

Paul Made Much of Jesus

BIBLE PASSAGE: Colossians 1:15–2:3

MAIN POINT: Paul said that Jesus is most important.

KEY PASSAGE: Philippians 1:21

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell about Jesus all the time.

**TEACH
THE STORY**
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**EXPERIENCE
THE STORY**
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THE STORY**
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Leader BIBLE STUDY

Paul wrote his letter to the church at Colossae not long after he arrived in Rome as a prisoner. The letter served to correct false teaching in the church and to encourage right living among believers. Focus on verses 15-20, in which Paul described who Jesus is.

Paul's teaching to the Colossians was important because the believers were trying to figure out what it meant to follow Jesus. They were struggling to understand the gospel and

discern what is really true. These are the same questions we face as believers today: Who is Jesus? What is the gospel? What is true about God and about myself?

Before you teach boys and girls about Paul's letter to the Colossians, pray for the Holy Spirit's help. Pray that Jesus would be lifted up and treasured. Keep these points in mind as you prepare for the session.

1. Jesus is the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15) If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. His life and teaching tells us what is true about God. He reflects God's character. (See Heb. 1:3.) Jesus Himself said, "The one who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9).

2. Jesus is Creator. (Col. 1:16-17) Because He created everything, He is in charge of everything—even invisible things! He controls and sustains all things. Because He is at the center, we can take comfort in Him even when life is hard.

3. Jesus is King. (Col. 1:18) The reality is that we live in God's kingdom. If we live for ourselves instead of Him, we sin. Sin is rebellion against the King. We deserve to die for our sin, but the good news—the gospel—is that Jesus came to save sinners.

Paul made much of Jesus because Jesus is better. He has authority over everything—including us and our salvation. Jesus is great, and He 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/the-gospel-project>.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Paul Made Much of Jesus

Colossians 1:15–2:3

• **Look at stars:**

Dim the lights before telling the story. Tape black paper to the end of a flashlight and poke pin-sized holes all through the paper. When you come to the part of the story where Paul writes that Jesus was with God before the world was created, build anticipation. When you mention that God created everything, turn on the light and marvel at the stars.

• **Read a letter:**

Print out the Bible story and roll the paper like a scroll. Invite another adult leader to deliver the scroll to you at the appropriate moment in the Bible story. Open it and tell the rest of the Bible story as if reading the letter.

When Paul was a prisoner in Rome, people came to tell him news about believers and churches all over the world. Paul had visited many of the churches, and **he wrote letters to tell the believers to keep following Jesus.**

Paul wrote a letter to the church in Colossae (koh LAHS sih). The believers there knew the good news about Jesus, but there was a problem. **New teachers had come and told them things that were not true. Paul’s letter reminded them what is true about Jesus. This is what Paul wrote:**

“Jesus shows us what God is like.

The Son of God was with God before God created anything.

**He created everything in heaven and on earth,
Everything you see and don’t see;**

Everything is for Him.

**The church—all the believers in the world—are the
body, and He is the head.**

**God was happy to send His Son to earth to rescue
people from sin
through His blood on the cross.”**

**Paul reminded the believers that their sin had kept
them away from God. Our sin makes us God’s enemies.
But God rescues us from sin and forgives us through
Jesus.**

**Paul said, “This is the gospel. If anyone tells you the
gospel is something else, that person is lying.**

“Have courage and love one another. All wisdom and knowledge comes from God.”

Christ Connection: Paul reminded believers that Jesus is most important. Jesus is God's Son, and He died on the cross to rescue people from sin. This good news is all we need; Jesus is all we need.

Teach THE STORY

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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell about Jesus all the time.

Welcome and worship with song

- “Kingdom Kid” song
- “Don’t Stop” 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 “Don’t Stop.”

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- “Paul Made Much of Jesus” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Ask children if they know what a lie is. Ask if it is sometimes hard to tell the truth.

SAY • In our Bible story today, Paul heard that a group of believers were being told lies about God. Paul wrote them a letter reminding them of truth about Jesus. Paul wrote his letter to help the Colossians know how important Jesus is.

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

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- Bible marker or ribbon
- “To Live Is Christ” song

Place a Bible marker or ribbon at Philippians 1:21. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

SAY • Paul wanted the believers in Colossae to remember

that Jesus is all we need; that is the good news. **Paul said that Jesus is most important.** Paul knew that being with Jesus is far better than anything else. But while he was alive, Paul wanted to help other believers.

Sing the key passage song “To Live Is Christ” together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • Our big picture question is, *When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell about Jesus all the time.* Paul never stopped telling about Jesus. He even wrote letters to churches all over the world reminding them that Jesus is most important.

• Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • **Paul said that Jesus is most important.** Jesus is God’s Son, and He died on the cross to rescue people from sin. This good news is all we need; Jesus is all we need.

Sing “Don’t Stop” and “Take My Life and Let It Be” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “Saved by Grace Through Faith.” You may also collect an offering.

SAY • God, thank You for Paul’s letter to the believers reminding them of the truth about Jesus, who rescued us from our sin and forgives us. Help us remember this truth too. Give us courage and love for one another. We thank You that Jesus is all we need. We love You. Amen.

• Main Point Poster
• “Don’t Stop” song
• “Take My Life and Let It Be” song
• “Saved by Grace Through Faith” song
• offering basket

Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

Experience THE STORY

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Play “Follow the Leader”

Choose a child to be the leader. The rest of the group will line up single file behind the leader. Those behind the leader should mimic her actions as she moves about the room. After a short time, direct the leader to move the back of the line and allow the child now first in line to be the new leader. Continue play until each preschooler who wishes to be the leader has had the chance to do so.

SAY • Paul wrote letters to tell the believers to keep following Jesus. The believers in Colossae knew the good news about Jesus, but new teachers had come and told them things that were not true. **Paul said that Jesus is most important.** Paul’s letter reminded them what is true about Jesus.

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Tip: Follow your church’s security procedures.

Take a nature walk

Take preschoolers on a walk outside and encourage them to find things that Jesus created. Preschoolers can pick up things they find: leaves, flowers, acorns, and so forth.

SAY • Paul reminded the believers in Colossae that Jesus created everything. He created everything we see and don’t see. **Paul said that Jesus is most important.**

Write in shaving cream

Write *JESUS* on index cards and display for preschoolers. Squirt non-menthol shaving cream on tables or on a plate and invite preschoolers to write the name *JESUS* in the shaving cream.

SAY • Paul said that Jesus is most important. Jesus came to the earth to rescue us from our sin and He gives us the gift of salvation for free. We just need to trust in Him and believe that He is all we need.

- Allergy Alert download
- non-menthol shaving cream
- hand wipes
- index cards
- markers

Spell *JESUS* with blocks

Clear a large area on the floor. Affix tape to the floor, spelling the name *JESUS* in block letters. Invite preschoolers to stand blocks upright along the tape. Say the name *Jesus* often as boys and girls build.

SAY • God's Son, Jesus, died on the cross to save people from their sin. This is good news that we should share with people. *When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell about Jesus all the time.*

- blocks
- painter's tape

Make a banner for Jesus

Roll out a large sheet of paper and tape it on the floor or the wall. Write *Jesus is most important* in the middle. Suggest the preschoolers write or draw pictures of why they think Jesus is most important all over the paper.

SAY • Paul said that Jesus is most important. He is God's Son, and He rescued us from our sin. He is all we need. He is the head, or leader, of the church and we are His followers.

- large sheet of paper
- tape
- markers and crayons

Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

Review THE STORY

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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. To whom did Paul write a letter to remind about the truth of Jesus? (*the Colossian church*)
2. What did Paul say keeps people away from God? (*our sin*)
3. Who rescues us from sin and forgives us through Jesus? (*God*)
4. Who did Paul say is most important? (**Paul said Jesus is most important.**)
5. ***When should we tell others Jesus? We should tell about Jesus all the time.***

SAY • **Paul said that Jesus is most important**, and he reminded believers that Jesus is God's Son. Jesus died on the cross to rescue people from sin. This good news is all we need; Jesus is all we need.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • God, we are sinners who need Your forgiveness.

Thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us. Thank

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "Don't Stop" song
- "To Live Is Christ" song

You that while we are alive, we can live for you. And when we die, we can live with You forever. We love You. 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 we should all help others know that Jesus is real. You may also show the "Casting the Dye Part 5" missions video.

SAY • The Dye family moved to the big city of Atlanta to share Jesus with everyone they could meet. They started the church, M:28. The name *M:28* comes from Matthew 28 in the Bible where Jesus told His followers to tell all people about Him. Each member of the Dye family serves in their church. Let's pray that God would use the Dye family, and us too, to help everyone everywhere discover knowing Jesus changes everything.

- "Casting the Dye Part 5" missions video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

Sing "Jesus Is All the World to Me"

Lead preschoolers in singing the first verse of "Jesus Is All the World to Me." If you are unfamiliar with the lyrics or tune, look them up online before the session. Invite preschoolers to help you make up motions for the song.

SAY • **Paul said that Jesus is most important.** Jesus is God's Son, and He died on the cross to rescue people from sin. This good news is all we need; Jesus is all we need.