jailer, and many others were saved because they heard the gospel and believed in Jesus. Paul and Silas preached the same message to all people, no matter who they were: "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."



Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Display a map:** Show a map of Paul's missionary journeys. Trace Paul's second journey as you tell the Bible story.
- **Use images:** Print and cut out the "Bible Story People" images on heavyweight paper. Place tape on the back of the Paul and Barnabas images. On a large sheet of paper or dry erase board, draw a river on the left, a town in the middle, and a jail on the right. Move Paul and Silas to those different places as you tell the Bible story.

## Paul's Second Journey

*Acts 16:11-34*

God sent Paul on another trip to tell people the good news about Jesus. This time, Paul's friend Silas (SIGH luhs) went too. Paul stopped in a city called Philippi (FIH lih pigh), and he went to the river to pray. Paul talked to some women there. One of the women was named Lydia. She sold purple cloth. Lydia believed what Paul said about Jesus. Everyone in her household believed, and they were baptized.

Another day, Paul and Silas were going to pray when a servant girl met them. She had a spirit in her that allowed her to predict the future. She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling the future.

The girl followed Paul and Silas, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God!" Finally, Paul turned around. He spoke to the spirit: "By the power of Jesus Christ, I command you to come out of her!" And the spirit came out right away.

Now the girl's owners were upset because she could no longer tell the future. They grabbed Paul and Silas, and the leaders threw them into jail.

About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God. All of a sudden, an earthquake shook the jail. The jail doors flew open, and all of the prisoners' chains came loose.

When the jailer woke up and thought all the prisoners had escaped, Paul shouted, "We are all here!"

The jailer was afraid. "Men, what must I do to be saved?" he asked.

They said to him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you

**will be saved.”**

**Paul and Silas told the jailer and everyone in his household about Jesus, and they were baptized** right away. **Later that day, Paul and Silas were set free.**

*Christ Connection: Lydia, the jailer, and many others believed in Jesus and were saved from their sin. Paul and Silas told everyone the same thing: “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.”*

# Tell THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Paul's Second Journey

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 16:11-34

**MAIN POINT:** Paul and Silas told all kinds of people about Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

---

## Welcome and worship with song

- "Kingdom Kid" song
- "Children of the Kingdom" song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as "Kingdom Kid" to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in "Children of the Kingdom."

## Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- suitcase
- travel size items
- "Paul's Second Journey" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Bring back the suitcase and travel supplies from a few weeks ago. Invite preschoolers to talk about a trip they have taken.

**SAY** • In our Bible story today, Paul took another journey with his friend Silas. This journey was similar to the first one in that Paul healed people, told people about Jesus, and got in trouble for doing it. No matter what happened to Paul, he kept telling others about Jesus.

Open your Bible to Acts 16. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

## Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- pink or red construction paper
- scissors
- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- "You Will Be My Witnesses" song

Cut out a lip shape from red or pink construction paper and place it at Acts 1:8. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage. Invite

preschoolers to say the key passage in different tones of voice such as quietly, loudly, high or low.

**SAY** • Paul and Silas were Jesus’ witnesses. They knew Jesus was alive and had saved them from their sin. They praised Jesus even after they were thrown in jail.

Sing the key passage song together.

## Learn the big picture question and answer

**SAY** • Have you ever heard such exciting news that you had to tell someone? When we hear good news, we want to talk about it. This is what Christians do with the good news about Jesus. *How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.*

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Respond through song and prayer

**SAY** • Paul and Silas told all kinds of people about Jesus. Lydia, the jailer, and many others believed in Jesus and were saved from their sin. Paul and Silas told everyone the same thing: “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.”

Sing “Children of the Kingdom” and “John 14:6” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “I Will Stand.” You may also collect an offering.

**SAY** • God, thank You for Paul and Silas’ example. They talked about You wherever they went, even when they were in jail. Thank You for spreading the good news about Jesus through Christians. Help us all be Christians who are eager to talk about You. Amen.

• Main Point Poster  
• “Children of the Kingdom” song  
• “John 14:6” song  
• “I Will Stand” song  
• offering basket

## Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

# Experience THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Paul's Second Journey

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 16:11-34

**MAIN POINT:** Paul and Silas told all kinds of people about Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

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• blocks

Tip: Supervise children closely to prevent injuries from falling blocks.

- paper
- scissors
- tape
- "Children of the Kingdom" song (optional)
- "You Will Be My Witnesses" song (optional)



- paper
- markers
- tape

## Build a jail

Build a jail out of blocks. Then cause an "earthquake" by gently knocking all the blocks down.

**SAY • Paul and Silas told all kinds of people about Jesus.**

They got in trouble and were thrown in jail. At midnight, an earthquake shook the jail and their chains came loose. Paul and Silas told the jailer about Jesus.

## Break chains

Provide strips of paper for children to make interlocking chain links using tape. Sing a worship song together. When the song is over, invite preschoolers to break the chains.

**SAY • Paul and Silas told all kinds of people about Jesus.**

They were thrown in jail because of this, but God set them free. They even told the jailer to believe in Jesus to be saved from his sins!

## Hop the Bible story

Draw a river, a town, and a jail on three separate pieces of paper. Tape these papers and several blank papers on the ground. Pick two children to be Paul and Silas and go on a "journey" by hopping on the papers. When they land on

the “river” paper, review what happened with Lydia. When they land on the “town” paper, review what happened with the servant girl. When they land on the “jail” paper, review what happened with the jailer.

**SAY** • Paul and Silas told everyone the same thing, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.” **Paul and Silas told all kinds of people about Jesus.**

## Lace up a jail

Cut a square from heavyweight paper for each child. Punch holes along the top and bottom of each card one-half inch apart. Make sure the holes on top and bottom align. Invite preschoolers to draw two men on their cards. Show preschoolers how to make the “bars” of the jail cell by threading black yarn through the holes.

**SAY** • **Paul and Silas told all kinds of people about Jesus.**

They got in trouble and were thrown in jail. God caused an earthquake to set them free. But before leaving prison, they stayed to tell the jailer about Jesus.

- heavyweight paper
- hole punch
- yarn
- scissors
- crayons

## Explore a sensory bin

Fill a plastic tub with dried beans and objects relating to the Bible story. As the children pull items from the tub and interact with them, ask how each item relates to the story.

**SAY** • **Paul and Silas told all kinds of people about Jesus.**

They told Lydia, and she and her entire family were baptized. They healed the girl with the evil spirit in Jesus’ name. And they stayed in prison to tell jailer his sins could be forgiven.

- plastic tub
- dried beans
- people figures
- purple cloth
- toy handcuffs

## Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

# Review THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Paul's Second Journey

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 16:11-34

**MAIN POINT:** Paul and Silas told all kinds of people about Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

---

## Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. Who was the woman who sold purple cloth? (*Lydia*)
2. Whom did Paul and Silas tell about Jesus? (**Paul and Silas told all kinds of people about Jesus.**)
3. What did Paul and Silas do in jail? (*prayed and sang songs*)
4. How did the prisoners' chains come loose? (*God sent an earthquake.*)
5. Did the jailer believe in Jesus? (*Yes.*)
6. ***How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.***

**SAY • Paul and Silas told all kinds of people about Jesus.**

Lydia, the jailer, and many others believed in Jesus and were saved from their sin. Paul and Silas told everyone the same thing: "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved." This is still true today.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

## Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "Children of the Kingdom" song
- "You Will Be My Witnesses" song

**SAY** • God, thank You for using ordinary people like Paul and Silas to spread the news about Jesus throughout the world. As these preschoolers grow, help them be witnesses to Your good news, and may many people believe in You because of them.

## Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how Paul and Silas shared the good news about Jesus with all kinds of people. They were some of the first missionaries! You may also show the "More Helpers" video.

**SAY** • The Flora family are missionaries in Lesotho. Teresa Flora is a nurse and helps the Lesotho people who are sick or hurt, but most importantly, the Floras tell the Lesotho people about Jesus. Let's pray for the Lesotho people, that God would send more workers like the Flora family to minister to them.

- "More Helpers" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

## Touch colors

Explain to preschoolers that you will call out the word *touch* and a color. Preschoolers must run and touch something in the room that is that color. Help preschoolers find items in the room of the proper color as needed. Consider allowing preschoolers to take turns calling out colors for the group to touch.

**SAY** • Lydia sold purple cloth. Lydia believed what Paul said about Jesus. Everyone in her household believed, and they were baptized. **Paul and Silas told all kinds of people about Jesus.** Lydia, the jailer, and many others believed in Jesus and were saved from their sin. Paul and Silas told everyone the same thing: "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."

## Paul Preached in Europe

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 17:16-34

**MAIN POINT:** Paul taught the people in Athens about the one true God.

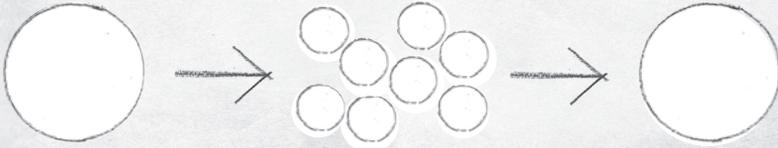
**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

**TELL  
THE STORY**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
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**EXPERIENCE  
THE STORY**  
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**REVIEW  
THE STORY**  
(10+ MINUTES)  
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### Leader BIBLE STUDY

Paul and Silas had been released from prison in Philippi (FIH lih pigh). Before leaving the city, they met with believers at Lydia's house and encouraged them. Then they traveled to Thessalonica and stopped at the synagogue to explain to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah. A large number of Greeks and influential women believed in Jesus.

Before long, Jews in the city became jealous and forced Paul and Silas out of the city. Even though the Jews opposed

Paul's preaching, the number of believers in Thessalonica grew and the church there was established.

Paul made his way through Berea, where people heard the gospel and believed. The Jews from Thessalonica followed him and caused trouble, so Paul went to Athens. Athens—about 200 miles from Berea—was a cultural center. People in Athens loved to hear about and study the latest ideas. The Jews and the philosophers in the city were interested in what Paul had to say, but Paul was troubled by what he saw. Athens was full of idols to every kind of god. There was even an altar to an unknown god.

The people obviously had a religious desire. Paul knew that their hunger for God could be satisfied—in Jesus. Paul began preaching, telling the people that they worshiped a god they did not know. He said that people can know God! God made the world and everything in it! “We ought not to think that God is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man,” Paul said.

Then Paul told them about Jesus and how God wanted them to turn away from their sins. Some people made fun of Paul, but others believed. Paul explained God's plan of salvation. God is not like the Greek idols. Only God deserves our worship! Because Jesus took the punishment for our sin, we can know God.



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# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

## Paul Preached in Europe

*Acts 17:16-34*

- **Display a map:** Show a map of Paul's missionary journeys. Trace Paul's second journey as you tell the Bible story.
- **Use a prop:** Set up a large cardboard box beside the teaching area. Write *unknown god* on the side of the box. At the appropriate part of the Bible story, draw a big cross over "unknown god" and write *Jesus is the one true God*.

**God sent Paul to the city of Athens to tell people about Jesus.** When Paul got there, he was upset! **The people in Athens** did not worship the one true God. They **worshiped false gods** instead. Paul told the people about Jesus. He told them that Jesus died and came back to life. Jesus is alive!

The people wanted to know more. **They had an altar where they worshiped a god they did not know. Paul told them that he knew who God is. "I will tell you about the one true God," he said.**

**Paul said, "God made everything. God made all the people of the world, and He loves them. God is so big! God is bigger than any temple. He is not made of gold or silver or stone. God wants everyone to turn away from their sin and turn to Him.**

**Paul said that God sent Jesus to rescue people from sin. He said Jesus had died and come back to life, and some of the people laughed. Some people wanted to hear more later. And some people believed Paul's words, and they believed in Jesus.**

*Christ Connection: Paul taught the people in Athens about the one true God. He told them that Jesus died on the cross and is alive! People can know God because Jesus brings us into God's family.*

# Tell THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Paul Preached in Europe

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 17:16-34

**MAIN POINT:** Paul taught the people in Athens about the one true God.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

---

## Welcome and worship with song

- “Kingdom Kid” song
- “Children of the Kingdom” song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “Kingdom Kid” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in “Children of the Kingdom.”

## Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- “Paul Preached in Europe” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Explain that you will ask some very difficult questions that the children may not know the answer to. Suggested questions include “Who was the 17th American president?” (*Andrew Johnson*), “How many galaxies are in the universe?” (*around 2 trillion*), or “What is the world’s smallest bird?” (*bee hummingbird*)

**SAY** • In our Bible story today, the people in Athens did not know the correct answer to the question, “Who is God?” They worshiped false gods. **Paul taught the people in Athens about the one true God.**

Open your Bible to Acts 17. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

- pink or red construction paper
- scissors
- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- “You Will Be My Witnesses” song
- paper
- marker
- tape

## Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

Cut out a lip shape from red or pink construction paper

and place it at Acts 1:8. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

Write each word of the key passage on a sheet of paper. Tape the words in order on the floor. Invite a child to “walk” the key passage while you say each word as she steps.

**SAY** • A *witness* uses his mouth. *Witnesses* tell others what they have seen or experienced. The people in Athens did not know about Jesus. Paul came to be a witness to what was true about Jesus.

Sing the key passage song together.

## Learn the big picture question and answer

**SAY** • Paul traveled all the way to Athens to tell the people there about the one true God. He told them that Jesus died on the cross and is alive! Some people believed Paul, and some did not. But Paul was still happy to share the good news! God wants us to share the good news too! *How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.*

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Respond through song and prayer

**SAY** • **Paul taught the people in Athens about the one true God.** He told them that Jesus died on the cross and is alive! People can know God because Jesus brings us into God’s family.

Sing “Children of the Kingdom” and “Everywhere I Go” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “I Will Stand.” You may also collect an offering.

**SAY** • God, help us remember that there are people around the world who do not know who Jesus is. Make us willing to go anywhere and do anything to spread the good news to all people.

• Main Point Poster  
• “Children of the Kingdom” song  
• “Everywhere I Go” song  
• “I Will Stand” song  
• offering basket

• countdown video (optional)

## Transition to experience the story

# Experience THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Paul Preached in Europe

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 17:16-34

**MAIN POINT:** Paul taught the people in Athens about the one true God.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

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LOW PREP

## Decide which is bigger

Explain to preschoolers that you will name two things and children should decide which is bigger. Point to the designated side of the room for each thing as you name it. Choices: elephant/bird, cow/cat, monkey/mouse, boat/bicycle, and so forth

**SAY** • Which is bigger: God or you? [*Allow preschoolers to move to the correct side.*] Paul told the people in Athens how God made everything and is bigger than everything. **Paul taught the people in Athens about the one true God.** God also made everyone and loves everyone. God wants everyone to know about His Son, Jesus.



LOW PREP

• blocks

## Build with blocks

Provide blocks for children to build the city of Athens. Remind preschoolers that Athens was filled with idols the people had built to worship false gods.

**SAY** • The people of Athens built idols to gods that are not real. They even built an altar where they worshiped a god they did not know. **Paul taught the people in Athens about the one true God.** Some people made fun, some wanted to hear more, and some believed.

## Sing “Jesus Loves Me”

Invite preschoolers to sing “Jesus Loves Me” and perform simple hand motions. If you are unfamiliar with the lyrics or hand motions, check them out online before class.



**SAY** • The people in Athens did not know Jesus loved them until Paul told them. He told them that Jesus died on the cross and is alive! **Paul taught the people of Athens about the one true God.**

## Learn and name facts about animals

Bring a smartphone, tablet, or laptop to class. Invite a preschooler to name an animal. Look online for pictures, videos and fun facts about that animal. Ask children what they know about the animal. Read any facts they did not mention. Then ask children what they know about God and how they know it is true.

- smartphone, tablet, or laptop

Tip: Watch out for online images that may be inappropriate for preschoolers.

**SAY** • You knew some facts about these animals. The people in Athens did not know anything about Jesus. **Paul taught the people in Athens about the one true God.** What we know about God comes from the Bible—God’s true words. It tells us everything we need to know about God and His love.

## Make craft stick crosses

Using hot glue and craft sticks, assemble a cross for each child. Invite children to decorate their crosses with markers and jewel stickers. Encourage children to give their craft stick cross to someone who needs to hear about Jesus.

- hot glue gun (adult use only)
- craft sticks, 2 per child
- markers
- jewel stickers

**SAY** • **Paul taught the people in Athens about the one true God.** We can tell others around us about Jesus too. Whom can you tell about Jesus this week?

## Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

# Review THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Paul Preached in Europe

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 17:16-34

**MAIN POINT:** Paul taught the people in Athens about the one true God.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

---

## Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "Children of the Kingdom" song
- "You Will Be My Witnesses" song

1. What city did God send Paul to? (*Athens*)
2. What did the people of Athens worship? (*false gods, idols, unknown god*)
3. What did Paul teach the people of Athens? (**Paul taught the people in Athens about the one true God.**)
4. How did people react to Paul's teaching? (*some laughed, some wanted to hear more, some believed*)
5. ***How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus***

**SAY** • **Paul taught the people in Athens about the one true God.** They did not know the truth, and they worshiped false gods. But Paul told them that Jesus died on the cross and is alive! He said all people can know God because Jesus brings us into God's family. Some people laughed at Paul, but others believed.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

## Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

**SAY** • God, thank You for this Bible story, which reminds us that not everyone in the world gets to go to church and hear about You. Some people do not know about You or Jesus. Make us brave to tell others how Jesus died on the cross for sin and is alive today! You will save anyone who trusts in Jesus. Amen.

## Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how many people in the world today are like the people of Athens. They do not know about the one true God or His Son, Jesus. We can pray for those people and tell them the good news. You may also show the "Let the Children Come" video.

**SAY** • Sally wants every child in Mozambique to hear about Jesus. Let's pray for her, that God would continue to use her to share the message of Jesus with those who have not heard. Let's also pray that God brings more workers to Mozambique to share the good news of Jesus with children!

- "Let the Children Come" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

## Shout the good news

Demonstrate to preschoolers how to roll up paper to make a megaphone. Invite them to shout, "Jesus is the one true God!" through their megaphone. Provide stickers for children to decorate their megaphones.

**SAY** • **Paul taught the people in Athens about the one true God.** He told them that Jesus died on the cross and is alive! We can tell others about Jesus too. People can know God because Jesus brings us into God's family.

- paper
- tape
- stickers (optional)

## Paul's Third Journey

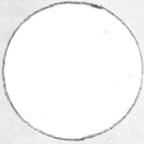
**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 18:1-4,24-28; 20:17-38

**MAIN POINT:** God helped Paul preach with courage.

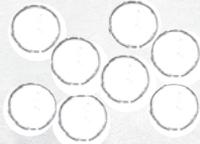
**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

**TELL  
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**EXPERIENCE  
THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
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**REVIEW  
THE STORY**  
(10+ MINUTES)  
**PAGE 138**



## Leader BIBLE STUDY

Paul's third missionary journey was unlike his first two because he didn't set out to plant churches. Instead, his mission was to encourage and strengthen existing churches. Paul wrote letters to the churches, but he knew some guidance was best given in person.

Paul's journey began when he traveled to the city of Corinth. To make a living, Paul was a tentmaker. Paul became friends with two other tentmakers in Corinth: a

man named Aquila and his wife, Priscilla. In his business dealings, Paul was able to share the gospel with many people. The church in Corinth grew.

Paul took Aquila and Priscilla with him to Ephesus. Ephesus was a thriving city in the Roman Empire. Aquila and Priscilla stayed in Ephesus while Paul traveled to others churches and encouraged the believers. While Paul traveled, Aquila and Priscilla interacted with a Jewish believer named Apollos. Apollos was a leader in the early church, and Aquila and Priscilla helped him better understand about Jesus and the Scriptures. Apollos went on to greatly help other believers by showing through Scripture that Jesus is the Messiah.

The Holy Spirit led Paul to go to Jerusalem. This wasn't an easy call to obey. The Spirit revealed to Paul that imprisonment and suffering awaited in Jerusalem. (See Acts 20:23.) Hadn't Paul done enough? He had spent years preaching the gospel, and many people believed. Wasn't now a good time for Paul to retire comfortably on a beach somewhere?

But Paul did not cling to his own life. He used every opportunity to tell people the good news about Jesus and to help the church. God helped Paul preach with courage even when he was in danger. Paul was dedicated to Jesus, who called him to do the work of sharing the gospel. Paul boarded the ship to Jerusalem, uncertain of the future but certain of the goodness and grace of the Lord Jesus.



Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

## Paul's Third Journey

*Acts 18:1-4,24-28; 20:17-38*

- **Display a map:**  
Show a map of Paul's missionary journeys. Trace Paul's third journey as you tell the Bible story.
- **Sit in a tent:**  
Make a tent in the classroom with a sheet. Invite preschoolers to sit in the tent while you tell the Bible story. Remind children that Paul was a tentmaker.

**God sent Paul to the city of Corinth. Paul met a man and his wife, Aquila (uh KWIL uh) and Priscilla.** Their job was making tents. Paul made tents too. **Paul stayed with them and worked with them.** On the Sabbath, **Paul went to the synagogue to talk to the people** who lived in the city. He told them **about Jesus. Some of the people believed.** Now the church was in Corinth too.

**Paul and his new friends, Aquila and Priscilla, went to the city of Ephesus (EF uh suhs). Aquila and Priscilla stayed there, and Paul traveled all around to visit churches.** Paul met with believers at the churches and helped them.

**While Paul traveled, a man named Apollos (uh PAHL uhs) came to Ephesus. Apollos told people about Jesus. He knew what was true about Jesus, but he did not understand everything. So Aquila and Priscilla taught him more. Then Apollos traveled and taught more people about Jesus,** and he told them that Jesus is the Messiah.

Now **Paul traveled back toward Ephesus.** He asked the church leaders to meet him nearby. Paul told them that **God wanted him to go to the city of Jerusalem.** "I do not know what will happen there," **Paul said, "but I know there will be trouble. I will be put in prison."**

But this did not stop **Paul.** He **knew** that the most important thing was not having an easy life; **the most important thing was to do the work God had for him. "I want to tell people the good news about Jesus," he said.**

**The church leaders prayed with Paul and said  
goodbye.**

*Christ Connection: As Paul traveled, he told as many people as he could about Jesus. God changed people's hearts, and the church grew. God called Paul to tell people the good news about Jesus, and Paul wanted to follow God's plan no matter what.*

# Tell THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Paul's Third Journey

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 18:1-4,24-28; 20:17-38

**MAIN POINT:** God helped Paul preach with courage.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

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## Welcome and worship with song

- "Kingdom Kid" song
- "Children of the Kingdom" song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as "Kingdom Kid" to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in "Children of the Kingdom."

## Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- "Paul's Third Journey" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Invite preschoolers to raise their hands and tell you the name of a friend.

**SAY** • In our Bible story today, Paul met two new friends.

Their names were Aquila and Priscilla. Paul lived with them and made tents with them.

Open your Bible to Acts 18. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

## Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- pink or red construction paper
- scissors
- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- "You Will Be My Witnesses" song

Cut out a lip shape from red or pink construction paper and place it at Acts 1:8. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage. Invite any preschoolers who wish to say the key passage from memory to do so. Give prompts as needed.

**SAY** • Paul, Aquila, Priscilla, and Apollos were all witnesses

of the good news of Jesus. Paul said he would go to Jerusalem to be a witness, even though he knew there would be trouble there. **God helped Paul preach with courage.**

Sing the key passage song together.

## Learn the big picture question and answer

**SAY** • *How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.* Sometimes we can face trouble when we talk about Jesus. **God helped Paul preach with courage,** and He will help us too.

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Respond through song and prayer

**SAY** • **God helped Paul preach with courage.** As Paul traveled, he told as many people as he could about Jesus. God changed people's hearts, and the church grew. God called Paul to tell people the good news about Jesus, and Paul wanted to follow God's plan no matter what.

• Main Point Poster  
• "Children of the Kingdom" song  
• "John 14:6" song  
• "I Will Stand" song  
• offering basket

Sing "Children of the Kingdom" and "John 14:6" as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing "I Will Stand." You may also collect an offering.

**SAY** • God, thank You for this Bible story. It shows us that You will give us courage to tell others about Jesus exactly when we need it. Thank You for giving Paul courage to spread the good news of Jesus, so that we could hear this many years later. Amen.

## Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

# Experience THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Paul's Third Journey

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 18:1-4,24-28; 20:17-38

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**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

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## Sing “This Little Light of Mine”

Sing “This Little Light of Mine” while you perform simple hand motions for children to follow. If you are unfamiliar with the tune, lyrics, or hand motions, check them out online before the session.

**SAY** • Paul, Aquila, Priscilla, and Apollos all shined their light for Jesus by telling others about Him. They loved others and told them that Jesus could save them from their sins. **God helped Paul preach with courage.**



- construction paper
- crayons
- stickers
- markers

## Write letters to missionaries

Explain that missionaries often need God to give them courage, just like we do. Fold construction paper into cards and invite preschoolers to decorate them. Inside each preschooler's card, transcribe her message of encouragement to a missionary.

**SAY** • **God helped Paul preach with courage.** Let's pray for the missionaries we know, that God would give them courage to tell others about Jesus.

## Play hopscotch

- masking tape

Use masking tape to create a hopscotch game on the floor.

Encourage the preschoolers to hop in the squares and “journey to the end and back” like Paul did from the city of Ephesus.

**SAY** • Paul left Ephesus, but Aquila and Priscilla stayed.

Aquila and Priscilla helped Apollos understand the truth about Jesus. When Paul returned, he said, “I must go to Jerusalem. I know there will be trouble there.” **God helped Paul preach with courage.**

## Race boats

Place end caps on either end of two lengths of plastic rain gutters. Fill the gutters with a few inches of water. Invite preschoolers race toy boats along the water.

**SAY** • Paul knew he would face trouble in Jerusalem, but

he got on a boat and sailed there anyway. The most important thing for Paul was to do the work of God. Paul wanted to be a witness for the good news of Jesus, and **God helped Paul preach with courage.**

- plastic rain gutters, 2
- gutter end caps, 4
- toy boats
- towels (for cleanup)

## Play with transportation toys

Set out an assortment of transportation toys such as toy cars, trucks, boats, and airplanes. Invite preschoolers to play out taking a trip.

**SAY** • Paul went on three missionary journeys. He walked, rode animals, and sailed on boats. At the end of this third journey, Paul took a boat to Jerusalem, where he knew he would be put in prison. Paul knew telling people about Jesus was most important. **God helped Paul preach with courage.**

- transportation toys

## Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

# Review THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** Paul's Third Journey

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 18:1-4,24-28; 20:17-38

**MAIN POINT:** God helped Paul preach with courage.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Acts 1:8

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.

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## Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "Children of the Kingdom" song
- "You Will Be My Witnesses" song

1. Who were Paul's friends? (*Aquila and Priscilla*)
2. What did Paul, Aquila, and Priscilla make? (*tents*)
3. What city was Paul going to sail to? (*Jerusalem*)
4. Why did Paul go to Jerusalem when he knew there would be trouble? (*He wanted to tell people the good news about Jesus.*)
5. How did God help Paul? (**God helped Paul preach with courage.**)
6. *How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.*

**SAY** • As Paul traveled, he told as many people as he could about Jesus. God changed people's hearts, and the church grew. Aquila, Priscilla, and Apollos told others about Jesus, too. As Paul continued preaching, he wanted to follow God's plan no matter what. **God helped Paul preach with courage.**

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

## Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

**SAY** • God, thank You for the missionaries in our church and around the world who take the good news about Jesus to people who need to hear it. I pray that one day, some of the children in our class will grow up and want to take the gospel to people in far away places. We love You and want everyone to know how much You love them. Amen.

## Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how Paul was a missionary in Rome. Sometimes it was really hard, but **God helped Paul preach with courage**. You may also show the "Mudding in Mozambique" video.

**SAY** • Let's pray for Sally and the kids she is working with in Mozambique, that many of them would believe in Jesus and share the good news with their families and other villages in Mozambique.

- "Mudding in Mozambique" video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

## Sequence Bible stories

Provide all six Bible story pictures from the unit. Invite the children to line up the pictures in chronological order. Review the main points from the Bible stories as they put them in order.

**SAY** • *How do people hear about Jesus? God uses Christians to tell others about Jesus.* Who are the Christians in these pictures? What are they doing?

- Unit 30 Bible Story Pictures

# Ministry Must-Do's for New Parents

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**ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT STAGES OF MY LIFE WAS THE TIME WHEN MY WIFE AND I WERE EXPECTING OUR FIRST CHILD AND THE FIRST DAYS AT HOME WITH BABY. ALL THESE YEARS LATER, WE STILL REMEMBER EVERY PERSON WHO VISITED US IN THE HOSPITAL OR BROUGHT US A MEAL AFTER OUR SON WAS BORN. WHAT SPECIAL MEMORIES AND HOW IMPACTFUL UPON A YOUNG COUPLE!**

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If you are a children's minister or have a ministry to expectant and new parents in your church, what are some things you can do to help expectant and new parents?

Consider the following five ways to impact new and expectant parents in your church.

## **1. BE AVAILABLE.**

Many families have elaborate support systems built in, but don't assume new parents have grandparents in town who can help with child care.

Connect them with church members of a similar life stage and those who can be mentors for these young parents. Best of all, provide a list of reliable babysitters or help out yourself.

## **2. LISTEN MORE, TALK LESS.**

Parents don't need advice (unless they ask for it). They will be bombarded with enough advice from family and even strangers on the street. Parents need someone to listen to their concerns and needs.

Focus more on encouragement and connecting parents to the help they need. They will see you as someone in their corner, not someone to avoid who might tell them something they could be doing better.

## **3. TAKE A MEAL OR GIFT CARD.**

There is no greater relief to a new parent than having the evening meal already planned.

Arrange a time to deliver the meal but don't stay if not invited. If you are invited in, stay long enough

to view the precious little one and pray. That will be meaningful without overstaying your welcome.

#### **4. PROVIDE RESOURCES.**

Quick, easy-to-read helps are best—not long parenting guides. Consider giving a copy of *BabyLife* magazine. *BabyLife* is a special undated edition of *ParentLife*, focused specifically on kids from birth to 2. Check it out at [lifeway.com/babylife](http://lifeway.com/babylife).

#### **5. COMMUNICATE MINISTRIES AVAILABLE FOR NEW PARENTS.**

You may have child care, mother's day out, new and young parent Sunday School classes, parenting

classes, new baby dedication ceremonies, or other ministries that will not only appeal to parents but equip them in the days ahead.

You could tell the parents in person but, even better, email or have a special handout for parents that shows you care and that parents—and babies—are important to your church.

Follow these guidelines, and you will certainly go a long way toward helping new parents feel welcomed and cared for by your church.



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# What to Say When You Don't Know What to Say

**MAYBE IT'S JUST ME, BUT I SEEM TO GET QUITE THE ODD COLLECTION OF RANDOM QUESTIONS FROM KIDS IN MY MINISTRY. DO YOU?**

Take, for instance, this little gem: “So, if God and Jesus are the same, and Jesus was with God when the earth was created, why didn't Jesus tell anybody the earth was round when He was here?”

I honestly have no recollection of how my leader answered, but I'm sure he could have used some of this advice. When your kids ask you questions that you cannot answer here are some tips for responding.



## **IT'S OK TO SAY YOU DON'T KNOW.**

If their questions are biblical in nature and likely have a biblical answer that you don't know, you can use the opportunity to answer the question together by studying God's Word. You don't have to know all the answers, but knowing where to find them is very helpful.



**#2 THE BIBLE DOESN'T TELL US THAT.**

This could have been very useful to my preteen teacher since the Bible doesn't tell us why Jesus didn't tell anybody the earth was round while He walked the earth.

Many times kids can ask questions about biblical content that the Bible itself just doesn't speak to. In those instances it's perfectly fine to simply say what is true, the Bible doesn't tell us.

**#3 ASK FOR CLARITY.**

Sometimes kids ask a question that could be interpreted in different ways. You want to make sure you answer the question they ask, so asking clarifying questions is very appropriate to help in understanding.

**#4 PRAY.**

Sometimes kids ask questions that just require us to love on them and pray for them. It's OK to say something like, "I'm not sure how to answer your question, but we can certainly pray together about that." Prayer is a great way to help kids connect with God and you as their leader.

Kids are going to ask questions lots of times that you may not be prepared to answer, or feel qualified to answer. It's OK for you to be you and tell them that's something you struggle with too, or that you need some time to help answer their questions. Sometimes that might be all they need to hear.

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