



the **GOSPEL**PROJECT.

FROM ONE NATION TO ALL NATIONS

YOUNGER PRESCHOOL LEADER GUIDE

VOLUME 11





THE GOSPEL PROJECT FOR PRESCHOOL: YOUNGER PRESCHOOL LEADER GUIDE

VOLUME 11 • FROM ONE NATION TO ALL NATIONS

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We believe that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review Lifeway's doctrinal guideline, please visit www.lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline. Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission.



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SESSION AT A GLANCE



PREPARE

- **Read the Leader Bible Study and Bible story** including the Christ Connection. For additional help, visit www.gospelproject.com.
- **Familiarize yourself with the session content**, noting which activity options will work best in your context. Decide the schedule for the teaching session and if you prefer to have group time at the beginning or the end of the hour.
- **Gather and prepare session supplies**, including posters and activity printables as needed.
- **Contact families and pray for your preschoolers** during the week.



WELCOME

- **Greet preschoolers** as they arrive, and use the Welcome Activity to help them feel welcome as you also **build relationships** and **help all children connect** to the group. During the activity, talk about the Big Picture Question and Answer with the preschoolers.



LEARN

- **Help preschoolers understand the Bible story** and how it relates to God's big story of Scripture. During this portion of the session, focus on what the children should believe—what God wants our preschoolers to know about the Bible story and Key Passage Phrase.



LOVE

- **Help preschoolers respond appropriately to the Bible story** by growing in their love for God and considering how to apply it to their own lives, using the activities provided. During this portion of the session, focus on what the preschoolers might feel—how God wants our kids to respond and feel based on what they believe.



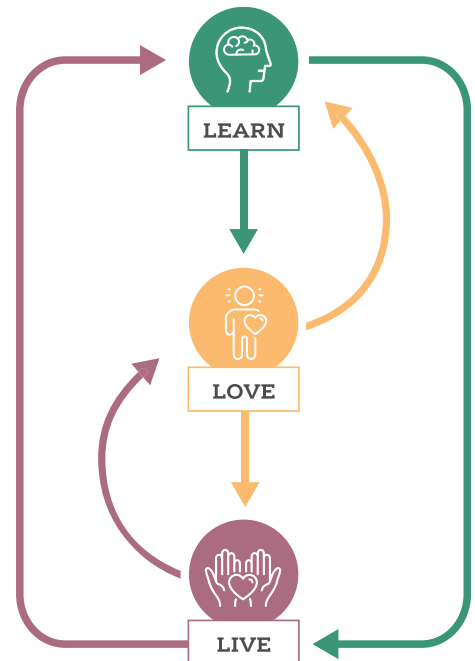
LIVE

- **Help preschoolers understand ways to live on mission** and make much of God in response to the Bible story. During this portion of the session, focus on what the preschoolers can do—how God wants our preschoolers to be different based on what they know about God and their growing love for Him. Guide preschoolers to complete the **Activity Page**.



BONUS TEACHING HOUR

- Provides additional activities for either a second bonus hour or to incorporate into a single hour of ministry to provide additional ideas and options.



NOTABLE FEATURES

Suggested Times

Each session is designed to be completed in 60–75 minutes but can be shortened or lengthened as needed.

Missions

The missions content is designed to help kids understand God’s ongoing mission to rescue sinners around the world. This content can be customized or replaced with your church’s own missions efforts if desired.

Big Truth Sessions

Each unit ends with a Big Truth Session that goes into more depth of the unit’s Big Picture Question and Answer. These sessions use a Bible story that helps illustrate the Big Truth covered. Think of these sessions as a time to reinforce and clarify what the preschoolers have been learning in the unit.

Make it fit

Each session provides flexibility for customization based on the needs and structure of your preschool ministry. Groups can stay together as one large group the entire time, moving between stations, or can form smaller groups during parts of the session.

QUICK REFERENCE

Printables, Posters, and Music

Here is where you will be able to find all of the resources you will need:

	Additional Resources GospelProject.com	Ministry Starter Kit			Digital Subscription
		DVD	Files Disc	Music CD	
Activity Printables	✓		✓		✓
Posters			✓		✓
Music				✓	✓
Activity Pages	Purchase at www.gospelproject.com				✓
Big Picture Cards	Purchase at www.gospelproject.com				✓



VOLUME 11 - FROM ONE NATION TO ALL NATIONS

Amidst persecution, the early church held firm to the truth of the gospel and the sure hope we have in Christ. Living in light of our returning King changes our perspective and motivation as we seek to spread the hope that only Christ can bring.

UNIT 31: THE CHURCH IS OPPOSED: Jesus had promised that His followers would face opposition just as He had, and it did not take long for that to happen. The church was opposed by outsiders as it also experienced conflict from within. But just as God had used the opposition of Jesus for good, He would use opposition of the church for good too.

Why did Jesus become a person? Jesus became a person to rescue sinners.



**THE APOSTLES
WERE ARRESTED**
Acts 5



**THE CHURCH HANDLED
A PROBLEM**
Acts 6



**STEPHEN WAS
ARRESTED**
Acts 6-7



**THE CHURCH
SPREAD OUT**
Acts 8



BIG TRUTH SESSION

**JESUS SUFFERED
FOR US**
Philippians 2

UNIT 32: THE CHURCH GROWS: As opposition to the church grew, the church grew along with it. Just as Jesus had said it would, the church began in Jerusalem, had grown into Judea, and was about to expand into Samaria and toward the ends of the earth. First, God needed to help believers understand that as the church grew, they were one church united in Jesus.

What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.



**PETER PERFORMED
MIRACLES**
Acts 9



**PETER LEARNED THAT
JESUS IS FOR ALL**
Acts 10



**GENTILES BECAME
PART OF THE CHURCH**
Acts 11



**PETER WAS RESCUED
FROM PRISON**
Acts 12



**WE ARE PART OF
ONE CHURCH**
1 Corinthians 12

UNIT 33: THE CHURCH GOES: Paul had been one of the leaders persecuting the church, but when he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, all of that changed. Paul became a follower of Jesus and would spend the rest of his life on mission, telling others about the One he used to persecute. Jesus can truly save anyone.

Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is saved.



**PAUL BECAME A
CHRISTIAN**
Acts 9



**PAUL BECAME A
MISSIONARY**
Acts 13–14



**JESUS CAN FORGIVE
ANYONE**
2 Corinthians 5



UNIT 31 | SESSION 1

THE APOSTLES WERE ARRESTED

ACTS 5

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus calls His followers to tell others about Him, even when it is hard. God uses everything for His glory.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

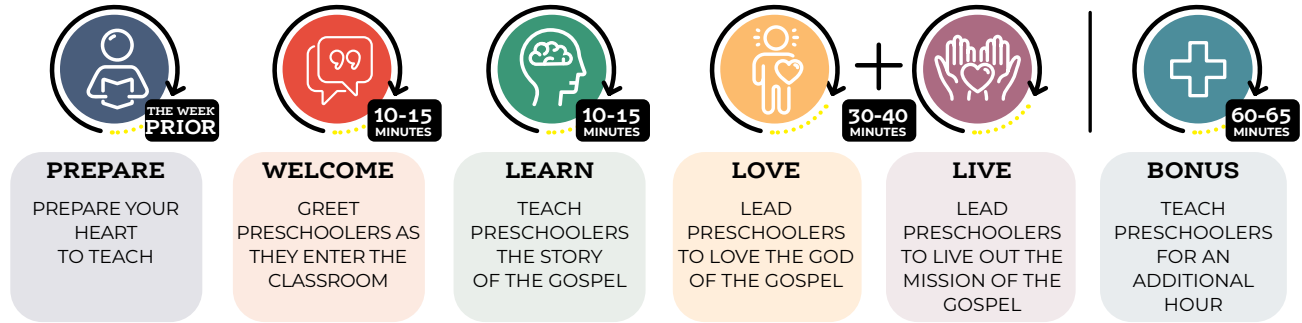
Why did Jesus become a person? Jesus became a person to rescue sinners.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



LEADER Bible Study

In Acts 5, we find the apostles performing many signs and wonders through the power and grace they received from the Holy Spirit. In particular, the healing power of the Holy Spirit displayed through Peter was so compelling that people laid the sick in the path of his shadow. United in purpose, the apostles also continued their mission to share the gospel with those around them, and as a result, they filled Jerusalem with their teaching! However, with the favor of their community came the opposition of the Jewish leaders who grew jealous of the apostles' ministry.

How did the early church navigate the ups and downs of their ministry experiences? What choices did they make when faced with rejection and suffering?

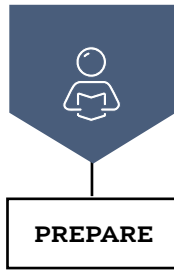
Instead of cowering to the demands of the religious leaders to stop sharing the gospel, the apostles rejoiced in being counted worthy of mistreatment in Jesus' name. They continued to be faithful to Jesus' command to share the gospel and, leaving directly from the presence of the Sanhedrin, they made a daily practice of preaching and teaching the good news of Jesus Christ in the temple and from house to house.

Even when the apostles experienced persecution and shameful mistreatment, the power of God at work was evidenced in their boldness to continue to preach the name of Jesus. Amidst many uncertainties and challenging circumstances, they remained steadfastly assured of the power of the gospel to save anyone who believes. On this truth they placed their hope as they rejoiced in their suffering.

As you prepare to teach this session to your kids, consider all that the apostles endured as they sought to share God's Word so that people might hear and believe in the name of Jesus. If you find yourself in a difficult circumstance, thank God for their example of endurance despite times of trouble. Help the preschoolers you teach know that sometimes hard or sad things happen, but Jesus is always with us. We, too, can count it all joy as we face trials and trust that Jesus is worthy of giving our lives to.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Gamaliel I: a highly regarded Pharisee who was a member of the Sanhedrin and teacher of Paul (Acts 22:3)



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME



LEARN



LOVE



LIVE



BONUS

Build a jail with blocks

- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- toy people figures

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- painter's tape

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Unlock locks with keys

- various locks with keys, 3 or 4
- large key chains

Free people from "jail"

- toy people figures, 6
- 6-cup muffin tin

Make a paper bag puppet

- paper lunch sacks, 1 per child
- colored yarn
- large googly eyes

Missions activity

- "European Flag Puzzles" printable
- world map or globe

Snack and transition

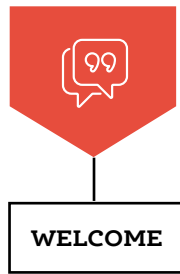
- snacks
- Activity Page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards For Families, 1 per child

Sit in a jail

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- large bedsheet

Tell good news

- paper towel tubes, 1 per child
- assorted stickers



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the *Love* and *Live* sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the *Love* and *Live* sections of the leader guide.

BUILD A JAIL WITH BLOCKS

Place blocks and people figures on a low table just inside the classroom door. Display both the big picture question poster and the Bible story picture poster by laying them on the table with the blocks and people figures. As children arrive, greet them and point to the Bible story poster. Invite preschoolers to share what they know about jail. Tell the children that in today's Bible story, two of Jesus' friends were arrested and put in jail. Explain that sometimes when people do something that is against the law, they have to spend time to jail. Guide children to work together using blocks to build jails. Children may choose to place people figures in the jail they created.

SAY “ It’s so good to see you at church today. Tell me something you did this week. Show me the jail you built. In our Bible story today, two of Jesus’ followers were put in jail for teaching people about Jesus. They were telling people that Jesus is the Savior and that Jesus came to change people’s hearts and to forgive their sins. [Point to the big picture question poster.] Our big picture question is, **Why did Jesus become a person?** Here’s the answer: **Jesus became a person to rescue sinners.** ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Before the session begins, use painter's tape to tape the outline of a very large box on the floor, big enough for all of the children to fit into. Flash the classroom lights. Challenge the children to see if everyone can fit in the box on the floor in the group time area. Help children as needed so that everyone has a place.

SAY “ Today we are going to pretend that we are all in jail. Make sure that everyone is in our square. In our Bible story, two of Jesus’ followers are put in jail, but something miraculous happened to them while they were there. Listen carefully to see what happened. ”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Acts 5:12-42 and tell the following Bible story.

THE APOSTLES WERE ARRESTED

SAY “ Jesus’ followers were healing people at the temple, and more and more people believed in Jesus. The religious leaders were upset. They put Jesus’ followers in jail. But that night, an angel opened the doors of the jail so Jesus’ followers could go free.

The angel told them, “Go to the temple and tell the people all about Jesus.” So the next morning, the followers went to the temple and taught people about Jesus.

That next day, the religious leaders sent men to the jail to get Jesus’ followers. The jail doors were locked, and guards stood outside. But Jesus’ followers were not there!

Someone came and said, “Jesus’ followers are in the temple!” So the religious leaders went to the temple and said, “We told you to stop teaching about Jesus! Now everyone in the city has heard!”

Peter said, “We must obey God. God raised Jesus to life. He is our Savior. He came to change people’s hearts and forgive their sins.”

The religious leaders were angry. They told Jesus’ followers not to tell anyone else about Jesus. Then they let Jesus’ followers go. The disciples thanked God, and they kept telling people about Jesus. They said that Jesus is God’s Son. ”

Christ Connection: Jesus calls His followers to tell others about Him, even when it is hard. God uses everything for His glory.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Hold up the Bible story picture. Invite children to stand on the tape lines. Instruct the children to “step into jail” if they know the answer to a question. Ask a story question and call on a child who steps into the square for the answer. Questions to use: Where were Jesus’ followers healing people? Who did Jesus’ followers upset? Where were Jesus’ followers put? How did they get free? Where did Jesus’ followers go after they were freed from jail? Did Jesus’ followers stop teaching about Jesus? Who did Jesus’ followers obey?

SAY “ Jesus’ followers were arrested and put in jail for teaching about Jesus. An angel set them free. They went back to the temple and kept telling others about Jesus. When they were told to stop teaching about Jesus, they did not stop but they kept saying that Jesus is God’s Son. Jesus calls His followers to tell others about Him, even when it is hard. God uses everything to His glory. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It.”

“Jesus came to rescue people from their sin. (Sing 2 times.)

Jesus came to rescue people when He died and rose again.

Jesus came to rescue people from their sin.”

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Isaiah 53:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Lead preschoolers to learn the key passage phrase by guiding children to make up motions for each word of the key passage phrase. Some motions might include Jesus—make the sign for Jesus by pointing to each of your palms with your index finger; took—reach forward with hands and bring them back to you; our—point with thumbs to yourself; punishment—pound one fist on top of the other.

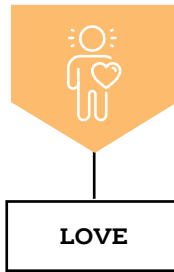
SAY “ Jesus’ followers were put into jail for talking about Jesus to everyone. His followers were telling everyone the message that is the same as our key passage phrase, ‘Jesus took our punishment.’ ”

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking Jesus for taking the punishment for our sins. Ask God to help all those who follow Him to keep telling others about Jesus, even when it is hard.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 PLAY “IN JAIL, OUT OF JAIL”



Use the taped outline “jail” created for the Bible story time. (If that activity was not used, tape a large square on the floor, large enough for every child to stand in.) Invite children to stand on the taped line. Instruct children to jump into the square if you say, “In jail,” or out of the square if you say, “Out of jail.” Start out by saying the phrases slowly and by varying what you say. Then progressively getting faster.

SAY “Do you remember who was put in jail in the Bible story? Jesus’ friends were put in jail for telling people about Jesus. An angel set them free. The angel told the men to go back to the temple and to continue telling people about Jesus. And that is just what they did. Jesus calls His followers to tell others about Him, even when it is hard. God uses everything for His glory.”

2 UNLOCK LOCKS WITH KEYS

Before the session, gather three or four locks with keys. Place key chains on each of the keys. Lay the keys and the locks on a table. Show the child how a lock works by inserting a key into a lock and opening it. Invite a child to open a lock. Close the lock and guide the child to unlock it. Mix up the keys and locks and prompt the child to experiment with the locks and keys to discover the matching locks and keys.

SAY “You need a key to open a lock, don’t you? When the religious leaders sent men to the jail to get Jesus’ followers, the jail doors were locked, but Jesus’ followers were not there. An angel had freed them. Once free, Jesus’ followers went back to the temple to tell everyone about Jesus. Even though it was hard, Jesus’ followers kept talking about Him. Jesus calls His followers to tell others about Him, and He uses everything for His glory.”

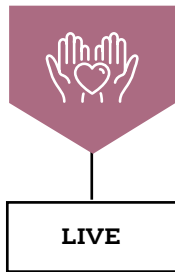
3 FREE PEOPLE FROM “JAIL”

Place people figures into separate cups of a muffin tin. Using painter’s tape, form an X across each muffin cup, trapping the figure inside it. Show a child the prepared muffin tin pan and invite her to free the people from “jail.” Guide her to use her hands to break the tape strips and to free the people from the muffin cups. When she has finished freeing the people figures, re-tape the figures and encourage another child to free the people from jail.

SAY “You freed everyone! Do you remember who freed the men from jail in the Bible story? An angel freed the men. They had been put in jail for healing people and for teaching others about Jesus, but an angel opened the doors of the jail and set them free. The men went back to telling others about Jesus, even when the religious leaders told them to stop. Jesus calls all His followers to tell others about Him, even when it is hard.”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 MAKE A PAPER BAG PUPPET

Place a flattened lunch sack, bottom side facing up, in front of a child. Guide the child to glue two craft eyes on the sack's bottom. Provide the child with markers, child-size scissors, construction paper, and cut yarn (for hair) for decorating his puppet. When the child has finished creating a puppet, show the child how to put his hand into the bag and how to move it so that his puppet can talk.

SAY “ Can you make your puppet talk and say the key passage phrase with me? Let’s say it together: ‘Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5.’ In today’s Bible story, Jesus’ followers told everyone this same message. They said that God raised Jesus to life, that Jesus is our Savior, and that Jesus came to change people’s hearts and forgive their sins. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Print and cut apart the “European Flag Puzzles” printable. Mix up the puzzle pieces. Lay the puzzle pieces on the floor. Challenge preschoolers to work together to match the two puzzle pieces to make a flag. When preschoolers form a flag, say the name of that country and point to it on a world map or globe.

SAY “ Europe is a continent with many people, and a lot of these people do not know about Jesus. Do you remember our big picture question and answer? **Why did Jesus become a person? Jesus became a person to rescue sinners.** We need to pray for the people living in the European countries and for missionaries telling them about Jesus. [Lead a prayer.] ”

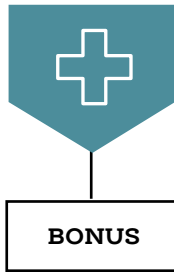
3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “ Jesus calls His followers to tell others about Him, even when it is hard. God uses everything for His glory. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 FOLLOW INSTRUCTION

Call children to join you in group time by walking on their tiptoes to the group time area. When children get to the area, instruct them to hop up and down three times. Then prompt them to clap their hands twice. Guide them to pat their knees four times. Finally, instruct them to slowly turn around as they sit down. As soon as the children are seated, compliment them for obeying your directions. Say that obeying God is most important. The men in today's Bible story obeyed God, even when others told them not to.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Acts 5:12-42. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

THE APOSTLES WERE ARRESTED

- Jesus' friends were healing people and telling people about Jesus. More and more people believed in Jesus.
- This made the religious leaders mad. They put Jesus' friends in jail to make them stop. But that night, an angel opened the doors of the jail so Jesus' friends could go free.
- The friends kept telling people about Jesus. "We told you to stop talking about Jesus!" the religious leaders said. "Now everyone in the city has heard!"
- Jesus' friend Peter said, "We must obey God. God raised Jesus to life, and He is our Savior. He came to forgive people's sins."

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It."

"Jesus came to rescue people from their sin. (Sing 2 times.)

Jesus came to rescue people when He died and rose again.

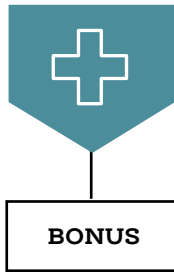
Jesus came to rescue people from their sin."

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Isaiah 53:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage and give you the marker. Show the key passage phrase and say the key passage aloud. Guide the children to whisper the key passage with you.

5 PRAY

Say a prayer, asking God to help us to be brave when we tell other people about Jesus.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 PLAY FREEZE DANCE



Play age-appropriate worship songs on a portable electronic device. Guide children to dance while the music is playing and then to stop dancing or to “freeze” when the music stops. While children are “frozen,” call on a child to tell something he remembers from today’s Bible story. After the child answers, resume the music, and then stop it again. Call on another child to tell a favorite part of the story. Continue playing and stopping music as time allows.

SAY “ Good job obeying the rules of this game. We heard in our Bible story how the religious leaders wanted Jesus’ followers to stop teaching about Jesus. But Jesus’ followers kept teaching because they knew that they must obey God. God wants His followers to tell others about Jesus. Even though it was hard for Jesus’ followers, and they were put in jail, they knew that God uses everything for His glory. ”

7 SIT IN A JAIL

Direct the children to help you clear off the top of a table and to pull the chairs out from around it. Show children the sheet and enlist their help in draping it over the table to make a “jail.” Lay the Bible story picture under the table in the jail. Encourage children to climb under the table and to sit in the jail while you sit just outside of it. As children play, ask them to find the story picture and to tell you what is happening in the picture.

SAY “ Jesus followers were put in jail because they told others about Jesus. An angel freed them! [Direct children to come out from under the table.] Do you know what they did? Jesus’ followers went right back to the temple to tell others about Jesus. Jesus calls His followers to tell others about Him, even when it is hard. What can you tell me about Jesus? ”

8 TELL GOOD NEWS THROUGH A PAPER TUBE

Distribute a paper tube to each child. Say the key passage phrase to each child as you write the phrase on each child’s tube. Invite the children to use crayons, markers, and stickers to decorate their tubes. When the children have finished, guide them to hold one end of their tubes up to their mouths, without putting their mouths on the tubes, and to speak the key passage into their tubes. Prompt them to say it normally, using a soft voice, loud voice, or a silly voice.

SAY “ Let’s say our key passage phrase through our tubes again: Jesus took our punishment. Jesus’ followers told everybody they met about Jesus. They wanted people to know that Jesus is their Savior and that God raised Jesus to life. They wanted them to know that Jesus is God’s Son and that He came to change people’s hearts and to forgive their sins. Jesus calls all His followers to tell others about Him, even when it is hard. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.



UNIT 31 | SESSION 2

THE CHURCH HANDLED A PROBLEM

ACTS 6

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Everyone in the church has an important job to do to serve God's people and help spread the gospel. Jesus wants us to serve others so that people all over the world can hear and believe the news of His death and resurrection.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

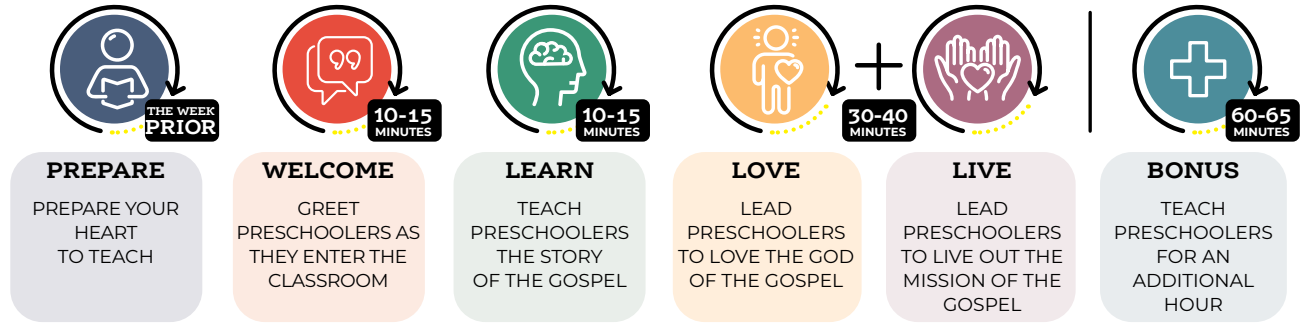
Why did Jesus become a person? Jesus became a person to rescue sinners.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



LEADER Bible Study

Acts 6 relays a time when a complaint within the church led to an opportunity for delegation and good deeds to mark the life of the local church. As the apostles continued spreading the word of Jesus and His resurrection, more people began to believe the good news and the church grew in number. Amid this growth, the task of caring for the Hellenistic widows was being neglected.

How did the apostles handle this complaint between the different groups of believers in their church? How did they choose to pursue unity despite the different needs and giftings of those in their community?

In this chapter, we witness how the apostles chose not to ignore the critiques of the Hellenistic Jews. Instead, the members of the Twelve sought to bring more individuals into service opportunities for God's glory—a proposal that pleased the whole church. From this newfound service initiative came the deacon ministry!

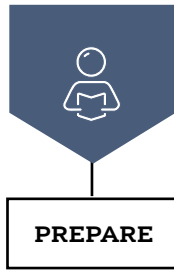
The apostles' approach to this complaint was rooted in their desire for unity within the body of Christ and the proclamation of the gospel. They instructed the church to select seven men of good character, sound wisdom, and obedience to the Holy Spirit to

care for the widows in need of help. With this delegation of duties, the disciples could continue their work of prayer and preaching the Word. As the deacons served and the apostles preached the Word, the gospel reached even further, and a large group of priests came to faith in Jesus.

Help kids see how they can serve within their church—even now as children! Explain how your work as a Bible study leader is fulfilling the Great Commission in this moment! We all have the important job of sharing God's Word with others. God is pleased by our obedience and service and may choose to use it to take the gospel even further.

TERMS TO KNOW

Deacon: a servant or minister (not a pastor); The noun form comes from a verb which means "to serve." Many interpreters believe the account in Acts 6 describes the selection of the first deacons.



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Form groups of 7

- Big Picture Question Poster



LEARN

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- plain boxes, 7

Review the Bible story

- plain boxes, 7

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker
- plain boxes, 7



LOVE

Draw a people mosaic

- large craft paper

Pack up food

- toy food items
- empty grocery items
- plain boxes, 7

Explore ways to serve in church

- large tote bag
- church bulletin
- offering plate
- small musical instrument
- extra leader guide
- baby care item



LIVE

Put "people" into church

- large craft sticks
- plastic bucket

Missions activity

- "Jones Family Photo" printable
- building materials (wooden blocks, cereal boxes, cardboard tubes)

Snack and transition

- snacks
- Activity Page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards For Families, 1 per child



BONUS

Find and count people

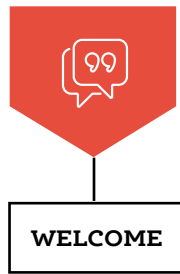
- people figures, 7

Care for others

- baby dolls
- baby doll care items
- toy dishes
- toy food

Clean the classroom

- spray bottle with water
- duster
- toy broom and dustpan
- toy vacuum cleaner
- paper towels



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the *Love* and *Live* sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the *Love* and *Live* sections of the leader guide.

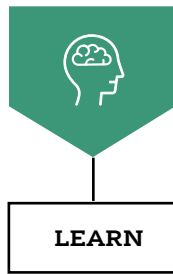
FORM GROUPS OF SEVEN

Before the session, write the numbers 1–7 on several pieces of construction paper. Place the blocks and the numbered papers on a table inside the classroom door. Display the big picture question poster. As the children arrive, direct them to the table with the blocks and numbered papers. Direct a child to one of the pieces of paper and invite him to count to seven with you as you point to each number. Prompt the child to then count out seven blocks by placing a block on each number on the paper. When the child has counted to seven, invite him to build anything using his seven blocks.

SAY “ Thank you for helping me count to seven. Let’s count together again: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7! We are going to have so much fun learning about Jesus. In our Bible story today, we are going to hear the number seven several times, so listen carefully to find out why. Before we hear the story, I’m going to say our big picture question and answer, and I want you to repeat after me. The question is, **Why did Jesus become a person?** [Pause to repeat.] The answer is, **Jesus became a person to rescue sinners.** [Pause.] ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Display the Bible story picture poster. Scatter seven numbered boxes around the edges of the room. Invite the children to walk around the room, pick up the boxes, and bring them to you in the group time area. Preschoolers may work in pairs if needed. As children bring their boxes, instruct them to put them down in front of you and then be seated. Turn the numbered sides of the boxes toward the children and enlist their help in putting the boxes in numerical order. Then prompt children to count aloud to seven with you as you point to each number on the boxes.

SAY “ Thank you for collecting the boxes and helping me to put them in order. And thank you for helping me count them! How many boxes do we have? [Give children time to answer.] In our story today, you are going to hear about seven people who were given a very special job to do. ”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Acts 6:1-7 and tell the following Bible story.

THE CHURCH HANDLED A PROBLEM

SAY “ After Jesus rose from the dead and went back to heaven, Jesus’ followers taught people about Him. Many people believed in Jesus. Some of the people in the church said that the widows—women whose husbands had died—were not getting what they needed when the church gave out the daily food.

Jesus’ friends—the Twelve—got together with everyone in the church. They told the people in the church to choose seven leaders who could be in charge of things like making sure the widows got enough food.

The seven leaders should be good men—men who are full of God’s Spirit. They should obey God and make good choices. These leaders would help take care of all the people in the church. Then Jesus’ friends could keep praying and preaching.

All the people agreed that this was a good idea. So they chose seven men: Stephen, Philip, Prochorus (PRAHK uh ruhs), Nicanor (nigh KAY nawr), Timon (TIGH mahn), Parmenas (PAHR mih nuhs), and Nicolaus (NIK uh LAY uhs). Jesus’ friends prayed for the new leaders and laid their hands on them.

So the twelve friends kept preaching about God. More and more people heard the truth about God, and more and more people believed in Him. ”

Christ Connection: Everyone in the church has an important job to do to serve God’s people and help spread the gospel. Jesus wants us to serve others so that people all over the world can hear and believe the news of His death and resurrection.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Point to the Bible story picture poster. Invite a child to take box 1 and to place it on the floor in front of you as she tells something she remembers from the story. Select another child to pick up box 2 and stack it on the first box as he tells something he remembers from the story. Continue through box 7 as kids build a tower. Help children remember story details as needed. (Note: If there are more than seven children in the class, tear down the tower to give remaining children a turn to build and tell.)

SAY “ Thank you for helping me stack boxes. We all worked together, didn’t we? In today’s Bible story, the people in the church had to work together to solve a problem. Some of the people in the church said that the widows were not getting what they needed when the church gave out food. So the church chose seven men to take care of the other people in the church. Jesus’ friends believed that everyone in the church has an important job to do to serve God’s people and to help spread the good news. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It.”

“Jesus came to rescue people from their sin. (Sing 2 times.)

Jesus came to rescue people when He died and rose again.

Jesus came to rescue people from their sin.”

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Isaiah 53:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Remove the marker and show it to the children as you read the phrase aloud. Turn the boxes around and show the children that the words of the key passage phrase are written on the backs of the boxes. Enlist the children’s help to put the boxes in word order. Then, point to each word on the boxes as you say the key passage phrase with the children. Repeat the key passage phrase several times.

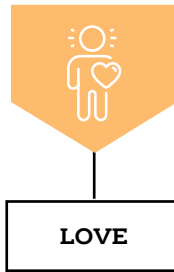
SAY “ Jesus’ followers told many people the same message that our verse says, Jesus took our punishment. Many people believed in Jesus and the church grew and grew. But because of this big growth, more people were needed to help take care of some people in the church, like widows. So, seven men were chosen to take care of all of the people in the church. These were good men who loved and obeyed God, and who could care for others so that Jesus’ followers could spend their time praying and preaching. Everyone in the church had a job to do. ”

6 PRAY

Pray for the people in your church who serve God by doing a special job, such as: rocking babies, preaching, teaching Sunday school, leading music, greeting guests, or cleaning up the church building.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 DRAW A PEOPLE MOSAIC



On a large sheet of craft paper, draw a simple church building: square bottom, triangle roof, cross at the top of the roof. Guide children to draw stick figures or face pictures inside the church. Challenge the children to try to fill the entire church with people.

SAY “Our church building is full of people! After Jesus went back to heaven, His followers taught people about Him. People believed in Jesus and the church grew. But a problem arose. Some people said that the widows were not getting what they needed when the church gave out food. So, Jesus’ friends got together and told the people to choose seven men whose job was to care for others. Everyone in the church has an important job to do to serve God’s people and help spread the gospel.”

2 PACK UP FOOD

Arrange the grocery items and play food on a table. Place the boxes on the floor next to it. Invite a child to pack a box with food for the “widows.” As the child works to pack items, talk with him about how the church appointed seven good men to take care of people in the church. When the child has packed a box, ask him to carry it around the room, and then to return to the table and to “unpack” it by placing items on the table for another child to pack.

SAY “What kinds of food did you pack in your box? Some of the people in the church in today’s story said that the widows—women whose husbands had died—were not getting what they needed when the church gave out the daily food. So, the church appointed seven men to take care of everyone in the church. This way, Jesus’ followers could continue preaching and praying. Jesus wants us to serve others so that people all over the world can hear and believe the news of His death and resurrection.”

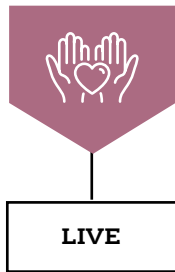
3 EXPLORE WAYS TO SERVE IN CHURCH

Place items related to serving in church into a tote bag. Invite a child to reach into the bag and to pull out an item. Say the name of the item, such as “leader guide.” Then, prompt the child to tell how a person in the church might use this item to do a job. For example, guide them to say something like, “A teacher would use a leader guide to teach kids about Jesus.” Encourage each child to draw an item out of the bag and to tell ways that someone could serve others in the church with it.

SAY “Many people have jobs in our church. Our pastor preaches from the Bible, Sunday school teachers teach lessons with the leader guide, ushers give out bulletins, and our worship leader helps us sing music. Jesus’ friends believed that everyone in the church had an important job to do to serve God’s people and help spread the gospel.”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 PUT “PEOPLE” INTO THE CHURCH

Direct the child to draw a face on one end of the craft stick with markers creating a person-looking figure. Place a chair in the middle of the room and put the bucket behind it. Invite a child to kneel on the chair facing its back with his craft stick person in his hand. Say the key passage phrase to the child and guide him to repeat it as he drops the craft stick over the back of the chair into the “church.” Give the child several chances to get his stick into the bucket.

SAY “ Our key passage says, ‘Jesus took our punishment, Isaiah 53:5.’ Jesus’ followers told everyone they met all about Jesus. Jesus wants us to serve others so that people all over the world can hear and believe the news of His death and resurrection. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Print a copy of the “Jones Family Photo” printable and display it for preschoolers to see. Invite the children to work together, using the building materials to form a castle while you tell them about Casey and Amy Jones, who are missionaries in Leipzig, Germany. Tell preschoolers that there are more than 20,000 castles in Germany.

SAY “ Casey and Amy work with local churches in Germany to start new Bible studies and new churches. Let’s pray for Casey, Amy, and other missionaries in Germany to become friends with the people and tell them about Jesus. [Lead in prayer.] ”

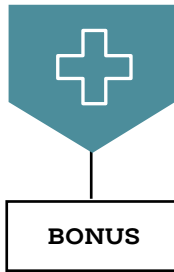
3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “ Everyone in the church has an important job to do to serve God’s people and help spread the gospel. Jesus wants us to serve others so that people all over the world can hear and believe the news of His death and resurrection. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 FIND AND COUNT PEOPLE

Walk through the room and invite children to find a friend and to walk with that friend to the group time area. Guide children to be seated when they arrive. Set up seven people figures in a line in front of you. Prompt children to count the figures with you as you point to each one. Set the figures aside.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Acts 6:1-7. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

THE CHURCH HANDLED A PROBLEM

- After Jesus went back to heaven, Jesus' friends taught people about Him.
- One day, there was a problem. Some of the people in the church said that the widows—women whose husbands had died—were not getting enough food.
- Jesus' friends got together to choose seven leaders who could be in charge of helping people. The seven leaders were good men—full of God's Spirit. They obeyed God and made good choices.
- These leaders helped take care of all the people in the church. Then Jesus' friends could keep praying and teaching.
- More and more people heard the truth about God, and more and more people believed in Him.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It."

"Jesus came to rescue people from their sin. (Sing 2 times.)

Jesus came to rescue people when He died and rose again.

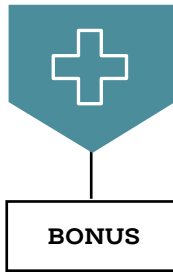
Jesus came to rescue people from their sin."

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Isaiah 53:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage and to remove the marker. Read the phrase aloud. Direct the children to turn to a friend and to say the key passage phrase aloud. Then guide them to turn to another friend and to again say the phrase.

5 PRAY

Say a prayer, asking God to help each child in the room find a way to serve Him in the church.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 WRITE THANK-YOU NOTES



Distribute construction paper and markers. Show the children how to fold the paper in half to create a card. Talk about some of the people at your church who help others, such as the pastor, music minister, children's director, pianist, nursery worker, custodian, and so forth. Write *Thank You for Serving* on each child's card. Guide the children to decorate their cards. Collect the cards to distribute to their intended recipients later in the week.

SAY “ Who did you make a card for? [Give each child a turn to respond.] It's good to say thank you to those who work in our church. In our Bible story, the church chose seven men to help care for others. This way, Jesus' closest friends could continue praying and preaching. Each person had his own job! Everyone in the church has an important job to do to serve God's people and help spread the gospel. Jesus wants us to serve others so that people all over the world can hear and believe the news of His death and resurrection. ”

7 CARE FOR OTHERS

Provide children with baby dolls, doll care items, toy food, and dishes. Prompt children to care for the babies by holding and rocking them, giving them a bottle, or wrapping them in a blanket. Guide them to also care for others with toy food and dishes. Suggest they “cook” a meal, set the table, and serve dinner. As children play, thank them for taking care of others.

SAY “ In our Bible story, seven good men were given the job of taking care of other people in the church. You have been pretending to take care of people as you play today. How are you taking care of others? [Give children time to answer.] Jesus wants us all to serve others so that people all over the world can hear and believe the news of His death and resurrection. ”

8 CLEAN THE CLASSROOM

Say to the children that you need their help cleaning up the room. Assign each child a “job.” Give clear directions such as, “Push in the chairs. Put blocks in the bin, stack puzzles in the cabinet, and lay baby dolls in the cradle.” After all the toys and resources are put away, spray some water on tabletops and chairs, distribute paper towels, and guide children to wipe down tables and chairs. Assign other children to use the feather duster, toy vacuum, and the broom and dustpan.

SAY “ Our room looks so neat and clean. Thank you all for helping. When everyone has a job to do and works together, all the work gets done. In our Bible story, seven men were given the job of caring for others so that Jesus' followers could keep preaching about God. Everyone in the church has an important job to do to serve God's people and help spread the gospel. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church's security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.



UNIT 31 | SESSION 3

STEPHEN WAS ARRESTED

ACTS 6-7

CHRIST CONNECTION:

People hurt Stephen because he followed Jesus. 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.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

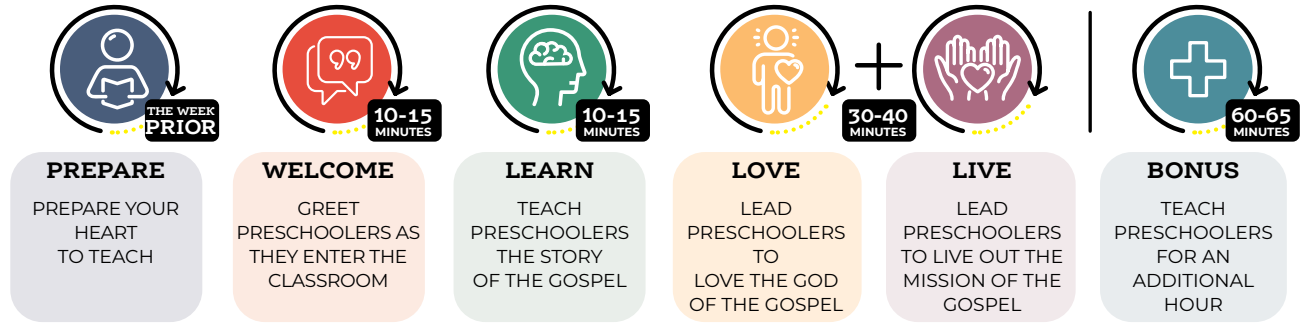
Why did Jesus become a person? Jesus became a person to rescue sinners.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



LEADER Bible Study

Acts 6–7 details the story of Stephen, the first follower of Jesus martyred for his unwavering boldness in proclaiming Jesus as Lord. Despite the rejection Stephen faced, he remained firm in his gospel witness to those in the Sanhedrin. Recounting the stories of the Old Testament, Stephen declared God’s faithfulness to bring the Messiah into the world, even through the rebellious nation of Israel.

How was Stephen able to boldly declare the gospel and endure persecution? What parallels can we make between Jesus and Stephen that encourage us in our faith?

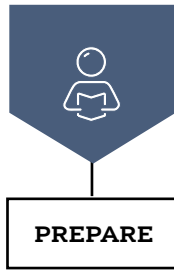
When asked for confirmation of the accusations against himself, Stephen’s response was to walk the high priest through the Old Testament’s accounts of God’s promises. Stephen made known the rebellion of the Jewish people—how they rejected God’s word and resisted the Holy Spirit. He spoke of what God declared back then and how God’s promises came to completion in the death and resurrection of His only Son, Jesus. Stephen believed the promises of God and had faith in the Righteous One who died for the sins of the world. Stephen was able to face such terrifying persecution and death because he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

As Stephen stood among the Jewish leaders, Scripture tells us that “his face was like the face of an angel.” While the leaders’ countenance only displayed anger and outrage, Stephen mirrored the ways of Jesus on his face, in his boldness, and through the forgiveness he prayed over the Sanhedrin members’ sins. As Jesus’ followers, we also will face opposition from others. Yet, while we await the return of Christ, we can reflect His love and truth to those around us.

Consider what it looks like for followers of Jesus to be so filled with the Holy Spirit that they remain on mission for the gospel, no matter the cost. How could God use our faithful witness of the gospel to save even those most hostile to the good news? Explain to your preschoolers that Jesus comforts us and gives us hope. Life on earth is hard for only a little while but life with God lasts forever and ever.

TERMS TO KNOW

Martyr: the transliteration of a Greek word meaning “witness,” in particular one who gives his life for a cause. It is used to describe those who died because of their faith in Christ rather than recant.



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Build a city with blocks and stones

- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- large polished stones



LEARN

Introduce the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Cut hearts out of paper

- Put together Jesus puzzles
- 3 or 4 wooden puzzles about the life of Jesus

Spell J-E-S-U-S with stones

- 5 smooth stones
- permanent marker



LIVE

Make a verse chain

- "Key Passage Chain" printable, 1 copy per child
- variety of colored copy paper

Missions activity

- washable paints
- painting smocks
- toy cars
- tape
- plastic tablecloth

Snack and transition

- snacks
- Activity Page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards For Families, 1 per child



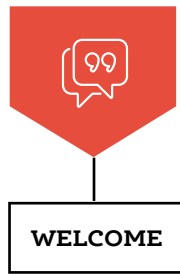
BONUS

Make a J for Jesus

- chenille stems
- large foam beads
- bin

Wash stones

- several polished stones (too large to be swallowed)
- small bin of water
- large beach towel
- Key Passage Phrase Marker



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the *Love and Live* sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the *Love and Live* sections of the leader guide.

BUILD A CITY WITH BLOCKS AND STONES

Display the Bible story poster and the big picture question poster by laying them both in the middle of a table. Position the table just inside the door of the classroom. Lay the assorted blocks and the stones next to the posters on the same table. When the children arrive, greet them, and show them the items on the table. Invite the children to use the provided blocks and rocks to work together to build a city on the tabletop. As more and more children arrive, invite them to join the other children in building a city. Point to and read the big picture question poster several times as the children build.

SAY “ Welcome friends. It is good to see you. We are working together today to build a city with blocks and rocks. Tell me about this city and show me which parts each of you built. [Give children time to answer.] Today’s story is about a man named Stephen. Stephen loved Jesus and taught others about Jesus. Stephen said that Jesus is the Messiah, the One whom God promised to send. Our big picture question asks, **Why did Jesus become a person?** The answer is, **Jesus became a person to rescue sinners.** But Stephen’s message, that Jesus is the promised Messiah and that He came to save people from their sins, made some religious leaders very angry. These leaders made Stephen leave their city, and then they threw rocks at him. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Walk around the room and invite children to get into line behind you and to follow you. When all of the children have joined the line and are following, say to them that you are going to change things up a bit. Invite children to tiptoe with you. Then guide them to stomp. Prompt them to walk really slow, and then encourage them to skip. End the game by showing the children how to stand up really straight and tall as they walk with you to the group time area. Ask children to be seated.

SAY “ Thank you for following me. What are some of the ways that you followed me? [Give children time to answer.] What is the last way that you followed me? We walked to group time standing up straight and tall, didn’t we? In our Bible story today, Jesus is going to stand up for a man named Stephen. To stand up for someone means to agree with and to be happy with what they are doing. Listen carefully and when I say the word, ‘Standing,’ I want you to stand up tall just like you did earlier. ”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Acts 6:8–7:60 and tell the following Bible story.

STEPHEN WAS ARRESTED

SAY “ Stephen was a man who loved Jesus. 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. Stephen answered by teaching the Jewish leaders about Jesus. He started in the Old Testament.

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 did not like what Stephen was saying. Stephen looked up and said, “I see Jesus standing at God’s right side.” Suddenly, the people yelled, covered their ears, and rushed toward Stephen. They made Stephen leave the city, and then they threw rocks at him. Stephen said, “Jesus, forgive them!” Then he died. ”

Christ Connection: People hurt Stephen because he followed Jesus. 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.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Say to the children that you are going to ask them several questions about the Bible story. If they know the answer, they should quickly stand up and you will call on the first person standing. Questions to ask: Who did some Jews tell lies about? How did Stephen answer the Jewish leaders? Who did Stephen tell the religious leaders that Jesus is? Who did Stephen look up and see standing at God's right side?

SAY “ Stephen loved Jesus. Unfortunately, some religious leaders were not happy that Stephen taught that Jesus was the Messiah, and that people were wrong to reject Him. People hurt Stephen because he followed Jesus. They chased him out of the city and threw rocks at 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. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “If You're Happy and You Know It.”

“Jesus came to rescue people from their sin. (Sing 2 times.)
Jesus came to rescue people when He died and rose again.
Jesus came to rescue people from their sin. ”

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

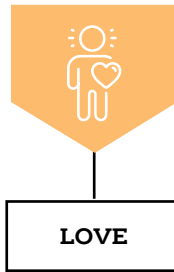
Place the key passage phrase marker at Isaiah 53:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage, remove the marker, and give it to you. Read the key passage phrase aloud and prompt children to stand up as they say the key passage phrase with you.

SAY “ In our Bible story, Stephen looked up and saw Jesus standing at God's right side. Let's stand with a partner and say our key passage phrase together: 'Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5.' ”

6 PRAY

Ask God to help us stand for His truth, even when it is hard.





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 CUT HEARTS OUT OF PAPER



Fold a sheet of construction paper in half for each child. From the center fold, use a marker to draw half of a heart. Invite preschoolers to be seated at a table. Distribute the prepared pieces of paper and pair of safety scissors to each child. Demonstrate for children how to hold and to use scissors. Show children the line that you have drawn on each page and prompt them to cut along the line. When a child has finished cutting, show children how to unfold the page revealing a heart.

SAY 🗨️ Hearts remind us of love. Do you remember the name of the man in our Bible story who loved Jesus? [Give children time to answer.] Stephen told the religious leaders that Jesus is the Messiah, and the religious leaders were wrong to reject Him and kill Him on the cross. This made the religious leaders angry. People hurt Stephen because he followed Jesus. When people are mean to us because we love Jesus, we can be brave—like Stephen—because people hurt Jesus too. 🗨️

2 PUT TOGETHER JESUS PUZZLES

Place puzzles on a table or arrange them on the floor in a corner of the room. Invite a child to select a puzzle to put together with you. As you put together the puzzle with the child, talk about the picture on the front of it and ask the child to tell you if they know the Bible story about Jesus that is shown. Briefly tell them the story if needed.

SAY 🗨️ The pictures on these puzzles show stories about Jesus. Stephen taught the religious leaders about Jesus by starting in the Old Testament. He also taught them new things, like Jesus is the Messiah, and that the religious leaders were wrong to reject Him and to kill Him on the cross. This angered the leaders. People hurt Stephen because he followed Jesus. When people are mean to us because we love Jesus, we can be brave because people hurt Jesus too. 🗨️

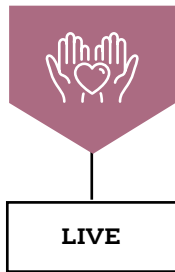
3 SPELL J-E-S-U-S WITH STONES

Using a permanent marker, write the letters J-E-S-U-S on the stones, one letter on each stone. On a separate piece of paper write JESUS in large bold letters. Mix up the stones and lay them next to the piece of paper. Show a child the printed letters on the paper and tell her that the letters spell the word “Jesus.” Invite her to arrange the stones to spell Jesus using the letters on the paper as a guide. When she has finished, mix up the stones for another child.

SAY 🗨️ The letters J-E-S-U-S spell Jesus. Stephen was a man who loved Jesus. We can love Jesus too. People hurt Stephen because he followed Jesus. When people are mean to us because we love Jesus, we can be brave because people hurt Jesus too. We can tell others that Jesus died and came back to life, and one day we will live with Him forever. 🗨️

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 MAKE A KEY PASSAGE CHAIN

Before the session, make copies of the “Key Passage Chain” printable for each child. Cut each strip along dashed lines. Give each child a cut copy of the printable and help him put the words in order by using the numbers and the picture icons on each strip. Once the phrase is in order, read it aloud pointing to each word as you say it. Then, distribute a roll of clear tape and help the child tape the strips into interlocking links creating a chain.

SAY “ We learned that Stephen was arrested because people told lies about him. When the priest asked Stephen if the people were telling the truth, Stephen told the religious leaders that Jesus was the promised Messiah. God sent Jesus to take our punishment, just as our key passage says. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Tape down a plastic tablecloth to protect the table. Tape a sheet of construction paper for each child and write the child’s name at the bottom of the page. Assist preschoolers with placing a smock over their clothes. Add dabs of washable paint in random spots on their papers. Lead children to drive toy cars over the paint to create a car painting on their paper. As the paintings dry, tell preschoolers that Germany is a country known for making many cars. Pray that Casey and Amy Jones and other missionaries will find ways to help more people in Germany know about Jesus.

SAY “ In Germany, there is a long highway system where drivers on some parts can drive as fast as they want to. Anytime you ride in a car, you can say a prayer to God and ask Him to help the Jones family tell people in Germany about Jesus. Let’s say our big picture question and answer: **Why did Jesus become a person? Jesus became a person to rescue sinners.** ”

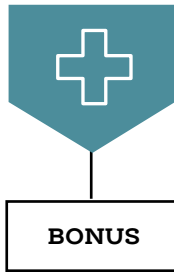
3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “ People hurt Stephen because he followed Jesus. 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. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 CHOOSE WHAT IS TRUE

Invite children to group time. Say that you are going to make several statements and they need to tell you if the statement is true or if it is a lie. Direct children to stand up if you speak the truth and to stay seated if you tell a lie. Make only true statements about Jesus, such as Jesus was born as a baby; Jesus is the Messiah that God promised; Jesus healed many people; Jesus died on a cross; Jesus rose from the dead.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Acts 6:8–7:60. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

STEPHEN WAS ARRESTED

- Stephen loved Jesus. One day, people told lies about Stephen. They did not like Stephen, and they wanted him to get in trouble.
- The religious leaders asked Stephen if the peoples' words were true. Stephen told the leaders about Jesus. He said that Jesus is the Messiah, and the religious leaders were wrong to kill Jesus on the cross.
- The religious leaders did not like what Stephen was saying. Stephen looked up and said, "I see Jesus standing next to God."
- Suddenly, the people yelled, covered their ears, and ran toward Stephen. They made Stephen leave the city, and then they threw rocks at him.
- Stephen said, "Jesus, forgive them!" Then he died.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It."

"Jesus came to rescue people from their sin. (Sing 2 times.)

Jesus came to rescue people when He died and rose again.

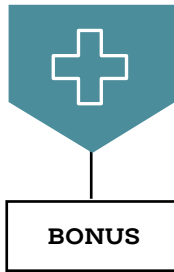
Jesus came to rescue people from their sin."

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Isaiah 53:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Place a child's chair in the group time area. Take a child's hand and invite him to step onto the chair, to say the phrase aloud, and then to get down. Repeat the process with each child.

5 PRAY

Ask God to help us all to be brave, like Stephen, when talking to others about Jesus.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 TOSS A BEANBAG



Lay the Bible story picture poster near a wall on the floor. Place a tape line 3–4 feet away from the picture. Invite a child to stand behind the tape line. Instruct the child to toss the beanbag onto the picture while saying one thing he remembers from the Bible story. Give each child the opportunity to toss the beanbag while saying something about the Bible story. Help as needed with remembering story details.

SAY “ Our picture shows Stephen talking to some of the religious leaders. He was telling them all about Jesus. He told them that Jesus is the Messiah and that the religious leaders were wrong to reject Jesus and kill Him on a cross. This made the religious leaders very angry at Stephen. People hurt Stephen because he followed Jesus. When people are mean to us because we love Jesus, we can be brave because people hurt Jesus too. ”

7 MAKE A J FOR JESUS

Direct a child to select a chenille stem. Twist a small knot in one end of the stem. Show the child how to thread several foam beads onto the other end of his chenille stem. Once the child has finished threading the beads, put a twist in the other end of the stem so that the beads don't slide off. Demonstrate how to bend one end of the chenille stem into a J shape.

SAY “ J is for Jesus! Stephen looked up and said, ‘I see Jesus standing at God's right side.’ This angered the people. They yelled at him, rushed toward him, and made him leave the city. They then threw stones at him. But Stephen also said, ‘Jesus forgive them.’ People hurt Stephen because he followed Jesus. When people are mean to us because we love Jesus, we can be brave because people hurt Jesus too. ”

8 WASH STONES

Unfold a towel and spread it out on a table. Place a bin with water on one end of the towel. Lay stones next to the bin. Open a Bible to Isaiah 53 and lay the key passage phrase marker on the page. Display the Bible on a chair next to the table. Invite a child to hold the Bible marker. Say the key passage phrase with her. Then prompt her to place a stone in the bin of water and to scrub the stone with her fingers. When she is done washing the stone, guide her to place it on the towel.

SAY “ Can you say the key passage again with me? In our Bible story today, Stephen told the religious leaders that Jesus was the Messiah and that the religious leaders were wrong to kill Him on the cross. We know that Jesus died to take the punishment for our sin, just like our key passage phrase says. Because the religious leaders were angry, they made Stephen leave the city and they threw stones at him. But Stephen asked Jesus to forgive them. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church's security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.



UNIT 31 | SESSION 4

THE CHURCH SPREAD OUT

ACTS 8

CHRIST CONNECTION:

The Holy Spirit led Philip to help the man understand the good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and He is alive.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

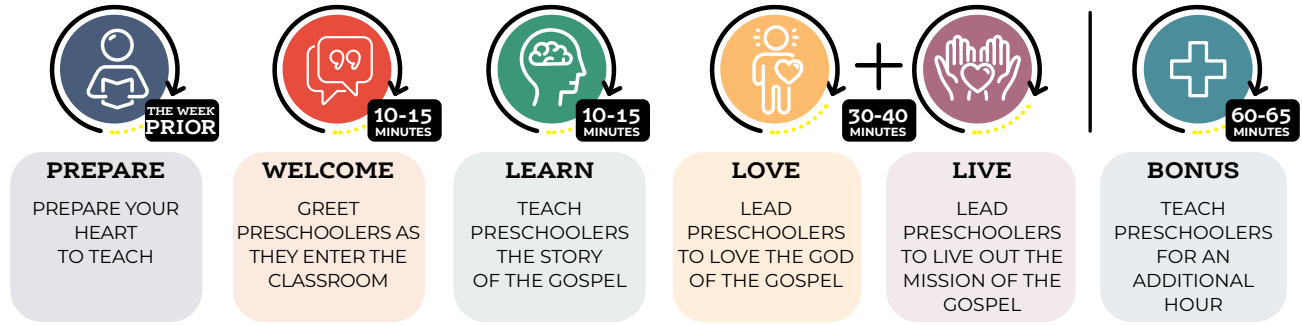
Why did Jesus become a person? Jesus became a person to rescue sinners.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



LEADER Bible Study

The story of the Ethiopian official's baptism began with an angel giving a command to Philip, an apostle of Jesus Christ. Philip's on-the-spot obedience led him to clarify the Scriptures and point the Ethiopian official to Christ. As a result of Philip's desire to live on mission, the Lord provided an opportunity for the gospel to spread further throughout the world.

In what ways did the context of Acts 8 seem inopportune for spreading God's Word? How did Philip's willingness to be led by the Holy Spirit play a part in this story of practical evangelism?

In the beginning of today's reading, we see the rippling effects of Stephen's stoning (Acts 7). Severe persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all but the apostles scattered while Saul ravaged the church. However, as these believers dispersed, they continued living on mission, preaching the Word of God boldly rather than cowering to their circumstances.

Making his way down the road God chose for him, Philip came across this traveling eunuch who needed someone to explain the meaning of Isaiah 53. Just as we read in Romans 10 that we cannot believe God's truth without hearing or having it preached, the Ethiopian official declared that he needed a

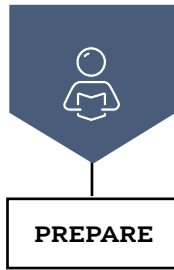
guide. While Philip did not know everything about the mysteries of God, he trusted that the Holy Spirit guided him down that desert road with divine purpose.

As you teach on the Lord's faithfulness amidst His people's trials, emphasize the simplicity of this story: a follower of Jesus stepped confidently into a situation where the Lord had gone before him. How can you show your kids that He will do just the same for them today as they share the gospel with others—just as you are relaying His truths to them in this story?

Teach preschoolers that all who hear the good news of Jesus Christ and believe in Him are welcomed into God's kingdom. Like Philip, may we trust and obey the leading of the Holy Spirit for the sake of making the gospel known to others.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Ethiopian eunuch: an unnamed person who was returning to his homeland after having been to Jerusalem to worship. His conversion illustrates the Christian faith transcending national boundaries.



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Build with blocks on a desert road

- large, shallow plastic bin, such as an under the bed box
- clean sand
- Big Picture Question Poster



LEARN

Introduce the Bible story

- 5- to 6-foot length of brown bulletin board paper
- small bins
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Review the Bible story

- bulletin board paper from Introduce the Bible Story
- crayons or markers in small bins

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Paint with horse feet

- washable tempera paint
- foam plate
- paint smocks
- vinyl plastic horse figures

Make and drive a chariot

- large rectangular box—big enough for a child to sit in
- large paper plates, 2
- nature-themed stickers



LIVE

Brush sand to reveal a verse

- Key Passage Phrase Marker
- clean play sand
- large paint brush
- shoebox

Missions activity

- “Jones Family Photo” printable
- traditional mini pretzels
- pretzel sticks
- napkins

Snack and transition

- snacks
- Activity Page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards For Families, 1 per child



BONUS

Unroll a scroll

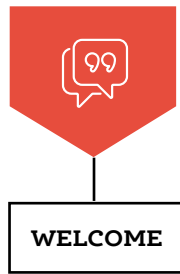
- yarn

Drive vehicles around the world

- small, wheeled vehicles: cars, trucks, motorcycles
- globe

Draw a J in sand

- Key Passage Phrase Marker
- shallow bin
- clean play sand
- unsharpened pencil



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the *Love and Live* sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the *Love and Live* sections of the leader guide.

BUILD WITH BLOCKS ON A DESERT ROAD

Position a table just inside the classroom door. Display the big picture question and poster on a wall near the table. Place a shallow layer of sand into a large bin. Place the prepared bin and a variety of building blocks on the table. As children enter the classroom, bend down and greet them face to face. Say to the children that today's Bible story is going to take place at a desert road. Show children the table with the blocks and the bin of sand. Tell the children that there is a lot of sand in the desert. Invite them to build with the blocks in the "desert". As children are building with the blocks in the sand, point to and read the big picture question poster to them several times.

SAY “ Welcome to church. What are you building along the desert road today? [Give children time to answer the question.] In today's Bible story, a man named Philip was told to go to a desert road. Philip met someone there who wanted to know all about Jesus. Listen to our big picture question. It asks, **Why did Jesus become a person?** The answer is, **Jesus became a person to rescue sinners.** Philip told the person he met this very, very good news about Jesus. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Display the Bible story picture poster. Unroll a long sheet of brown bulletin board paper in the group time area. Place small bins of markers or crayons along the center of the paper. Invite children to come sit along the “desert road” in the group time area. Once the children arrive, invite them to trace their handprints onto the paper in the pretend sand. Help as needed. (Tip: Before sharing the story, move the markers and crayons out of children’s reach.)

SAY “Welcome to our desert road. Did you have fun tracing your hand in the pretend sand on the road? Our Bible story comes from Acts 8, which is in the New Testament. It tells us the true story of what happened to a man from Ethiopia on a desert road. The man heard some really good news, so listen carefully.”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Acts 8:1-40 and tell the following Bible story.

THE CHURCH SPREAD OUT

SAY “One day, an angel told Philip to go to a desert road. On the road, Philip saw a man from Ethiopia. The man was an important official who worked for the queen of Ethiopia. He was reading the words of the prophet Isaiah.

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.

The man was reading these words from Isaiah: “He was led like a sheep to be killed. What happened to Him was not fair. His life was taken away.”

Isaiah was talking about the Messiah—Jesus! Philip began to tell the man the good news about Jesus.

The man believed in Jesus and went home happy.”

Christ Connection: The Holy Spirit led Philip to help the man understand the good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and He is alive.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Place the bins of crayons back on the bulletin board paper. Invite children to draw Philip and the Ethiopian from the Bible story. Help the children to come up with ideas of what to draw by asking them these questions: Who told Philip to go to a desert road? Do you remember what country the man was from? What was the man doing? What was the man reading from? Did the man from Ethiopia understand what he was reading? Who was the man reading about from the book of Isaiah? At the end of the story, who did the man believe in?

SAY “ Philip met a man on a desert road. The man was from Ethiopia. He was reading from the book of Isaiah from the Bible. Philip helped the man understand what he was reading. Philip told the man that Isaiah was talking about the Messiah—Jesus! The man believed in Jesus and went home happy. The Holy Spirit led Philip to help the man understand this very good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and He is alive. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It.”

“Jesus came to rescue people from their sin. (Sing 2 times.)
Jesus came to rescue people when He died and rose again.
Jesus came to rescue people from their sin. ”

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Isaiah 53:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage and to remove the marker. Read the key passage aloud as you write it on the bulletin board paper road with a crayon or marker. Invite children to cup their hands and to pat their cupped hands on the paper with you, like horse hooves, as they say the key passage phrase on the beat.

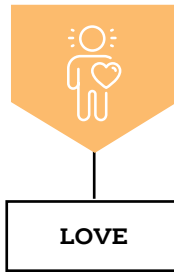
SAY “ Philip met a man from Ethiopia who was reading about the Messiah, from the book of Isaiah. Our key passage phrase also comes from the book of Isaiah. It says, ‘Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5.’ Philip explained to the man that the promised Messiah he was reading about is Jesus. Philip then told the man the good news about Jesus and the man went home happy. ”

6 PRAY

Pray and thank God for sending people to help us understand what the Bible says about Jesus.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 ROLL A SCROLL



Distribute markers, crayons, and construction paper to the children. Invite children to draw a picture of Jesus, or any other Bible story picture on their piece of paper. When the child has finished drawing, show him how to roll his piece of paper up like a scroll. Secure the rolled scroll with a piece of tape. Write the child's name on the outside of the scroll before setting it aside.

SAY *Philip met a man from Ethiopia who was reading the words of the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked the man if he understood what he was reading. The man said that he needed someone to teach him. The man then invited Philip into his chariot to explain what the words meant. Philip told the man that Isaiah was talking about the Messiah—Jesus! The Holy Spirit led Philip to help the man understand the good news: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and He is alive.*

2 PAINT WITH HORSE FEET

Pour a thin layer of paint onto a foam plate. Help a child to put on a paint smock. Lay a piece of construction paper in front of her on a preschool-height table. Demonstrate how to dip the horse figure's feet into the paint and then to press the feet onto the paper creating footprints. Encourage the child to make several sets of prints on her paper. When the child is finished with her painting, write, "Philip taught about Jesus" on the paper and set it aside to dry.

SAY *Chariots are pulled by horses. The Holy Spirit led Philip to a desert road and to a man from Ethiopia. The man invited Philip into his chariot to help him understand the words that he was reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip told the man that Isaiah was talking about the Messiah—Jesus. Philip helped the man understand the good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and He is alive.*

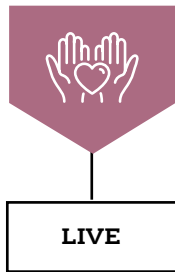
3 MAKE AND DRIVE A CHARIOT

Before the session, cut away one of the short sides of the rectangular box. Show children the box and tell them that you would like their help in building a chariot. Direct the children to tape a paper plate "wheel" to each side of the box. Provide markers, and stickers and guide children to decorate the box. When the children are finished, prompt them to put two chairs for "horses" in front of the box. Encourage children to take turns pretending to drive the chariot or sitting in the chairs as the "horses" for the chariot.

SAY *A man from Ethiopia invited Philip into his chariot so that Philip could teach him. The man was reading words from the book of Isaiah about the Messiah. Philip told the man the good news about Jesus. The man went home happy because he believed in Jesus. The Holy Spirit led Philip to help the man understand the good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and He is alive.*

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 BRUSH SAND TO REVEAL A VERSE

Securely tape the key passage phrase marker inside the bottom of the box by taping it down on all four sides. Cover the phrase marker with a thin layer of sand. Give a child a paintbrush and invite him to use it to brush away the sand. When the key passage phrase marker has been revealed, read it aloud and invite the child to repeat the phrase. Shake the box, covering the marker again with sand, and prompt another child to take a turn.

SAY “ When Philip met the man from Ethiopia in our Bible story, the man was reading from the book of Isaiah. Our key passage is also from Isaiah. It says, ‘Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5.’ The good news about Jesus is that He died on the cross for our sins, and He is alive. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Print and display the “Jones Family Photo” printable. Post an allergy alert for parents to see. Distribute a napkin and variety of pretzel sticks and mini pretzels to each preschooler. Mention that pretzels have been a part of German baking traditions for many years. Ask preschoolers to sort and count each kind of pretzel. Then lead them to create patterns:

- A-B-A-B patterns: stick, mini, stick, mini
- A-A-B patterns: stick, stick, mini
- A-A-B-B patterns: mini, mini, stick, stick

Provide time for preschoolers to come up with their own patterns as time allows. Allow preschoolers to eat their pretzels as you talk about Casey and Amy Jones helping to start new churches in Germany.

SAY “ Amy Jones began praying for people living in Europe when she was a preschooler, just like you! You can pray, too. Amy knew that not many people living in Europe and the country of Germany knew about Jesus. Let’s pray that God will send more missionaries to Germany to tell the people who live there the good news about Jesus. [Lead a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray.] ”

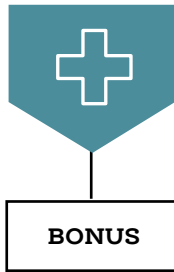
3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “ The Holy Spirit led Philip to help the man understand the good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and He is alive. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 UNROLL A SCROLL

On one piece of construction paper, write these words: Philip, Ethiopian, Isaiah. Roll the paper into a scroll and tie with a piece of yarn. Hold up the rolled scroll and invite the children to the group time area. Select a child to remove the yarn and to unroll the scroll. Show children the words and ask if they can understand them. Read the words and say that in today's story, a man did not understand what he was reading.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Acts 8:1-40. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

THE CHURCH SPREAD OUT

- One day, an angel told Philip to go to a desert road. On the road, Philip saw a man from Ethiopia. The man was reading the words of the prophet Isaiah.
- Philip asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The man asked Philip to teach him.
- These were the words he was reading: "He was led away like a sheep. What happened to Him was not fair. His life was taken away." The words were about the Messiah—Jesus!
- Philip told the man about Jesus. The man believed in Jesus, was baptized, and went home happy.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It."

"Jesus came to rescue people from their sin. (Sing 2 times.)

Jesus came to rescue people when He died and rose again.

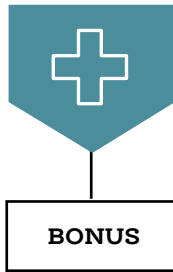
Jesus came to rescue people from their sin."

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Isaiah 53:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage and to give the key passage phrase marker to you. Read it aloud. Lead children to get into a circle. Play worship music on your electronic device and invite children to pass your scroll around the circle. Stop the music periodically and invite the child holding the scroll to say the key passage.

5 PRAY

Say a prayer, thanking God for telling us all about Jesus in His Word, the Bible.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 SHARE GOOD NEWS



Guide the children to sit on the floor in a circle. Tell the children that you are going to walk around the circle, stopping at times to whisper a good news message in a child's ear. Then, instruct the child to speak the message he heard. Continue walking, whispering a message, and guiding the child to say the message until every child has had a turn. (Example messages: the book of Isaiah told about Jesus; Jesus died for our sins; Jesus took our punishment; the Ethiopian believed in Jesus; Jesus is the Messiah; The Bible tells us about Jesus.)

SAY “ We heard a lot of good news messages about Jesus. Do you remember some of those messages? The man in our Bible story heard some very good news. Philip told him that the man he read about in Isaiah, the Messiah, is Jesus. The man believed in Jesus and went home happy. The Holy Spirit led Philip to help the man understand the good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and He is alive. ”

7 DRIVE VEHICLES AROUND THE WORLD

Place a globe and vehicles on the floor or on a tabletop. Point to the globe and say to the children that this globe represents our world. Show the children where they live on the globe. Point out other places that they may know. Prompt the children to drive vehicles on the floor around the globe. As children play, remind them that everyone in the world needs to know the good news about Jesus.

SAY “ In our Bible story, an angel told Philip to go to a desert road. There, he met a man from Ethiopia. The man wanted to understand what he was reading from the book of Isaiah about the Messiah—Jesus. The Holy Spirit led Philip to help the man understand the good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sins and He is alive. We can tell others about Jesus. ”

8 DRAW A J IN SAND

Place a shallow layer of sand in a bin. Place the bin a pencil, and the key passage phrase marker on a low table. Demonstrate how to write in the sand with the eraser end of the pencil by drawing a capital letter J. Read the key passage phrase marker aloud. Give the child the pencil and encourage her to write a J. Then, prompt her to draw anything else that she wants. When she is finished drawing in the sand, tap the tray to clear the sand and invite another child to draw a J in the sand bin.

SAY “ J is for Jesus. An angel told Philip to go to a desert road. There he met a man reading from the book of Isaiah. Isaiah wrote about the Messiah, Jesus. We have also been learning from the book of Isaiah when we say our key passage. Our key passage says, ‘Jesus took our punishment, Isaiah 53:5.’ ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church's security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.



UNIT 31 | SESSION 5

JESUS SUFFERED FOR US

PHILIPPIANS 2

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus came to earth. He died on the cross to rescue people from their sins. Jesus rose from the dead and is alive! Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

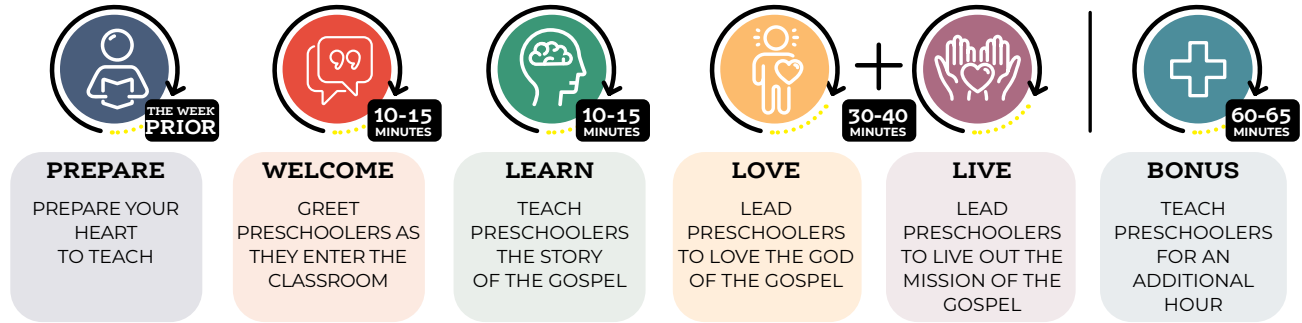
Why did Jesus become a person? Jesus became a person to rescue sinners.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



LEADER Bible Study

In Philippians 2, the apostle Paul expounds upon Christ’s humility and its implications for how we live and interact with others. Though we may struggle with the paradox of His infinite power and meekness, Christ’s humility serves as the truest example for us to follow as we adopt His attitude so that the world may confess Jesus as Lord.

How does Christ’s humility encourage us to follow in His steps? How can we joyfully demonstrate Jesus’ sacrificial mindset?

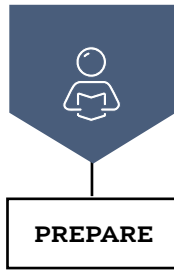
The sufferings of Jesus were rooted in humility as He sought not what was best for Himself, but rather what was for the good of sinful people. His obedience to deny Himself and seek the Father’s will demonstrates the same mindset we should have toward one another. The love Christ has shown us through His humble death exhorts us to show this same love to others, trusting that God will use our humble efforts to shine like stars in a dark world. As followers of Christ, we seek to emulate His self-sacrifice, trusting that God is glorified through it and that we, who are in Christ, will one day be exalted with Him. (1 Peter 5:6) Yet as Paul reminds us, we remember that it is God working in us to help us have the desire and the ability to conform more into the image of Christ. (Phil. 2:13)

While being willing to humbly put another’s needs above ours does not come easy, we can look to Jesus who for the joy set before Him endured the cross—knowing that His sacrificial death would mean everlasting life for us. Though it may seem like rejoicing has no place in humble self-sacrifice, Paul wanted us to see that this fruit of the Spirit is ours for the taking when our eyes are set on Jesus.

Help your kids see that we can find encouragement in Christ’s story, just as the early church did. The reality of Jesus’ suffering helps us live humbly so that we can exalt His name and will above our own. Just as Christ did not begrudgingly take to the cross, so, too, are we to walk in obedient sacrifice, knowing that our hope is not in vain. He rescued us through His own suffering that we might find His strength amidst our lack. When we trust in Him, we find new life and the forgiveness we need.

DOCTRINE TO KNOW

Christ’s Humiliation: God the Son left His glorious state and came in the likeness of sinful flesh. He experienced a humiliating death on a cross to rescue sinners. (2 Cor. 5:21)



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Arrange blocks on a cross

- various building blocks
- Big Picture Question Poster
- painter's tape



LEARN

Introduce the Bible story

- bulletin board paper, cut into a large cross shape
- star stickers

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- rhythm instruments, 1 per child



LOVE

Write letters to friends

- blank note cards
- stationery paper
- stickers
- envelopes
- shoebox with lid
- adult scissors or box cutter (adult use only)

Dress in Bible-times clothing and deliver Bibles

- Bible dress-up clothing, or
- colored adult-size T-shirts
- strips of cloth for belts
- messenger bag or tote bag
- small Bibles



LIVE

Wrap yarn around wooden crosses

- large craft sticks
- craft glue
- colored yarn
- Key Passage Phrase Marker, 1 per child

Snack and transition

- snacks
- Activity Page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards For Families, 1 per child



BONUS

Worship with singing and dancing

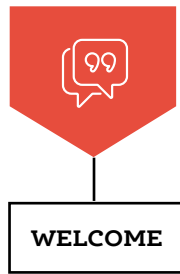
- worship song of your choice

Hunt for stars

- large star stickers, 1 per child
- flashlights, 1 per child

Write words with letter tiles

- large wooden letter tiles or alphabet blocks
- index card



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the *Love* and *Live* sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the *Love* and *Live* sections of the leader guide.

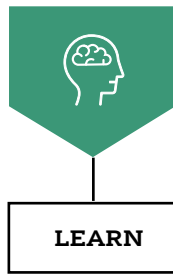
ARRANGE BLOCKS ON A CROSS

Make a large, simple cross by crossing two long pieces of painter's tape on a table. The cross should extend the entire length of the table. Lay blocks on the tabletop next to the cross and display the big picture question poster near the table. As the children arrive, show them the table with the blocks. Guide children to work together to lay the blocks along the tape lines of the cross creating a cross out of the provided blocks on the table. As children place the blocks on the cross' lines, remind them that Jesus died on a cross. Point to the big picture question poster and read it to the children several times as they place blocks.

SAY “ Welcome, friends. It’s going to be a great day today learning some new things about Jesus. We have been talking about Jesus and many people who told others about Jesus. Some of these people were even put in jail for teaching about Jesus. This is what happened to a man named Paul in today’s Bible story. Our big picture question asks, **Why did Jesus become a person?** The answer is, **Jesus became a person to rescue sinners.** Paul wrote letters from prison to some of his friends saying the same thing that our big picture question and answer says. He told them that Jesus came to earth and obeyed God’s plan by dying on a cross. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Tape a large paper cross to a focal wall in the group time area. Invite children to join you. As children arrive, give them several star stickers and prompt them to stick them onto the cross. When children are finished with their stickers, guide them to be seated.

SAY “ What kinds of stickers did you put on the cross? [Give children time to answer.] Yes, star stickers! In our Bible story today, we are going to hear about a letter that Paul wrote to some of his friends. Paul told his friends that when you follow Jesus, you will shine like stars. Listen carefully for when I say the phrase, ‘You will shine like stars.’ ”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Philippians 2:1-18 and tell the following Bible story.

JESUS SUFFERED FOR US

SAY “ Paul, a follower of Jesus, was living in Rome. He had been arrested and put in prison because he taught people about Jesus and said Jesus had risen from the dead.

Other followers of Jesus visited Paul in prison or sent him gifts. He wrote them a letter to thank his friends in Philippi. In his letter, Paul told them to love people like Jesus did.

He wrote, “Have the same attitude as Jesus. Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man. He obeyed God’s plan by dying on a cross.

“This is why God honored Jesus. Everyone everywhere will bow down to Him. And everyone will know and say that Jesus is Lord. This brings glory to God the Father.”

Jesus was hurt and died for us. Then He rose from the dead. Jesus is alive! Because of Jesus, we must follow and obey God. God is changing us to be like Jesus. Paul wrote, “Do everything without complaining and fighting. You are children of God in a dark world. When you follow Jesus, you will shine like stars.” ”

Christ Connection: Jesus came to earth. He died on the cross to rescue people from their sins. Jesus rose from the dead and is alive! Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the children that you are going to ask several questions about the Bible story. If they know the answer, they should stand up, walk to the cross, and touch it with one hand. Then call on one of the children who touches the cross to answer. Questions to use: Who was living in Rome? Paul was arrested and put where? Why was Paul in prison? What did Paul send to his friends in Philippi? Paul said that we should have the same attitude as whom? Who was hurt and died for us? Who rose from the dead? When we follow Jesus, what will we shine like?

SAY “ Paul was arrested and put in prison. He wrote a letter to his friends and told them to love people like Jesus did. Jesus came to earth. He died on the cross to rescue people from their sins. Jesus rose from the dead and is alive! Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It.”

“Jesus came to rescue people from their sin. (Sing 2 times.)
Jesus came to rescue people when He died and rose again.
Jesus came to rescue people from their sin. ”

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

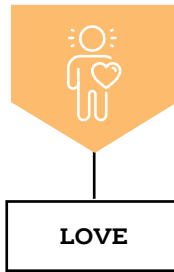
Place the key passage phrase marker at Isaiah 53:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage, to remove the marker, and to give it to you. Read the key passage phrase aloud. Distribute instruments and guide children to say the phrase as they play their instruments on each syllable of the phrase.

SAY “ The key passage phrase tells us that Jesus took the punishment for our sins. This is what Paul wrote to his friends. He told them to love like Jesus and to have the same attitude as Jesus. Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man and obeyed God’s plan by dying on a cross. ”

6 PRAY

Pray and ask God to help us to obey and follow God so that we can be more like Jesus.





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 TOSS A BEANBAG ON LETTER J



Using masking tape, make a large letter J on the floor. Make a straight line on the floor 3-4 feet away from the letter J. Invite children to line up behind the straight line. Give the first child the beanbag and challenge him to toss it and to try to land it on the J. As children toss the beanbag, prompt him to answer the question, “How can you love people like Jesus does?” (Be nice to others, share with others, do not complain, do not fight, etc.)

SAY “Paul wrote a letter to people in the church at Philippi and told them to love people like Jesus did. What are some of the ways that we thought of to love people like Jesus did? [Give children time to answer.] Jesus came to earth. He died on the cross to rescue people from their sin. Jesus rose from the dead and is alive! Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever.”

2 WRITE LETTERS TO FRIENDS

BEFORE the session, make a classroom “mailbox” by cutting a slot in the top of the shoebox that is large enough for an envelope to pass through. Place stationery, note cards, envelopes, stickers, and markers on a table. Invite children to “write” letters on note cards and stationery with markers. Demonstrate how to put note cards and stationery pages into the envelopes and then to seal them. Encourage children to “stamp” their letters with stickers. Help by writing the child’s friend’s name on the outside of the envelope. Direct children to put their letters into the shoebox mailbox.

SAY “Did you mail your letters to your friends? Paul mailed a thank-you letter to his friends. He told them to love people like Jesus did. Paul said to do everything without complaining and fighting. He also wrote that when you follow Jesus, you will shine like stars.”

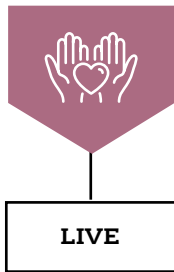
3 DRESS IN BIBLE TIMES CLOTHING AND DELIVER BIBLES

Lay Bible times clothing or large T-shirts and cloth belts on a tabletop. Place several child-size Bibles and a bag next to the dress-up clothing. Invite a child to select an item of clothing so she can dress like someone who lived during Bible times. Help the child to put on a clothing item. Place a Bible into a messenger bag. Prompt her to walk to another child in the room and give that child the Bible.

SAY “You delivered good news to your friends. Paul was a follower of Jesus who lived a long time ago. He was in prison in Rome because he taught people about Jesus and said Jesus had risen from the dead. He sent good news letters to his friends. He said thank you for sending gifts. He also told the people that God is changing us to be like Jesus. Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever.”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 **WRAP YARN AROUND WOODEN CROSSES**

Make a cross for each child by gluing two craft sticks together in the shape of a cross. Allow sticks to dry for several minutes. Distribute crosses to the children and a 2-foot piece of yarn. Tape one end of the yarn to the cross. Guide children to wrap the yarn around their crosses. As children work, read the key passage aloud. When the children are finished, tape the other end of the yarn to their cross. Send a copy of the key passage marker home with each child.

SAY “ Our key passage phrase says, ‘Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5.’ This is what Paul told his friends in his letter. Jesus was hurt and died for us. Then He rose from the dead and is alive! Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever. ”

2 **MISSIONS ACTIVITY**

Suggest that preschoolers sit in a circle to play a friendship game to get to know their friends better. Lead a preschooler to tell one fact about herself, such as her favorite color, favorite toy, kind of pet she has, favorite place to visit, and so forth. When she names her fact, everyone in the group with that same favorite item should stand up and say, “That’s me!” The child who named the fact chooses a person standing to name a fact about himself for the next round.

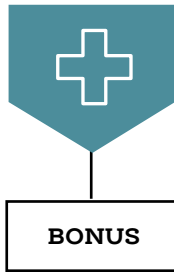
SAY “ We learned so many new things about our friends! People make friends with others so they can tell them about Jesus. I am so thankful for missionaries in Germany like Casey and Amy Jones and people who go on mission trips and make friendships with people living there and tell them about Jesus. Say our big picture question and answer with me: **Why did Jesus become a person? Jesus became a person to rescue sinners.** ”

3 **SNACK AND TRANSITION**

Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “ Jesus came to earth. He died on the cross to rescue people from their sins. Jesus rose from the dead and is alive! Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 WORSHIP WITH SINGING AND DANCING

Play some upbeat and familiar children’s worship music and invite children to dance to the group time area. As the children arrive, invite them to sing the song that is playing while they continue dancing. When the song has finished, invite the children to be seated. Thank the children for worshipping God with you.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Philippians 2:1-18. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

JESUS SUFFERED FOR US

- Paul wrote a letter to his friends in Philippi. Paul was in prison because he told people about Jesus.
- Paul wrote, “Be like Jesus. Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man. He did what God wanted by dying on a cross. One day, everyone everywhere will bow down to Jesus and honor Him. Everyone will know and say that Jesus is Lord.”
- Jesus was hurt and died for us. But now Jesus is alive! Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God. He will help us be like Jesus.
- Paul said, “You are children of God in a dark world. When you follow Jesus, you will shine like stars.”

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It.”

“Jesus came to rescue people from their sin. (Sing 2 times.)

Jesus came to rescue people when He died and rose again.

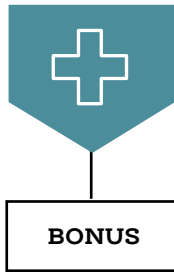
Jesus came to rescue people from their sin.”

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Isaiah 53:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage and to give you the marker. Read the key passage phrase aloud. Invite children to stand up and to reach for the stars in the sky as they say the phrase in a high voice. Then guide children to sit really low on the ground and to say the phrase in a low voice.

5 PRAY

Say a prayer praising God for sending Jesus to earth to rescue people from their sins. Ask God to help us shine like stars for the world to see.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 ARRANGE CROSS PIECES



Cut different colors of construction paper into strips of various lengths, all about one inch thick. Distribute a full, uncut sheet of construction paper to each child. Show a child the strips of paper and guide her to select and arrange strips on her paper to create a cross shape. When the child has finished her cross picture, prompt her to glue her cross to her sheet of paper with a glue stick. Then, write the key passage phrase on her piece of paper.

SAY “ Let’s see your cross pictures. What colors did you use? Your cross pictures remind me that Jesus came to earth. He died on the cross to rescue people from their sins. That is what our key passage says, ‘Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5.’ Then, Jesus rose from the dead and is now alive! Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever. ”

7 HUNT FOR STARS

Invite children to sit in a circle with their eyes closed. Without removing the backing, hide one sticker per child around the room in plain view at child’s level. Distribute lit flashlights to the children and dim the lights. Invite the children to use their flashlights and to each find one star. Once they find a star, direct them to bring it to you. When preschoolers find all the stars, play another round of the game if time allows.

SAY “ Paul wrote to his friends at the church in Philippi and told them to love people like Jesus did. He also said to his friends, ‘You are children of God in a dark world. When you follow Jesus, you will shine like stars.’ [Stick a star sticker on each child’s shirt.] ”

8 WRITE WORDS WITH LETTER TILES

Write these words in capital letters on index cards, writing only one word per card: JESUS, EARTH, CROSS, SINS, ALIVE, GOD. Spread out letter tiles on a table so that each letter can be easily seen. (For younger children, only put out the letter tiles that are in the words on the cards.) Invite a child to select a card with a word on it. Read the word aloud and help the child to find the letter tiles that spell out that word.

SAY “ Jesus came to earth. He died on the cross to rescue people from their sins. Jesus rose from the dead and is alive! Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.



UNIT 32 | SESSION 1

PETER PERFORMED MIRACLES

ACTS 9

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God's Spirit gave Peter power to do miracles. People saw what happened and believed in Jesus. These miracles remind us of Jesus. Jesus' miracles proved that He is the Son of God.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

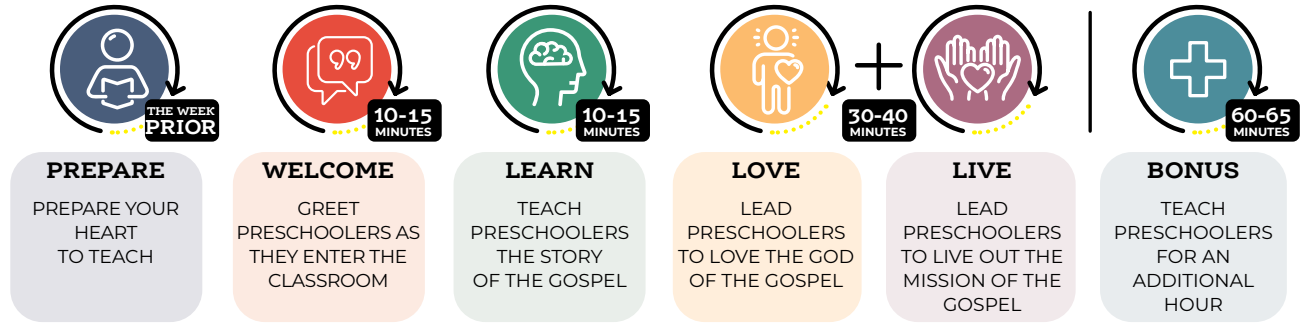
What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

Like a body has many parts, the church has many people who work together.
1 Corinthians 12:12



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



LEADER Bible Study

Peter’s miracles in Acts 9 showcase the power of the Holy Spirit at work within the early church. Though the people who witnessed and heard of these healings and resurrections were amazed and intrigued, Peter did not perform them to wow the crowd or to even illustrate his own strength. Rather, he met people’s needs as a means of demonstrating God’s power at work, that more may come to saving faith in Jesus and truly believe Him to be Messiah and Lord.

What was the significance of the restoration of Aeneas and the revival of Dorcas? What did these events reveal about Christ’s saving power through the faith of Peter?

Both instances of Peter’s miraculous acts were evidence of Christ’s power to heal, despite the impossible circumstances. While Christ’s power through Peter brought physical healing to the man in Lydda, it also brought spiritual healing to the people in Lydda and Sharon as they turned to the Lord. Similarly, the story of Dorcas’ sickness and death was an even more desolate event. Though the disciples in Joppa surely trusted in the hope of eternal life, Dorcas’ resurrection was used by God to draw many people to faith in Christ—the One who holds power over the grave.

These miracles performed by Peter point to the reality of Jesus’ power and to the proof that He is still alive within His followers. The usual patterns of sickness and death were not the final endings for Aeneas and Dorcas; rather, they were the work of the Lord’s restoration and redemption—pointing to the reality that everlasting life is ours through the power of Jesus. And through these events, we are encouraged to remember the hope we have in Christ, who is making all things new.

As you lead your kids this week, remember that you, too, get to share the good news of hope and healing to the next generation of young disciples. Just as Peter “called the saints and widows and presented [Dorcas] alive,” so, too, are you proclaiming the gift of everlasting life you have in Jesus.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Dorcas: a Christian woman of Joppa who was known for her charitable works (Acts 9:36). She was also called Tabitha, an Aramaic name.



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Find clothes in the sensory bin

- Big Picture Question Poster
- shallow bin, tub or box* (keep to use throughout the unit)
- fabric scraps, enough to fill the bin and hide the doll clothes
- doll clothes or baby clothing



LEARN

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Pack a box

- clean empty box
- items to support a local ministry (gently used clothing, canned goods, travel-size toiletries, etc.)

Spell with magnet letters

- magnetic cookie sheet or other magnetic surface
- magnetic letters (pick out letters needed to spell Jesus, Peter, miracles)
- index cards



LIVE

Label the diagram

- "Body Diagram" printable, 2 copies

Missions activity

- blue construction paper
- mini multicolored and full-size cupcake liners
- googly eyes
- blue sequins (optional)
- white binder reinforcement stickers (optional)

Snack and transition

- snacks
- Activity Page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards For Families, 1 per child



BONUS

Lay on floor mat "beds"

- nap mats or small blankets, 1 per child

Say key passage phrase

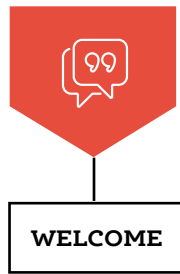
- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Decorate the box

- box of items collected and packed during "Pack a box"
- heart-shaped and smiley stickers

Play with a doctor kit and bandage a doll

- toy doctor kit
- bandages such as gauze or ace
- baby doll(s)



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the *Love* and *Live* sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the *Love* and *Live* sections of the leader guide.

FIND CLOTHES IN THE SENSORY BIN

Prior to the children's arrival, place doll clothes in the shallow bin and cover them in fabric scraps. Set the bin near the big picture question poster. Invite children to dig in the sensory bin and pull out an item of doll clothing. When they find one, point out and read aloud the big picture question poster as you speak with each child.

SAY “ I am so glad that you are here today! What did you find in the sensory bin? What do you think the clothes have to do with our Bible story today? We will learn about some people in the church who had encounters with Peter. **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** One of the people Peter healed spent her life helping others. Peter helped people both in the church and outside of the church. Today we will learn about two different people in the church who needed Peter's help. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Invite children to play a game with you. Ask children to stand when you name things only God can do and sit when you name things anyone can do. (Examples: making the blind see, opening a door, making dead people come back to life, walking a dog, making the deaf hear, handing someone reading glasses and book, making someone walk when that person has never been able to walk before, making cookies for a neighbor and so on)

SAY “ Things only God can do are called miracles. Today, we will learn about two miracles. God’s Spirit gave Peter power to do miracles. Without God’s Spirit, Peter would not have been able to do miracles. Let’s find out what happened! ”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Acts 9:31-43 and tell the following Bible story.

PETER PERFORMED MIRACLES

SAY “ Peter was a leader in the early church. God gave Jesus’ friends power to heal people and to tell people about Jesus. The church was peaceful and strong, and more people joined the church.

Peter traveled to different places. He visited friends in a town called Lydda (LID uh). A man named Aeneas (ih NEE uhs) lived there. Aeneas was could not walk and had to stay in bed. Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus heals you. Get up and make your bed.” Aeneas got up right away! When this happened, many people believed in Jesus.

A woman named Dorcas lived in a city called Joppa (JAHP uh). Dorcas loved Jesus and was always helping people in need. But Dorcas got sick and died.

Peter went to Joppa to the house where Dorcas’ body lay. Peter knelt down beside her body and prayed. Then Peter said, “Dorcas, get up.”

Dorcas opened her eyes and sat up. Peter called for Jesus’ friends, and they saw that Dorcas was alive! When people heard what happened, many people believed in Jesus. ”

Christ Connection: God’s Spirit gave Peter power to do miracles. People saw what happened and believed in Jesus. These miracles remind us of Jesus. Jesus’ miracles proved that He is the Son of God.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Show the Bible story picture and ask review questions. When children respond, instruct them to jump up and down. Sample questions: Who gave Jesus' friends the power to heal people and tell them about Jesus? (God) Did Peter travel to different places? (yes) Could Aeneas walk before Peter got to Lydda? What happened? (No, Peter told him to get up and make his bed; Aeneas was able to walk.) Who was Dorcas? (a lady who died, a lady who helped the people, someone God made alive again) Could Peter have made Aeneas or Dorcas well on his own? (No, only with God's Spirit did Peter have the power to help them.)

SAY “ Jumping feet remind me that Peter made Aeneas able to walk on healthy feet and Dorcas was made alive again. God's Spirit gave Peter power to do miracles. People saw what happened and believed in Jesus. These miracles remind us of Jesus and prove He is the Son of God. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “B-I-N-G-O.”

“Like a body has many parts
The church has many people
Who work together,
Who work together,
Who work together.
1 Corinthians 12:12”

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Lead preschoolers to learn the key passage phrase. Pass a beanbag around the circle as you say the phrase together twice.

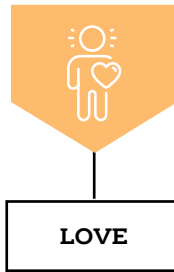
SAY “ Peter was part of the early church. He had work to do helping others learn about Jesus. Sometimes his work meant making sick people well, like Aeneas, other times it meant bringing someone back to life, like Dorcas. But most of the time, Peter taught people about Jesus. God also used Dorcas to help people know about Jesus. She helped people in need. God uses people in the church today to help others to know and follow Him. Everyone in the church works together. ”

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for His Spirit that gives us power to tell others about Jesus and helps Christians in the church work together.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 TRACE HANDS AND FEET



Place construction paper and crayons or markers on the floor. Invite children to each stand on a piece of construction paper. Trace their feet and then trace their hands on the other side. Allow children to decorate their tracings with crayons or markers as they wish while you retell the Bible story.

SAY “ God gave us hands and feet as parts of our bodies. We can use them to help others learn about Jesus. Just like the many parts of our bodies each have different jobs, many people are part of the church. God uses each person in the church differently to help others come to know Him and be added to the church. God gives His Spirit to each person who believes in Jesus to help them do His work. ”

2 PACK A BOX

Prior to the session, gather gently used clothing, canned goods, travel-size toiletries, or other items for a local ministry to help people in need. Provide a clean empty box. Set all the items near the box for children to discover. Explain to the children as they notice the materials that Dorcas was known in Joppa for always helping people in need because she loved Jesus. Show children how to pack the items neatly in the box to give.

SAY “ Thank you for helping me pack this box of things for people in need. God used Dorcas to help many people who were in need. When Dorcas got sick and died, people were sad. But God sent Peter to bring Dorcas back to life again. I am glad Dorcas got to help even more people after that. We can pray and ask God to help us be like Dorcas and like Peter helping others know about Jesus. ”

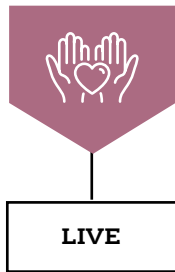
3 SPELL WITH MAGNETIC LETTERS

Gather a magnetic cookie sheet or other magnetic surface. Pick the letters out of a set of magnetic letters to spell Jesus, Peter, miracles. Write the same words on separate index cards. Tape the cards on the cookie sheet. Encourage children to find each letter on the card in order as you name the letters, say their individual sounds, and read the words aloud. As children work, talk about the Christ connection and the Bible story in a natural way.

SAY “ God’s Spirit gave Peter power to do things only God can do. We call these miracles. In the Bible, we learn about Aeneas and Dorcas, who were both in need of a miracle. Aeneas could not walk, and Dorcas had died. Peter, with God’s power, made Aeneas walk and brought Dorcas to life. These miracles caused many people to believe in Jesus. Jesus’ miracles proved He is the Son of God. ”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 LABEL THE DIAGRAM

Print two copies of “Body Diagram.” Cut apart one. Display the whole copy for all to see. Read the words. Talk about where the words are located (head, arms, hands, etc.). Lead children to match the cut outs to the diagram. Read aloud as they do.

SAY “ We can look at the diagram of the body in front of us and see all the parts it contains, the head, hands, feet, and so on. The key passage phrase says the church works like the body. **The church is all Christians everywhere.** All Christians are part of the church and have been given skills and talents to help them tell others about Jesus. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY

Before the session, cut several cupcake liners into fourths. These will be used as tails and fins for fish. Distribute to each child blue construction paper, three cupcake liners, cupcake liner tails and fins, and a glue stick. Demonstrate how to flatten the cupcake liner on the paper to make the fish’s body. Instruct each preschooler to glue the cupcake liner to her paper and add the smaller pieces to make a fin and tail. Give each preschooler a googly eye to add to her fish. Provide markers for preschoolers to decorate their fish and their papers. Consider gluing blue sequins or placing white binder reinforcement stickers near the fish to create bubbles. Close by praying for missionaries and churches in Florida to find ways to tell the people about Jesus.

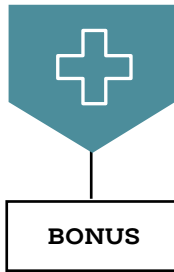
SAY “ We can use these fish as a reminder to pray for the people and missionaries in South Florida. The state of Florida is a peninsula; that means it is almost completely surrounded by water. Florida has all the creatures that live in oceans, many varieties of fish, dolphins, sharks, and more. The state is also home to people from many different countries. Missionaries and believers in the churches obey God to tell people about Jesus. **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** ”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION

Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “ God’s Spirit gave Peter power to do miracles. People saw what happened and believed in Jesus. These miracles remind us of Jesus. Jesus’ miracles proved that He is the Son of God. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 LAY ON FLOOR MAT “BEDS”

Greet children in group time by inviting them to take a nap mat or small blanket to make a floor mat “bed.” Children should spread the mat on the floor and lie down on it. Remind preschoolers that Aeneas and Dorcas were both on a bed when Peter got to them. Tell them to listen closely to the story. At the end of the story, lead preschoolers to sit up like Dorcas sat up.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Acts 9:31-43. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story.

PETER PERFORMED MIRACLES

- God gave Jesus’ friends power to heal people and to tell people about Jesus. Peter was a leader in the church. He went to visit friends in different towns.
- Peter visited Aeneas (ih NEE uhs). Aeneas could not walk. He had to stay in bed. Peter said, “Jesus heals you! Get up and make your bed.” Aeneas got up right away! When this happened, many people believed in Jesus.
- Then, Peter went to another city. A woman named Dorcas loved Jesus and helped people. But Dorcas got sick and died.
- Peter went to her body. He prayed and said, “Get up.” Dorcas opened her eyes and sat up! When this happened, many people believed in Jesus.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “B-I-N-G-O.”

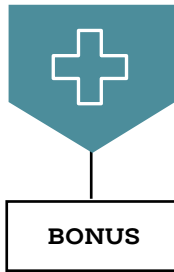
“Like a body has many parts
The church has many people
Who work together,
Who work together,
Who work together.
1 Corinthians 12:12”

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Invite children to stand and sit on alternating words as you say the key passage phrase together two times.

5 PRAY

Pray and ask God to help us tell others about Jesus. Thank God for His Spirit who gives us the power to help us obey Him.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 PLAY A NON-WALKING GAME



Place two tape lines on the floor about five feet apart. Instruct children to move from one tape line to the other without using their feet. Preschoolers may choose to crawl, roll, scoot, and so forth. Remind them as they move that Aeneas in the Bible could not walk when Peter first met him. He had to stay in bed all the time. But once Peter met him, Peter said, “Jesus heals you! Get up and make your bed.” Immediately, Aeneas got up and could walk.

SAY “ Who do you remember from the Bible story who could not walk? Aeneas! Who did God send to help Aeneas? Peter! God’s Spirit gave Peter power to make Aeneas able to walk. It was a miracle because only God can make people walk. ”

7 DECORATE THE BOX FOR PEOPLE IN NEED

Allow children to glue construction paper to the outside of the box you packed earlier. Give children hearts and smiley face stickers to put on the construction paper. Print on the box as you read aloud the words, “Jesus loves you.”

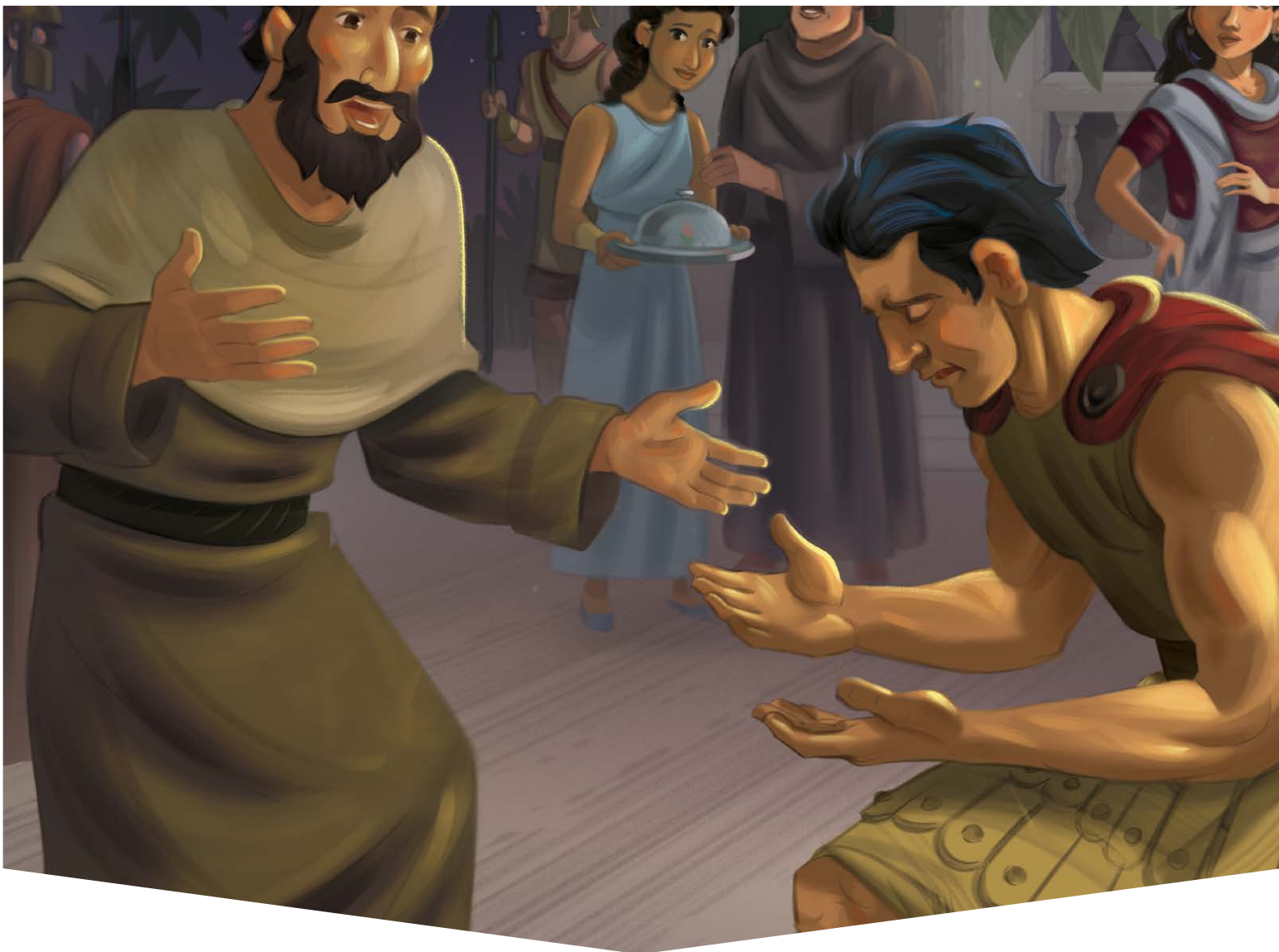
SAY “ Thank you for working together to decorate our box for the people in need. Earlier today, we packed this carefully. Now it is beautiful on the outside, and we are ready to donate it to help someone in our community who needs the things inside. Let’s pray together for the person who will receive these things. Dear God, please bless the people who receive this gift. Help them to know how much You love them. Help them to follow Jesus always. Amen. [Pause before continuing.] Who do you remember from our Bible story who helped people in need? Dorcas! Who do you remember from our Bible story who helped Dorcas? Peter! Who do you know that has done something to help others know about Jesus? ”

8 PLAY WITH A DOCTOR KIT AND BANDAGE A DOLL

Arrange a doctor’s kit, bandages, and dolls for children to discover. As children play, remind them of parts of the story related to Aeneas’ and Dorcas’ situations and their need for God to help them. Continue reminding children of Peter’s role and God’s Spirit’s power that enabled Peter to help. Keep things conversational with children as they play. Allow conversation to be natural, but guided.

SAY “ God’s Spirit gave Peter power to do miracles. People saw what happened to Aeneas and Dorcas and believed in Jesus. These miracles remind us of Jesus. Jesus’ miracles proved that He is the Son of God. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.



UNIT 32 | SESSION 2

PETER LEARNED THAT JESUS IS FOR ALL

ACTS 10

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God showed Peter that the good news about Jesus is for everyone. God wants believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus, no matter what. Jesus is the Lord of all.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

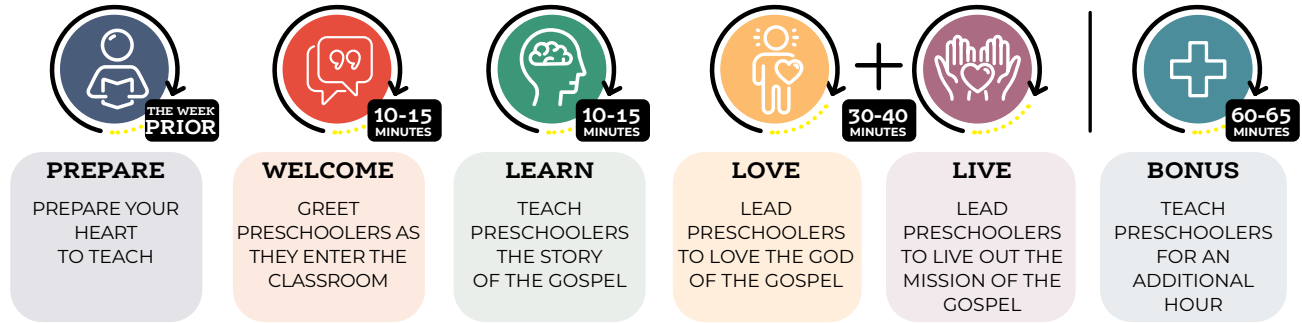
What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

Like a body has many parts, the church has many people who work together.
1 Corinthians 12:12



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



LEADER Bible Study

The story of Peter’s revelation in Acts 10 reveals a core tenet in the gospel of Jesus Christ: God saves all who come to faith in His Son, regardless of their past, cultural differences, or their upbringing. The gospel is for all people, and it took Peter—just as it will require us today—great humility to see that God shows no favoritism. The ones whom God calls clean are clean; the ones He brings into His family are in His family forever.

What did these visions reveal to both Cornelius and Peter? How did these animals in the vision correlate to a deeper truth about God’s gift of salvation and invitation for all?

God prepared both Cornelius and Peter for the invitation that would change the makeup of Jesus’ church forever. Cornelius, a God-fearing Gentile centurion, was not welcome within Jewish social circles nor was he accepted in any way as clean according to Jewish beliefs. Even still, God used him to open Peter’s eyes to the reality that the gospel builds bridges between people groups rather than divide them even further.

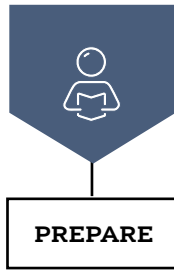
Peter’s vision seemed to be much less direct than Cornelius; yet God was patiently repetitive in instilling the greater message that the ones whom He purifies through faith are brought into the family of God—with no stipulations due to custom or culture.

This revelation was contrary to the Jewish traditions and defied favoritism, which later caused tension within the early church. (Acts 11:1-18) Still, as Peter preached the good news and declared that Jesus is Lord of all, the Holy Spirit fell on all who believed the gospel—confirming God’s desire to save anyone who trusts in Jesus.

Explain to your kids that the good news of Jesus Christ is for all people, and we are all called to faithfully invite others to believe the good news of Jesus Christ. May this reality be as true in our churches and social circles today as it was in Cornelius’ home all those centuries ago.

TERMS TO KNOW

Cornelius: a centurion in the Roman army who lived in Caesarea (Acts 10:1). He was a Gentile who worshiped the one true God and treated the Jewish people with kindness and generosity.



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Find people in the sensory bin

- bin or plastic dishpan
- shredded paper
- plastic people figures (or similar)



LEARN

Introduce the Bible story

- toy vehicles, including at least a car, boat, plane

Review the Bible story

- toy man
- toy animal
- small picture of Jesus
- plastic cups large enough to cover each toy, 3

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Make play dough animals

- animal-shaped cookie cutters

Raise and lower a sheet full of animals

- flat bedsheet or parachute
- various stuffed animals (snake, lizard, bird, etc.)

Make a holding hands picture

- people die cuts in varied skin tones



LIVE

Work together to work a puzzle

- Bible Story Picture Poster

Mission activity

- individually wrapped microwave popcorn bags
- large index cards

Snack and transition

- snacks
- Activity Page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards For Families, 1 per child



BONUS

Find people worshipping God

- "People Worshipping God" printable, 1 picture per child

Say the key passage phrase

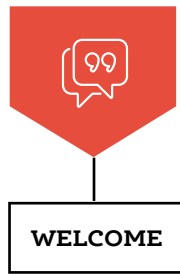
- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Put dot stickers on Jesus' name

- dot stickers in assorted colors

Pack a suitcase

- small suitcase
- child-size clothing
- empty travel toiletry bottles
- assorted travel supplies



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the *Love and Live* sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the *Love and Live* sections of the leader guide.

FIND PEOPLE IN THE SENSORY BIN

Set up a sensory bin near the big picture question poster. Hide various people figures under shredded paper. As children arrive, invite them to dig in the bin and see what they can discover. Affirm their finds with excitement and vocabulary-building interactions such as “You found the policeman in the blue uniform,” or “That little boy is wearing a green shirt,” and so on. End each conversation with boys and girls by reading the big picture question and answer to the child.

SAY “ I am so glad you came to class today. What did you notice about all the hidden toys in the sensory bin today? [Pause for answers.] Yes! They were all people. They all are different, but all are people. In Bible times, some people did not understand that Jesus came for all people. In today’s Bible story, we will learn about the time Peter learned that Jesus is for everyone. People who follow Jesus are called Christians. Christians are all part of the church. **The church is all Christians everywhere.** ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Invite children to join you in the large group. Pass around toy vehicles. Ask children what each is used for (travel) and talk about going on a trip, traveling, etc.

SAY “ Today when people need to go somewhere, they might just get into the car and go. Or they can buy an airplane or boat ticket and go. In Bible times, travel was not that easy. Today, we will learn about a time Peter had to travel to Cornelius’ house to tell Cornelius and his family about Jesus. God sent Peter a special vision to help Peter understand that Jesus is for everyone. Peter knew God wanted him to tell Cornelius and his family about Jesus. Let’s find out what happened! ”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Acts 10:1-43 and tell the following Bible story.

PETER LEARNED THAT JESUS IS FOR ALL

SAY “ Cornelius loved God. One day, God sent an angel to Cornelius. The angel told Cornelius to send some men into the city to find Peter. So Cornelius sent two servants and one soldier.

In the city, Peter saw a vision. 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, “God has made these clean.” Peter saw the vision three times, and he tried to figure out what it meant.

Then, the men Cornelius sent into the city found Peter. They told Peter to come to Cornelius’ house. Peter went with the men.

When Peter saw Cornelius, he told him that the good news about Jesus is for all people. “Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven,” Peter said.

The people there believed. Cornelius, his family, and his friends were baptized. ”

Christ Connection: God showed Peter that the good news about Jesus is for everyone. God wants believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus, no matter what. Jesus is the Lord of all.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Show children a toy man, toy animal, and picture of Jesus. Hide each item inside a plastic cup. Explain that you will move the cups around and they should guess which cup each item is under. Move the cups around and choose one of the three items and ask, “Where is [item you name]?” Allow children to guess before revealing the item in the cup. Ask children to tell you something about the Bible story related to the item. For example, the man could remind children of Peter, of one of the men who came to take him to Cornelius, or of Cornelius. The animal could be any animal from Peter’s vision. The picture of Jesus could allow children to reiterate something from the story or the Christ connection. Allow preschoolers to share their ideas, but guide answers back to the story as much as possible.

SAY “Cornelius loved God but needed someone to tell him about Jesus. God sent Peter to tell Cornelius and his family about Jesus. God showed Peter that the good news about Jesus is for everyone. God wants us to tell everyone the good news about Jesus. Jesus is Lord of all.”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “B-I-N-G-O.”

“Like a body has many parts
The church has many people
Who work together,
Who work together,
Who work together.
1 Corinthians 12:12”

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Guide preschoolers to learn the key passage phrase. Lead children to wiggle their fingers, pat their knees, and pat their heads as they say the phrase together.

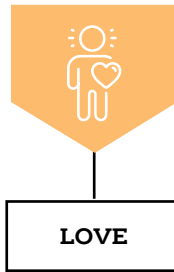
SAY “It’s fun to move our bodies, isn’t it? It helps us to remember our key passage phrase especially. God made our bodies with many different parts. Each part has a different job. That’s a lot like the church. The church has a lot of different parts. Those parts are people who work together to tell others about Jesus.”

6 PRAY

Thank God for people who are part of the church. Ask God to help people in your church tell others about Jesus.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 **MAKE PLAY DOUGH ANIMALS**



Give each child some play dough. Place animal-shaped cookie cutters within reach of children. Demonstrate flattening the play dough and pressing the cutter down to create an animal. Review the Bible story while children work. Ask them to tell about their animal creations and why they chose to make that animal. Remind children that God used the vision to help Peter understand that Jesus is for everyone.

SAY “ In Bible times, people who were from different places did not always talk to one another or share the same beliefs about God. God helped Peter understand that Jesus wants everyone to know about Him. Because Peter shared the good news about Jesus with Cornelius, Cornelius and his family and friends believed and were baptized. ”

2 **RAISE AND LOWER A SHEET FULL OF ANIMALS**

Gather children around a sheet or parachute filled with all sorts of stuffed animals. If possible, toss in a few shown in the Bible story picture. Ask children to name the animals they see as they are gathering. Work together to raise the sheet off the ground and lower it again without spilling any animals on the ground. Talk about the story. Remind children Peter saw the vision three times. Repeat the action of lifting and lowering the sheet three times.

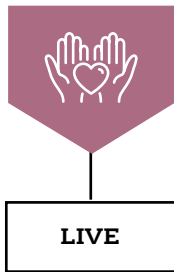
SAY “ Peter’s vision was interesting, wasn’t it? Three times he saw the sheet filled with all different types of animals. God used the vision to explain to Peter that all people needed to know about Jesus. God wanted Peter to know that Jesus is for all people everywhere. ”

3 **MAKE A HOLDING HANDS PICTURE**

Give each child a glue stick and a series of paper people die cuts (like paper dolls) cut in various skin tones. Demonstrate how to glue the hands of the people together to create a line of people holding hands. Allow children to decorate the cutouts. Then give children a large sheet of construction paper labeled God Loves All People for them to glue their line of people onto.

SAY “ God loves everyone in the world. That is why Jesus came to die on the cross and be raised to life again. God wants everyone in the world to know about Jesus and His love for them. God sent Peter to tell Cornelius and his family about Jesus. Peter learned that Jesus is for everyone. ”





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 WORK TOGETHER TO WORK A PUZZLE

Cut a copy of the Bible story picture into four pieces. Invite four preschoolers at a time to work together to complete the puzzle. Give each preschooler one piece. Consider preparing multiple puzzles for a few groups to work together at the same time.

SAY “ In our Bible story, God showed Peter that the good news about Jesus is for everyone. Listen to our key passage phrase: ‘Like a body has many parts, the church has many people who work together. 1 Corinthians 12:12.’ God loves each person and wants the church to work together to tell others about Jesus. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Tell preschoolers that Gospel City Church is a church meeting in a movie theater in Florida. Mention that the kids at Gospel City Church take an active part in missions by writing notes to people and making crafts for the sick. Distribute large index cards and markers. Assist children in writing *You are loved* on the card. Guide children to draw happy faces, hearts and other cheerful pictures around the words. Assist children in taping the card to the sealed microwave popcorn bag. Encourage preschoolers to give the bag to a friend or neighbor and tell them that Jesus loves them. Say a prayer for the leaders and people in Gospel City Church as they “pray, give, and go” to tell people about Jesus.

SAY “ Gospel City Church meets weekly in a movie theater. When I think of a movie theater, I think of popcorn! Every age participates in missions at Gospel City Church because they want everyone to know about Jesus. This special popcorn package will remind someone of the love of Jesus. What are some other ways you can show Jesus’ love to other people? ”

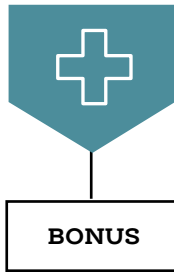
3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “ God showed Peter that the good news about Jesus is for everyone. God wants believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus no matter what. Jesus is the Lord of all. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 FIND PEOPLE WORSHIPPING GOD

Prepare the “People Worshiping God” printable. Hide photos around the room. Instruct children to find one. Talk about where the people might live, what they are doing, who might have told them about Jesus, etc. Point out that the pictures show ways people worship God. Peter learned God wants all people everywhere to know about Jesus and worship Him. Peter had a vision three times. Afterward, Peter told Cornelius and his family about Jesus.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Acts 10:1-43 and tell the following Bible story.

PETER LEARNED THAT JESUS IS FOR ALL

- Cornelius loved God. One day, an angel told Cornelius to send some men into the city to find Peter. So Cornelius sent two servants and one soldier.
- In the city, Peter saw a vision. He saw a big sheet coming down from heaven with all kinds of animals, snakes and lizards, and birds. A voice said, “God has made these clean.”
- The men from Cornelius found Peter and invited him to Cornelius’ house. When Peter saw Cornelius, he told him good news: Jesus is for all people.
- Peter said, “Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven.” Cornelius, his family, and his friends believed in Jesus and were baptized.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “B-I-N-G-O.”

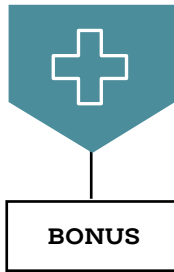
“Like a body has many parts
The church has many people
Who work together,
Who work together,
Who work together.
1 Corinthians 12:12”

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Open your Bible to the key passage. Invite children to say it with you. Tell preschoolers that you will say the key passage, and when you pause, they should say the next word. Repeat several times, pausing for children to say different words: “Like a body has many parts, the church has many people who work together.”

5 PRAY

Thank God for Christians being part of the church and telling others about Jesus.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 NAME WAYS WE CAN SHOW OUR LOVE FOR GOD



Cut a large heart from a piece of construction paper. Invite boys and girls to sit in a circle. Tell them you will pass the heart around the circle and whomever is holding the heart can say one way people can show their love for God. (Examples: pray, read Bible, help people in need, sing, and so on)

SAY “ Peter loved God. He spent time telling people about Jesus out of his love for Him. Cornelius loved God, but he didn’t know about Jesus. He learned about Jesus from Peter. Because Peter told Cornelius and his family and friends about Jesus, they believed in Him and were baptized. Our love for God can help other people come to love God, too. ”

7 PUT DOT STICKERS ON JESUS’ NAME

Write JESUS in large letters on a sheet of paper for each child. Provide dot stickers and instruct children to form each letter by affixing the stickers to the lines of the letters. Read each letter and name each letter sound individually and demonstrate sounding out the word for the children. Remind them that J-E-S-U-S spells Jesus.

SAY “ God wanted Cornelius and his family and friends to know about Jesus. He sent Peter to tell them the good news! Peter learned the good news that Jesus is for everyone. God wants believers to tell everyone about Jesus, no matter what. Jesus is Lord of all! ”

8 PACK A SUITCASE

Gather a suitcase, a few clothes, and empty travel toiletries. Spread them out for children to discover. Encourage children to pack the suitcase as you guide the conversation around the Bible story, mentioning the men who came from Cornelius’ house to get Peter and the trip back to visit with Cornelius.

SAY “ An angel told Cornelius to send some men to find Peter in another city. Cornelius sent two servants and one soldier to fetch Peter. Peter traveled with the three men back to Cornelius’ house to tell him and his family and friends all about Jesus. Peter told the people there about Jesus, and they believed in Jesus and were baptized. God wants believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus, no matter what. Jesus is for everyone. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.



UNIT 32 | SESSION 3

GENTILES BECAME PART OF THE CHURCH

ACTS 11

CHRIST CONNECTION:

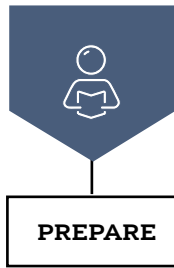
The gospel spread even when people tried to stop it. The good news about Jesus is for everyone. God wants us to celebrate when others believe in Jesus.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

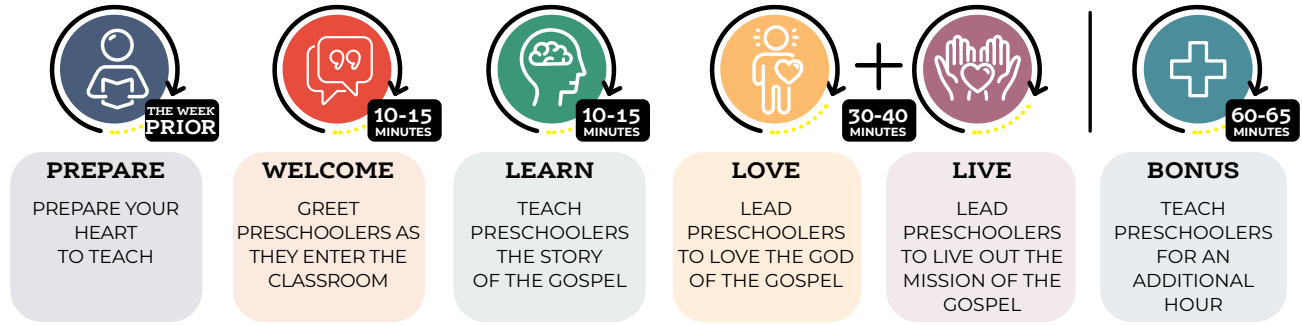
What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

Like a body has many parts, the church has many people who work together.
1 Corinthians 12:12



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



LEADER Bible Study

Acts 11 recounts the first time people were called “Christians” because they were recognized as followers of Jesus. In this passage, Peter was criticized by some of the believing Jews for going into the house of Cornelius and eating with Gentiles; however, these same critics later realized that God’s power was at work even among the Gentiles.

How did the church in Antioch demonstrate God’s plan for all people to be saved through the gospel? What is the proper response of Christ followers upon hearing that the lost have been found through coming to faith in Jesus?

The church in Antioch displayed the power of the gospel as Gentile believers and Jewish believers became one body under the headship of Christ. It was the transforming power of the Holy Spirit that held these brothers and sisters together, allowing for differing customs and backgrounds to be overcome. In fact, when Peter defended the Gentile salvation to the church in Jerusalem, he recited Jesus’ words from Acts 1:5 on the baptism of the Spirit. He reminded the naysayers among them that if the Gentiles truly received the Spirit, why should the rest of them get in the way of God’s salvation at work? The evidence of the Holy Spirit among them, leading them to live in holy fellowship and bold proclamation, proved that God’s

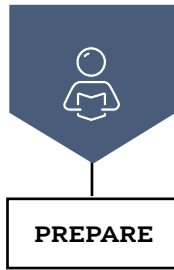
hand was working in the lives of those who were previously outside the faith.

Turning away from their disapproval, the members of the circumcision party first became stunned into silence and then glorified God for the repentance of these new Gentile followers. May we, too, be quick to move to celebration and praise when anyone trusts in Jesus for salvation, rather than be unsure or prone to criticism. Let our own hearts seek to pray that the Spirit produces good fruit in the lives of those who proclaim His truth, encouraging and lifting them up as they seek and serve His name alongside us.

Highlight God’s goodness in bringing these new followers to Himself. Encourage your preschoolers to tell everyone they know, “Jesus loves you!” Jesus brings people together for the good of His church and for God’s glory.

TERMS TO KNOW

Gentiles: people who are not part of God’s chosen family at birth. Jesus was a light to the Gentiles (Matt. 4:16-17; Luke 2:32). At the house of Cornelius, the Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles (Acts 10:45).



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Find pictures of churches in the sensory bin

- Big Picture Question Poster
- sensory bin
- "Churches" printable
- construction toys



LEARN

Introduce the Bible story

- large paper heart

Review the Bible story

- party horn noisemaker

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Build a church building

- disposable cups

Match luggage tags

- several pairs of matching luggage tags
- gift bag (optional)
- option: Use cardstock and cut 'luggage tags' using a die cut machine or print from online sources and cut out, laminating for durability. You will need several pairs to create a matching game pieces.



LIVE

Make a photo album

- small photo book
- photos of familiar church members or staff, 1 photo per child

Snack and transition

- snacks
- Activity Page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards For Families, 1 per child



BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

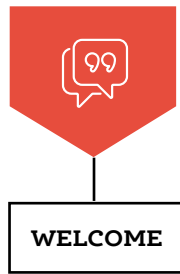
- Key Passage Phrase Marker
- disposable cups, 15

Spread the good news

- large plastic glitter or paper confetti
- vacuum or broom and dustpan

Make cards

- 4-by-6-inch pieces of cardstock, 1 per child



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the *Love and Live* sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the *Love and Live* sections of the leader guide.

FIND PICTURES OF CHURCHES IN THE SENSORY BIN

Print the “Churches” printable and cut the pictures apart. Bury them in the sensory bin under construction toys for children to find. Set the sensory bin near the big picture question poster. Remind them of the big picture question and answer as they pull out the pictures.

SAY “ I am so glad you came today. That church building you pulled out of the sensory bin reminds me that the building we come to church in is not really the ‘church.’ The church is really all Christians everywhere. The buildings we meet in are a special place for Christians to gather in and worship God together in a group, but it is the people who worship there who make up the church. God has work for Christians to do to tell others about Jesus. In our Bible story, we will learn about all the different people Peter told about Jesus. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Welcome children to group time and show them a large paper heart. Ask them to name times when they might see a heart somewhere. (Valentine's Day, birthday card, wedding, etc.)

SAY “ People often use a heart shape to mean love. We know that God loves all people. Peter told many people about Jesus, no matter who they were or where they came from. God had shown Peter this was His plan when He sent Peter to tell Cornelius about Jesus as we learned last week. This week we will learn that the the gospel spread to many more people. Let's find out how. ”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Acts 11:1-18 and tell the following Bible story.

GENTILES BECAME PART OF THE CHURCH

SAY “ Peter told many people about Jesus, no matter who they were or where they came from. He shared the good news with Jews and also with Gentiles—people who were not Jews. The people heard the good news, and they believed in Jesus.

Jesus' followers in Judea heard that people from other nations had believed the good news about Jesus. They praised God!

Around this time, believers were living in Antioch. Most of them shared the gospel only with Jews, but some believers went to Antioch and told other people about Jesus. When those people heard the good news, many of them believed.

The church in Jerusalem heard and sent Barnabas to visit these new believers. Barnabas saw that God was with the believers in Antioch, and he was glad. He encouraged them to keep following God. Even more people heard about Jesus and trusted in Him. ”

Christ Connection: The gospel spread even when people tried to stop it. The good news about Jesus is for everyone. God wants us to celebrate when others believe in Jesus.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Give each child a noisemaker to blow. Explain that you will name things that are true from the story and things that are not true. If the thing you say is true, they should blow their noisemaker. If the thing is not true, they need to be very quiet. Examples:

- Peter told people about Jesus no matter who they were or where they came from. (True.)
- Jesus' followers in [name your location] heard people from other places had believed in the blue sky and they were sad. (False.)
- The church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to see the believers in Antioch. (True.)
- Barnabas went to sleep in a tree. (False.)
- Barnabas encouraged the people in Antioch to keep following God. (True.)

SAY “ Peter told many people about Jesus. Both Jews and Gentiles believed in Jesus. The Christians in Judea praised God that people in Antioch were following Jesus. They sent Barnabas to visit the new believers in Antioch, and he encouraged them to keep following God. The gospel spread even when people tried to stop it. The good news about Jesus is for everyone. God wants us to celebrate when others believe in Jesus. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “B-I-N-G-O.”

“Like a body has many parts
The church has many people
Who work together,
Who work together,
Who work together.
1 Corinthians 12:12”

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Write the words of the key passage phrase on separate half sheets of paper. Position the paper on the floor with space between each for children to safely hop. Leave space between each word for children to land safely. Place the key passage phrase marker in your Bible at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Guide children to jump over each word as you say the phrase together.

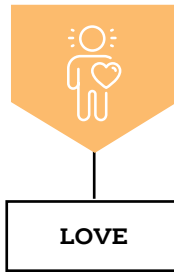
SAY “ The church was growing and growing as more and more people learned about and believed in Jesus. **The church is all Christians everywhere.** Many people work together to tell about Jesus, like a body has many parts that each do different things. ”

6 PRAY

Thank God for new believers who were added to the church in Bible times and are still being added today because the church continues to tell others about Jesus.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 PRAISE GOD TOGETHER



Instruct children to each select two blocks. Tell them to choose to either rub them together or tap them together to make music. Sing a simple song of praise such as “God is So Good” or “Jesus Loves Me” together while children use the blocks as musical instruments.

SAY “The Bible tells us that when Jesus’ followers in Judea heard that people from other nations had believed the good news about Jesus, they praised God. God wants us to celebrate when others believe in Jesus. The good news about Jesus is for everyone.”

2 BUILD A CHURCH BUILDING BY STACKING CUPS

Set out several stacks of disposable cups. Show children how to stack them, and encourage children to build a church building with the cups. Talk about the Bible story as children build. Explain that the church meets in a building, but the church is people—Christians around the world working together.

SAY “I love how well you worked together to build such a big church building with the cups. It’s nice that we have buildings to meet in with other Christians so we can worship God together. But it is important to remember that the church is not a building; it is all Christians around the world working together to tell others about Jesus.”

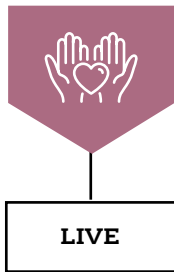
3 MATCH LUGGAGE TAGS

Gather several pairs of matching luggage tags. Scatter the tags on a low table or the floor to create a matching game for children. Consider adding an extra challenge for older children by placing half of the pairs in a gift bag and let children choose one from the table and try to find its match by touch. Talk conversationally about the Bible story as children work. (Option: Cut several pairs of cardstock luggage tags using a die cut machine or print some from online onto cardstock and cut them apart. Laminate for extra durability.)

SAY “In our Bible story today, we learned that some of the believers in Antioch only told other Jews about Jesus. But then, some believers came to Antioch and told the Gentiles about Jesus, too. Many people believed in Jesus, so the Jerusalem church sent Barnabas to visit the new believers. Barnabas traveled to Antioch and saw that God was with all the believers there. He was glad. He encouraged them to keep following God. The gospel spread, and many people believed in Jesus. The good news about Jesus is for everyone.”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 MAKE A PHOTO ALBUM

Gather photos of people in your church children recognize: pastor, worship leaders, custodians, secretaries, preschool teachers, childrens' parents, and so on. Set out photos with a simple photo album. Invite children to choose a photo to add to the book. Assist as needed in sliding the photos into the album sleeves. Say the key passage phrase together as children work. (Option: Add the album to your book area permanently.)

SAY “ In our church, we work together to tell others about Jesus. God wants all Christians to work together to tell about Jesus. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Invite preschoolers to play a fun movement game. Lead preschoolers to play the standard “Simon Says” game with a Florida twist. Sample instructions: “Simon says: Walk like a crab,” “Simon says: ride a surfboard,” “Build a sandcastle,” “Simon says: swim in the ocean,” “Simon says: jump up like a dolphin,” “Crawl like an alligator,” “Simon says: stand tall like a palm tree,” “Pretend to reel in a fish.” (Note: If the instructions do not include “Simon Says,” the preschoolers should stay still.) Close by praying for more churches to start in South Florida.

SAY “ South Florida has beautiful beaches, nature areas, and gardens, but people there need to hear about Jesus. Pastor David McCaman and his wife, Jennifer, have led churches in Tennessee, Florida, and Bangkok, Thailand. Their time in these other places helped them be ready to plant a new church in South Florida. **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** ”

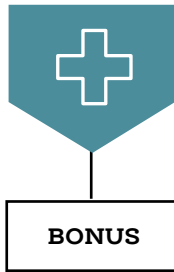
3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “ The gospel spread even when people tried to stop it. The good news about Jesus is for everyone. God wants us to celebrate when others believe in Jesus. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 TRAVEL TO ANTIOCH FROM JERUSALEM

Tape a line around the room ending at the large group area. Label one end Jerusalem and the other Antioch. Line up and let kids walk along the tape line as you welcome them, talking about how the road between Jerusalem and Antioch was long; it would have been a difficult trip to make in Bible times. Upon arrival in “Antioch,” tell everyone to sit down. Explain that in our story today, Barnabas took a trip on behalf of the church in Jerusalem. Let’s find out why he went and what he was going to do there.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Acts 11:1-18 and tell the following Bible story.

GENTILES BECAME PART OF THE CHURCH

- Peter told many people about Jesus, no matter who they were or where they came from. He shared the good news with Jews and also with Gentiles—people who were not Jews.
- The people heard the good news, and many believed in Jesus. When Jesus’ followers heard that people from other nations had believed the good news about Jesus, they praised God!
- Some of Jesus’ followers went to Antioch and told other people about Jesus. When those people heard the good news, many of them believed.
- Barnabas visited the new believers and told them to keep following God.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “B-I-N-G-O.”

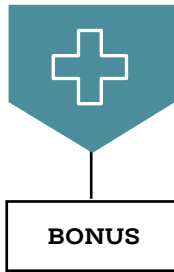
“Like a body has many parts
The church has many people
Who work together,
Who work together,
Who work together.
1 Corinthians 12:12”

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Provide cups for preschoolers to stack. Lead children to stack the cups while repeating the key passage phrase with you. Once boys and girls say the whole phrase, allow them to knock over the tower. Repeat if desired and time allows.

5 PRAY

Thank God for people who tell others about Jesus. Ask God to help us be bold and share the good news about Jesus, too.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 MARCH IN A PARADE

Set out paper and crayons or markers. Ask children to make a sign or a picture for a parade. Talk about the reasons people have parades to celebrate events. Remind children of the Christ connection as they work. March around the room with children while they hold their signs and shout, “Jesus is for everyone.”

SAY “ Thank you for marching in the parade with me. The believers in Judea were excited about the new believers in Antioch. We can celebrate when more people choose to believe in Jesus. It is a party-worthy day when someone believes in Jesus! ”

7 SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

Use paper confetti or large glitter pieces for this activity. Consider having a vacuum or broom and dustpan handy for the end. Clean children’s hands well when finished. Give each child a small handful of confetti and tell them to visit with every friend in the room to give a piece or two of their confetti to their friend. When everyone is finished, gather them all together again and observe the room, their hands, etc.

SAY “ What do you notice about the confetti? Is it still in your hands? Did it spread around the room? Is it stuck to other people you visited with? Why do you think that is? In the Bible story, we learned that the good news of Jesus spread from Judea all the way to Antioch, which was far away. It also spread from the Jewish community to the Gentile community. Telling others about Jesus is good. It allows many more people to come to believe in Him. ”

8 MAKE CARDS

Provide 4-by-6-inch cardstock postcards and write *You Are Invited* on the front. Give children markers and crayons to decorate the cards. Allow children to take one home to give to a friend, neighbor, or family member to invite them to church.

SAY “ The Bible teaches that **the church is all Christians everywhere**. The work that Christians do as part of the church is telling others the good news about Jesus. As we share the good news about Jesus, more people come to believe in Jesus and follow Him. Inviting others to come to church services with us is one way to tell others about Jesus. Find a friend, neighbor, or family member to give your invitation to this week. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.



UNIT 32 | SESSION 4

PETER WAS RESCUED FROM PRISON

ACTS 12

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God heard the prayers of the people. He had a plan for Peter, and He helped him escape from prison. Peter wanted to share the good news about Jesus no matter what.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

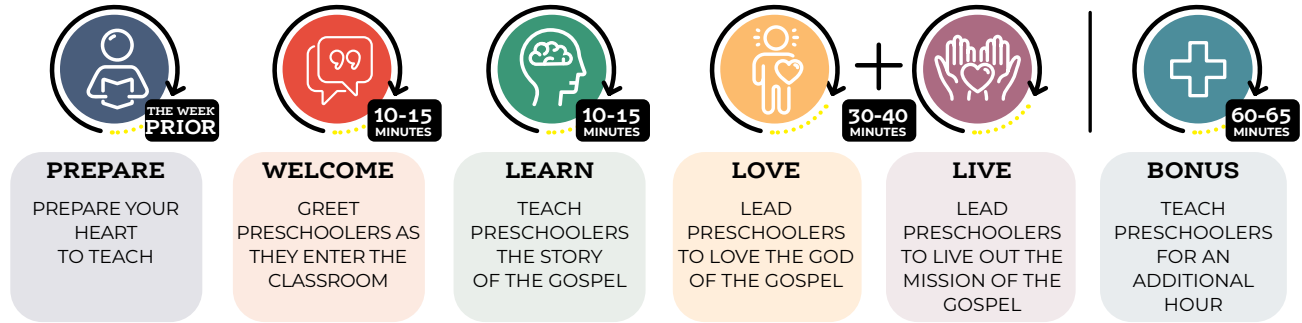
What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

Like a body has many parts, the church has many people who work together.
1 Corinthians 12:12



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



LEADER Bible Study

Acts 12 tells the story of God’s divine and miraculous rescue of His apostle Peter. While King Herod sought to make an example of Peter, it was God alone who was able to showcase His power and might amidst the persecution of the church. This passage highlights the power of prayer amidst hardship and how God’s purposes for His church will prevail despite the futile attempts of the enemy.

What can we learn about God’s plans despite persecution and suffering? What can we learn about living on mission even during our most difficult circumstances?

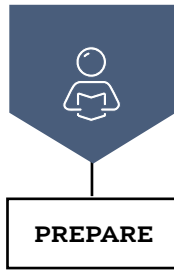
God’s plan for the good of His church, even during persecution, include the fervent prayers of the saints. The intercession of these faithful believers revealed that their only hope was in the Lord, and it was their prayers that were used by God to rescue Peter from prison. As God answered their prayers, He showcased His power to thwart the evil plans of those who wish to harm His church. Peter’s incredible escape from prison reflects the same hope that those who have trusted in Jesus receive as the chains of sin fall off, and we are set free from condemnation. God’s purpose for His church was by no means coming to an end in that prison cell; rather the word of God spread and multiplied. (Acts 12:24)

The consequence of declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ was costly for Peter and for James, who was executed by Herod. Though Herod’s sentence for James was death, to die would mean this disciple’s gain. Peter knew the consequences of sharing the gospel, yet he also believed that Jesus was worth giving his life to, trusting that the salvation of others was worth the risk. Even still, God granted Peter salvation from this prison cell so that he could continue living on mission for Him.

May we be aware that God has done more than send an angel to rescue us from earthly hardship. He sent His very Son to rescue us from the eternal consequence of our sins. Christ’s sacrifice on our behalf offers the hope we need to endure difficulties and the boldness we need to share His divine hope with others.

TERMS TO KNOW

Prayer: talking to God and listening to Him. Prayer makes a difference in what happens (James 4:2), and faith is a condition for answered petitions (Mark 11:24).



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Find doors in the sensory bin

- “Doors” printable, 1 or 2 copies based on size of bin
- Big Picture Question Poster
- sensory bin
- linking toys



LEARN

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Make paper chains

- adhesive dots



LIVE

Make a key passage phrase door hanger

- “Door Hanger” printable, 1 per child
- church- or nature-themed stickers

Missions activity

- “Faces from Many Nations” printable

Snack and transition

- snacks
- Activity Page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards For Families, 1 per child



BONUS

Knock like Peter

- hard surface such as a table, back of a shelf, etc.

Unbuild a block tower

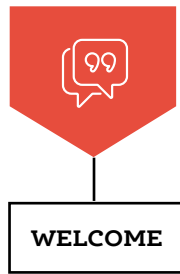
- large interlocking blocks
- index cards, 15

Dot paint a P for prayer

- dot paints

Build a prison

- interlocking blocks



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the *Love* and *Live* sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the *Love* and *Live* sections of the leader guide.

FIND DOORS IN THE SENSORY BIN

Print and cut apart “Doors” printable. Bury in the sensory bin under linking toys linked together in varying lengths to create “chains.” Place sensory bin near the big picture question and poster. Guide conversation as children work to spark curiosity about the Bible story, but also talk about the difference between a church building and the church as people. (Option: Paper chains or pool noodle slices linked together will work well if other linking toys are not available.)

SAY “ I am so glad you’re here today. We have been learning about a big idea that some people have a hard time understanding. You know that a lot of people think the church is just a building with doors and windows. But the Bible tells us that **the church is all Christians everywhere**. In the Bible story today, we will learn about a time the church was praying together for someone. And guess what: There is a door and there are some chains in the Bible story! ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Enlist someone the children would like to see, like your children's director or pastor, to knock on the door as children are seated in group time. Wait for children to notice the knocking on the door and excuse yourself to answer it. Follow the script in the "Say" portion.

SAY “ I wonder who could be at the door? Were you expecting someone? [Go peek out the door and then come back to the group, leaving the person behind the closed door.] Well! What a surprise! It's [visitor's name]! So, I was going to tell you about our Bible story today. ... Silly me! I forgot to let [visitor] in the room! Let me go open the door! [Invite the visitor in.] Sorry, friend! I got so excited that I didn't even open the door to let you in. I was just about to tell everyone our Bible story today. Let's find out what happened! ”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Acts 12. Tell the Bible story using the provided story below.

PETER WAS RESCUED FROM PRISON

SAY “ King Herod put Peter in prison. Believers in the church prayed and asked God to help him.

Peter was sleeping in the prison. All of a sudden, an angel appeared. The angel woke up Peter.

“Quick, get up!” the angel said. The chains fell off of Peter's wrists. He followed the angel out of the prison. He walked past the guards. The gate opened for them, and they walked out onto the street. Then the angel left. The Lord had rescued him!

Peter hurried to a house where other believers were praying. When Peter knocked at the door, a servant named Rhoda answered. She heard Peter's voice and she was so happy she ran back inside without letting Peter in.

“Peter is here!” she said. “He is at the door!”

No one believed her. But Peter kept knocking, so they opened the door and welcomed him in. Peter told them how the Lord had rescued him from prison. ”

Christ Connection: God heard the prayers of the people. He had a plan for Peter, and He helped him escape from prison. Peter wanted to share the good news about Jesus no matter what.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Instruct the children to make happy and sad faces to reflect the actions you retell from the story.

SAY “ Peter was in prison. (sad face) The believers in the church prayed and asked God to help Peter. Peter was asleep and in chains. (sad face) God heard and answered their prayers by sending an angel to help Peter. (happy face) Peter’s chains just fell off and he walked right out of the prison. (happy face) God had a plan for Peter and helped him escape from prison. (happy face) Peter wanted to share the good news about Jesus no matter what. (happy face) ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “B-I-N-G-O.”

“Like a body has many parts
The church has many people
Who work together,
Who work together,
Who work together.
1 Corinthians 12:12”

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Lead preschoolers to learn the key passage phrase. Ask children how many know the motions to “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes.” Demonstrate touching your head, shoulders, knees, and toes while asking your question. Explain that as you say the key passage phrase, you will do those motions together, one motion per word.

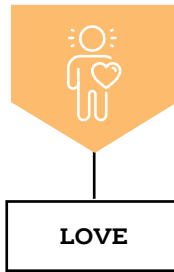
SAY “ Just like our bodies have a head, shoulders, knees, and toes—and so many other parts to it—the church has many people that are part of it. Each person who is part of the church has a job to do. For the body to work right, all the parts have to work together. So too in the church, people must work together to tell the world about Jesus. ”

6 PRAY

Thank God for hearing the prayers of believers in the church, both in Peter’s time and ours. Thank God for His plan for each believer.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 **ACT OUT THE STORY**



Place the Bible story picture and a Bible nearby. Use construction paper to make some name signs for various Bible people: Angel, King Herod, Peter, Rhoda, Guard, Praying Believer. Make one sign per preschooler, adding additional guards and praying believers as needed. Angel, King Herod, Peter, Rhoda, Guards (make a couple of these), Praying Believers (make several of these). Retell the story as children act it out. Allow them to speak some, if desired. For example, “Throw Peter in prison,” could be something King Herod might have said. Provide guidance as needed.

SAY “King Herod had a plan to stop Peter, but God had a plan for Peter’s life. He rescued Peter from prison so Peter could continue to tell people about Jesus. The believers in the church also learned that God hears our prayers. Peter told people the good news about Jesus no matter what.”

2 **MAKE PAPER CHAINS**

Cut 1-by-6-inch strips of construction paper. Set them on a table with adhesive dots. Demonstrate making a paper loop and gluing the ends together. Help the children make paper chain links from the paper strips. Make the loops at either end as wide as possible so they will fall off the children’s wrists. Demonstrate sliding them on and then letting them fall off onto the floor.

SAY “Remember in the Bible story Peter was in chains inside the prison. The believers in the church were praying for God to help Peter. God heard their prayers and sent an angel to rescue him. The angel woke Peter up, and his chains just fell off. Peter and the angel walked right out of the prison and past the guards, and no one stopped them. God’s plan was for Peter to continue to tell people about Jesus.”

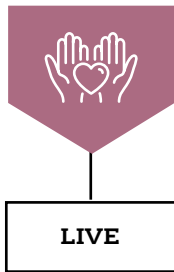
3 **MAKE PRAYER REMINDERS**

Give each child some crayons and a sheet of construction paper folded in half. Line up each child’s hand on the fold and trace around it. Then cut it out without crossing the fold line. The hands should open like a book and resemble praying hands when closed. Allow children to draw people they can pray for inside the reminder book. Write on the outside: [Child’s name]’s Prayer Reminder. Talk about the people they will pray for as you work together.

SAY “Believers in the church were praying for God to help Peter. God listened to their prayers. He rescued Peter from the prison. God hears the prayers of believers in the church today, too. We can pray for others. Use your prayer reminder to help you remember to pray for the people you know.”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 MAKE A KEY PASSAGE PHRASE DOOR HANGER

Print and prep the “Door Hanger” printable for each child. Set markers, stickers, and door hangers on a table for children to decorate. Read the key passage phrase together as they work.

SAY “ The key passage phrase says the church is made up of many people who work together. Believers in the church can do many things together to help tell about Jesus, but they can also pray for other believers. Everyone in the church in the Bible story was praying for Peter. They were working together by asking God to help Peter. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY

Print a copy of the “Faces from Many Nations” printable for every group of four preschoolers. Cut apart the cards and mix them up. Place the cards facedown. Form groups of four preschoolers. Tell a preschooler to turn over two cards to see if the faces match. If he discovers a match, he may keep the cards. If the cards do not match, he should put the cards facedown again, and another child takes a turn. After preschoolers match all the cards, allow them to mix up the cards and place them facedown to play another round. Lead a prayer for Gospel City Church and its leaders and members as they work to tell many people from many different places about Jesus.

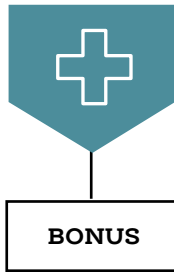
SAY “ Pastor David McCaman and his wife, Jennifer, started a church called Gospel City Church. Half of the people living in the area were born in another country. Many of them do not know much about Jesus. The McCamans know people can be different in many ways, but they know Jesus loves every person the same. **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** ”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION

Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “ God heard the prayers of the people. He had a plan for Peter, and He helped him escape from prison. Peter wanted to share the good news about Jesus no matter what. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 **KNOCK LIKE PETER**

Place a shelf or other hard surface nearby. Call children one by one, telling them to knock loudly on the “door” before entering the group time area.

SAY: Excellent work! I heard you so clearly. Thank you for letting me know you were here by knocking on my ‘door.’ In our Bible story today, we will learn about a time someone knocked on a door. Let’s find out who it was!

2 **TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY**

Open the Bible to Acts 12 and talk about the Bible story using the summarized points below.

PETER WAS RESCUED FROM PRISON

- The king of Judea put Peter in prison for talking about Jesus. Jesus’ followers prayed and asked God to help Peter.
- One night, Peter was sleeping in the prison. All of a sudden, an angel appeared. The angel woke up Peter and told him to get up. The chains fell off of Peter’s wrists. He followed the angel out of the prison. Then the angel left. The Lord had rescued him!
- Peter hurried to a house where his friends were praying. They were so surprised!
- Peter knocked until they opened the door and welcomed him in. God had heard and answered their prayers!

3 **SING A SONG**

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “B-I-N-G-O.”

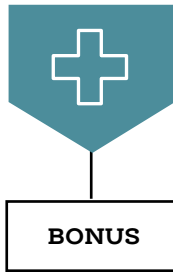
“Like a body has many parts
The church has many people
Who work together,
Who work together,
Who work together.
1 Corinthians 12:12”

4 **SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE**

Stack 15 large interlocking blocks near the Bible. Write one word of the key passage phrase on separate strips of masking tape and attach the tape to the blocks in word order. Place the key passage phrase marker at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Invite children to take one word off the stack as you say the key passage phrase together and “unbuild” the tower.

5 **PRAY**

Thank God for all Christians who work together to tell others about Jesus.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 LISTEN TO PEOPLE PRAY TOGETHER

Work with children to make a list on construction paper of people they can pray for such as pastors, church staff, teachers, friends, family, etc. Lead children to pray together. Allow willing children to pray for someone, but do not insist. If no child wants to pray aloud, model praying aloud for the group.

SAY “ One thing we can do as believers in the church is to pray for others. In our story today, we learned that the people of the church were praying for Peter. Peter was in prison and needed help. The believers in the church knew that God could help Peter. God heard their prayers and rescued Peter. ”

7 DOT PAINT A P FOR PRAYER

Draw a large P on a piece of paper for each child. Place the paper and dot paints on a table for children to use. Instruct children to dot along the lines to make a P. Talk about how prayer starts with P, and ask what other words they can think of that start with P (Peter, prison, people, etc.). Guide conversation around the Bible story.

SAY “ We have heard lots of words today with the letter P at the beginning of them. One of the most important is *prayer*. The people in the church prayed for Peter. God heard their prayers and rescued Peter from prison. It is important to pray for people, especially when they are like Peter and being put into prison for teaching others about Jesus. Peter wanted to tell people the good news about Jesus. ”

8 BUILD A PRISON

Set out interlocking blocks for children to build a prison. Retell the Bible story points as they work. Encourage them to expand their building to include a house with a door that could be knocked on, if time allows. Help preschoolers relate their buildings to the Bible story by talking about the prison building Peter was in and the house where the believers gathered to pray.

SAY “ King Herod had Peter thrown in prison for teaching people about Jesus. The Bible says Peter was in chains inside the prison. The believers in the church prayed to God, asking Him to help Peter. God heard their prayers and sent an angel to walk Peter out of the prison. Peter went to the house where the people were praying for him. At first, no one believed he was knocking on the door. But once he was inside, they welcomed him. God had a plan for Peter’s life. Peter continued to teach people about Jesus. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.



UNIT 32 | SESSION 5

WE ARE PART OF ONE CHURCH

1 CORINTHIANS 12

CHRIST CONNECTION:

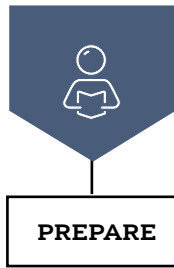
Paul told the believers in the church to come together. Jesus saves sinners. Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers can come together as one church.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

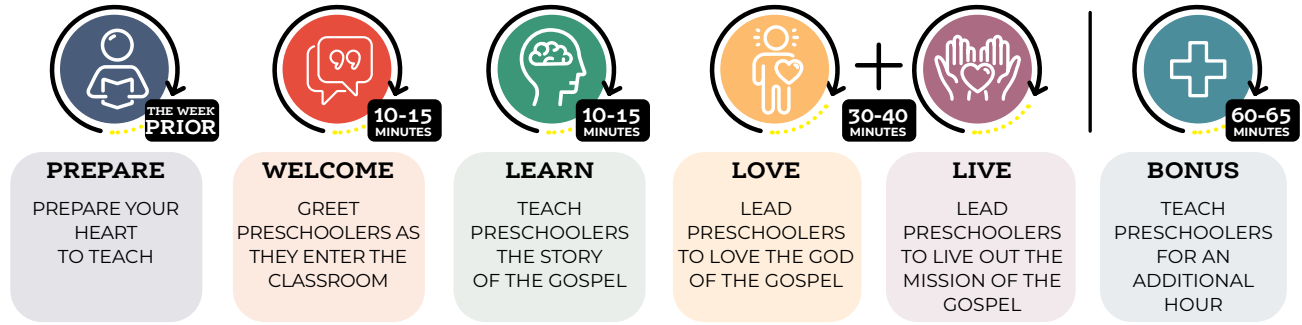
What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

Like a body has many parts, the church has many people who work together.
1 Corinthians 12:12



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



LEADER Bible Study

The twelfth chapter of Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth is known for its role in encouraging the church body toward unity. Steering us away from division and partiality, this passage reminds us that we each have a role to play in Christ’s mission of sharing the gospel. Our differences can serve to strengthen us, if only we walk together in obedience to Jesus’ mission through the power of the Holy Spirit.

How can we best determine how to serve within the body of Christ? What does unity look like in the modern-day church?

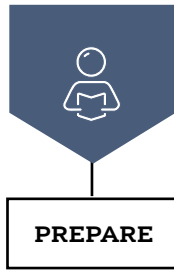
It can often be difficult to determine how we can serve within the church. We might even feel like the service we have to offer is unimportant. Yet, Paul wrote to encourage the Corinthian church to remember that all roles within the body of Christ are indispensable. As we seek to serve within the church, we can consider our interests, passions, and giftings, which are given to us by God for His glory. Like Paul wrote in verse 17, if we all try to take on the same role within the church, we do not function in the ways God designed us. Therefore, we can trust that the gifts and interests God has given us play an important role in the purpose of His church and in the edification of the saints toward gospel-centered unity.

Though we are not all called to be pastors, we might be given the roles of Sunday School teachers, small group leaders, camera operators, sound engineers, bakers, meal deliverers, and so on for our churches. Paul calls us to pursue unity in the body, even amidst our diverse giftings in the church. He reminds us that the same Spirit is active within all believers, yet working uniquely within each of us as He calls us to serve for our common good. We can rejoice that God uses diverse people with various giftings to demonstrate how the Spirit unites us all to one another through Christ.

As you prepare to teach this session, remember that every member of the body of Christ, including you and all the preschoolers in your classroom, have an essential role to play in building up God’s church! As you boldly proclaim these truths of the gospel, pray that your group will pursue unity and seek how they can serve within the body of Christ.

DOCTRINE TO KNOW

Unity of the Church: Christ’s desire for the church is that we be united as one in Him by the gospel, allowing for no divisions to separate us.



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Find hearts in the sensory bin

- Big Picture Question and Answer Poster
- heart cutouts
- sensory bin
- people figures



LEARN

Review the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- basket

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Draw hearts in shaving cream

- shaving cream
- trays or a sealed tabletop
- smocks
- gallon-size ziplock bags, several

Make a handprint banner

- butcher paper
- washable ink pads or shallow pan of paint
- baby wipes or bucket of soapy water and paper towels
- smocks



LIVE

Play "What's Missing?"

- felt board or dry erase board
- felt pieces or dry erase markers

Missions activity

- pineapple rings
- baby carrots or pretzel sticks
- paper plates
- knife (teacher use only)

Snack and transition

- snacks
- Activity Page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards For Families, 1 per child



BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

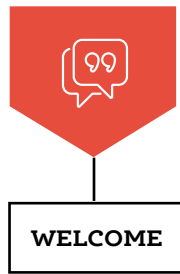
- globe beach ball
- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Five senses search

- felt board
- felt pieces

Draw self-portraits

- butcher paper



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the *Love* and *Live* sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the *Love* and *Live* sections of the leader guide.

FIND HEARTS IN THE SENSORY BIN

Place the sensory bin near the big picture question poster. Place heart cutouts in the sensory bin and bury them under plastic people figures. Use the big picture question poster as children dig for the hidden hearts and talk about the poster and about the hearts and why the hearts might be buried under the people figures.

SAY “ I am so glad you came to our class today. God loves all the people in the world so much. The hearts in our sensory bin can remind us of His love. The people remind me that when people believe in Jesus and follow Him, they become Christians. Christians are all part of the church. In today’s Bible story, we will be talking about the church. Paul told the believers in the church to come together. Jesus saves sinners. Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers can come together as one church. **The church is all Christians everywhere.** ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Ask children to show you ‘thumbs up.’ Then ask them to show ‘thumbs down.’ Tell children you will name ways the body functions and ways the body cannot while they show thumbs up if the body can do the action or thumbs down if it cannot. Example actions: Eyes can blink. (Thumbs up), Ears can smell. (Thumbs down), Mouths can eat food. (up), Stomachs can smell. (down), and so on.

SAY “Welcome! This was a fun game! It was silly thinking about things like our stomach or ears doing something they can’t. Do you know what a word picture is? A word picture is when someone describes one thing by using another to help explain it. In the Bible, there are a lot of word pictures. Jesus sometimes talked about people by describing them as sheep. Today, we learn Paul wrote about the church like it is a person.”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 12. Tell the Bible story using the provided story below.

WE ARE PART OF ONE CHURCH

SAY “Paul wrote a letter and said that the church works together like one body. “Think about the human body,” Paul wrote. “It is one body, but it is made up of many parts. All the parts work together as one body.” Paul said that Jesus is like this. Many different people belong to Jesus.

A body has many parts, and all the parts are important. Paul wrote, “A foot shouldn’t say, ‘I am not a hand, so I am not part of the body.’ A foot is just as much a part of the body as a hand.

“Imagine if the whole body were an eye. How would it hear? Imagine if the whole body were an ear. How would it smell? God has made each part of the body just as He wanted. An eye can’t say to the hand, ‘I do not need you!’ and the head can’t say to the feet, ‘I do not need you!’”

Paul said that the church—like the human body—should be one. “Not everyone is the same, but every part of the body of Christ is important.”

Christ Connection: Paul told the believers in the church to come together. Jesus saves sinners. Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers can come together as one church.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Place a basket near the Bible story picture with a beanbag. Children will take turns tossing the beanbag into the basket while answering questions about the story. Example questions: Did Paul write a letter to the church? (yes) Did the letter talk about dogs and cats? (no) What did the letter talk about? (the church, the body parts and what they do, etc.) Why do Christians need to work together? (to tell about Jesus, to obey God, etc.) Name something in the church someone can do to tell about Jesus. (preach, teach, sing, help, etc.)

SAY “ Good job! Paul wrote a letter to the church comparing it to a person’s body. People use feet, hands, eyes, ears, and so on in order to go places, do activities, see and hear things. That’s like the church. People have different things they are good at, but all Christians are part of the church and have work to do. God wants us to work together happily. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “B-I-N-G-O.”

“Like a body has many parts
The church has many people
Who work together,
Who work together,
Who work together.
1 Corinthians 12:12”

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Lead preschoolers to learn the key passage phrase. Ask children to say the key passage phrase while pantomiming using their knees to “eat” with, their ears to “paint” with, etc.

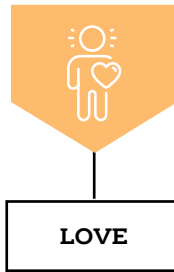
SAY “ That was hard! God didn’t make our knees to feed us or our ears for holding paint brushes, did He? He made each person in the church to do His work in a unique way. We can work together and help each other do God’s work. ”

6 PRAY

Thank God for the church, consider naming specific people the children know who work at church.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 **PLAY A GAME**



Wrap a lightweight square block in construction paper like a gift. Create a number cube by printing a number 1-6 on each face of the block using a marker. Take turns rolling the cube and doing the action indicated for each number: 1–jump, 2–run in place, 3–clap hands, 4–nod/shake head, 5–wiggle all over, 6–spin around once

SAY “Just like God made our bodies to do different things, He made the people in the church to do different jobs. Our feet can’t do what our heads can do, just like someone who teaches a Sunday school class may not go on a mission trip. God made every Christian to help tell about Jesus, but not all Christians have the same job to do.”

2 **DRAW HEARTS IN SHAVING CREAM**

Choose which method you want to use and prepare the work area. Invite children to draw hearts in the shaving cream. As children play, talk about God’s love for people, the work of the church, ways we use our hands to help, and so on. Method 1: Assist preschoolers in putting on smocks. Squirt shaving cream on trays or a table. Method 2: Squirt shaving cream into gallon-size bags, seal out excess air, and tape to a flat surface.

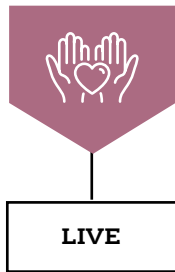
SAY “Paul told believers in the church to come together. Jesus saves sinners. Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers can come together as one church. Working together in this way shows people who do not know Jesus how much He loves them.”

3 **MAKE A HANDPRINT BANNER**

Write the key passage phrase neatly on a long strip of butcher paper. Place washable ink pads or a shallow pan of paint nearby. Supply baby wipes or a bucket of soapy water and towels for children to wash hands when finished. Invite children to make handprints all around the key passage phrase. When finished, hang the banner for all to see.

SAY “Thank you for working together to make such a lovely banner. It says, ‘Like a body has many parts, the church has many people who work together. 1 Corinthians 12:12.’ Our class is part of the church. We have all these friends with us and we worked together to make this banner. This is part of what Paul meant when he wrote down the letter to the church.”





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 PLAY “WHAT’S MISSING?”

Display a felt board or dry erase board. Use felt pieces cut like face parts (head, eyes, nose, ears, lips, eyebrows, mustaches, glasses, etc.) to form a face on the felt board or draw a face with a dry erase marker. Be sure to leave off an essential part. Invite preschoolers to identify what part is missing. Play again by rebuilding or redrawing the face, leaving off a different part each time.

SAY “When a part is missing, is the face complete? (no) That’s like church! When a Christian is not helping at church, the church is not working together like it should be. We all must work together to tell the world about Jesus. We all have a part to play.”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Post an allergy alert. Before the session, core a pineapple and cut it into rings or use canned pineapple rings. If using baby carrots, cut them in half lengthwise. Wash or sanitize preschoolers’ hands. Then distribute a plate, pineapple ring, and 8 to 10 baby carrots or pretzel sticks to each child. Encourage preschoolers to arrange the carrots or pretzels around the pineapple to make sun rays. Talk about the warm weather in Florida and that it is called “The Sunshine State.”

SAY “South Florida has many beaches where people like to go to enjoy the sunshine. What do you like to do at the beach? David and Jennifer McCaman started Gospel City Church in South Florida. Remember our big picture question and answer: **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** Let’s pray together for the McCaman family, that they can be a light and share the love of Jesus wherever they go.”

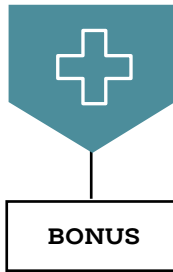
3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “Paul told the believers in the church to come together. Jesus saves sinners. Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers can come together as one church.”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 FIND ALIKE AND DIFFERENT

Name some likenesses/differences (hair color, eye color, favorite animals, favorite foods, etc.). Lead children to stand on likenesses and sit on differences. Point out that there are things we have in common and things that make us different. This is part of God's good plan. He also planned for the church to be all Christians around the world working together to share the good news about Jesus.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to 1 Corinthians 12 and talk about the Bible story using the summarized points below.

WE ARE PART OF ONE CHURCH

- Paul wrote a letter. He said that the church works together like one body. Paul wrote, "The body is made up of many parts. All the parts work together."
- A body has many parts, and all the parts are important. Paul wrote, "A foot shouldn't say, 'I am not a hand, so I am not part of the body.' If the whole body were an eye, how would it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how would it smell?"
- God has made each part of the body just as He wanted. Paul said that Jesus is like this. Many different people belong to Jesus. The church—like the human body—should be one.
- "Not everyone is the same, but every part of the church is important."

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "B-I-N-G-O."

"Like a body has many parts
The church has many people
Who work together,
Who work together,
Who work together.
1 Corinthians 12:12"

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Inflate a globe ball. Place the key passage phrase marker at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Open the Bible to the key passage. Pass the ball around the circle, and lead the children to say the key passage phrase together. Point out that the ball is a model of the world. Christians around the world work together to tell others about Jesus.

5 PRAY

Thank God for opportunities to tell others about Jesus.



BONUS

TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 USE PLAY DOUGH



Give each child some play dough and ask them to make hands, feet, ears, eyes or other parts of the body mentioned in today's Bible story. Talk about the various roles in the church that could be assigned the parts named in the Bible, such as mouth = preacher, heart = teacher, hands and feet = people who serve others, and so on. Explain that God gives different people different skills and talents to do the work of the church.

SAY “ God places Christians in the church to tell others about the good news of Jesus. God enables Christians to work together as the church. ”

7 FIVE SENSES SEARCH

Review with preschoolers what abilities some parts of their bodies have. What do you hear with? (ears) See with? (eyes) Taste with? (mouth) Feel with? (hands) Smell with? (nose) Call out different senses prompts and invite children to search around the room for something that matches the prompt: Find something ... that feels soft, that sounds loud, that smells sweet, that looks beautiful.

SAY “ A body has many parts, and all the parts are important. Paul wrote, “A foot shouldn't say, 'I am not a hand, so I am not part of the body.' If the whole body were an eye, how would it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how would it smell?” God has made each part of the body just as He wanted. Paul said that Jesus is like this. Many different people belong to Jesus. The church—like the human body—should be one. ”

8 DRAW SELF-PORTRAITS

Give each child a sheet of butcher paper to lay down on. Trace around each child with a marker. Allow children to decorate themselves with markers. Talk about the Bible story as they work, reminding them to draw any parts they miss (two eyes, two ears, fingers, etc.).

SAY “ Paul wrote the church in Corinth and told them the church is like a body. You drew your body. Paul said all the ‘body parts’ in the church are actually individual people. You have fingers, toes, hands, feet, and so on. Each part of your body has an important job in your daily life. So too, the Christians are the church, each has an important job in telling others about Jesus. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church's security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.



UNIT 33 | SESSION 1

PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

ACTS 9

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Paul was an enemy of Jesus, but then God changed him. When we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

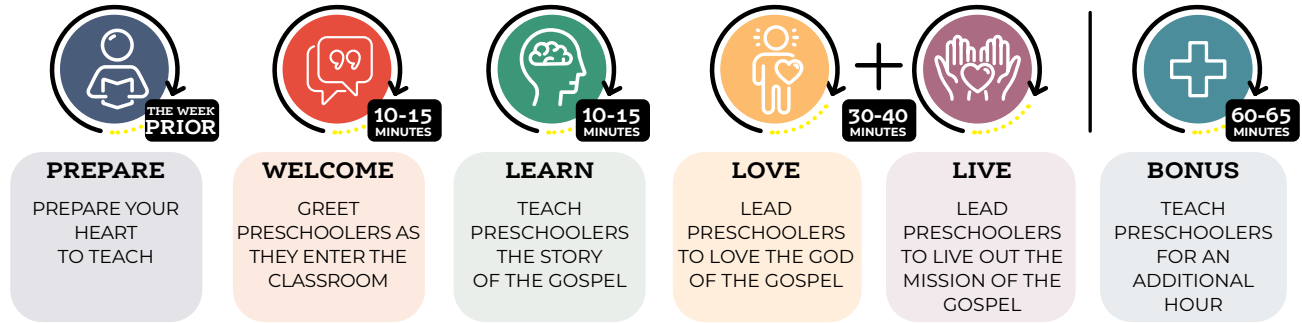
Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is saved.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people. John 3:17



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



LEADER Bible Study

The Acts 9 story of how Saul of Tarsus came to be a follower of Jesus is a widely known passage that reveals an essential truth for us as believers: God has the power to transform the hearts and lives of anyone who places their faith in Him. The power of the Holy Spirit changes us from the inside out, and the same Lord who transformed Saul causes us to talk in new life when we turn to Christ.

What do we learn about the role of God's saving grace in this story? How can our testimonies reflect the same Spirit-empowered life change as Saul's?

God sought out Saul for the work of His kingdom, despite the hostility and malice this former Pharisee had toward the Christian church. Nothing in Saul's story—not even the wrongful executions and imprisonment of Christ's disciples—was too big for God to forgive by grace through faith in His Son, Jesus. Through his experience on the road to Damascus, Saul realized the weight of his own sin, the power of this mighty God, and the only chance he had in being made right before Him: surrendering his life to Jesus. Nothing Saul did could separate him from God's love for him in Jesus. The same is true for us!

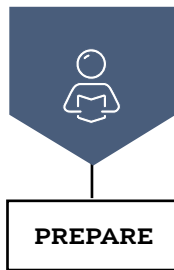
Later, in a letter to his protégé Timothy, Saul—also known by his Greek name, Paul—

wrote, “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners’—and I am the worst of them” (1 Tim. 1:15). He knew he needed God's grace to be made right before the Father and that trusting in Jesus was his only means of being saved.

Teach the kids in your group that all of us, no matter how young or old we are, needed Jesus to come into the world to save us. The gospel transforms our hearts and propels us to share the life we've found in Jesus with all who will listen. How can you equip your class with the excitement and knowledge of Jesus Christ that will lead them to share of His love, just as Paul did?

TERMS TO KNOW

Christian: From the Greek noun *Christos* (“Christ” or “Messiah”) comes the word *Christianos*, meaning “belonging to Christ.” The disciples were first called “Christians” in Antioch. (Acts 11:26)



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Find and complete the hidden puzzle

- Big Picture Question Poster



LEARN

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Guess the items

- shoebox with lid
- people figure
- animal figure

Find and spell Jesus

- large plastic container
- play sand
- plastic tablecloth
- magnetic letters or letter tiles to spell Jesus



LIVE

Create a texture collage

- items with various textures (lace, sandpaper, bubble pack, curling ribbon, aluminum foil, ect.)
- "Key Passage Phrase Labels" printable, 1 copy

Missions activity

- "Betsey Stockton Photo" printable
- pillows
- blankets
- books, children's Bibles, and Bible storybooks

Snack and transition

- snacks
- Activity Page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards For Families, 1 per child



BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

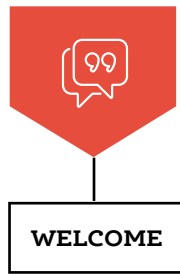
- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Make a sound shaker

- empty plastic water bottles, 1 per child
- dried beans
- dried rice
- sand
- funnel
- stickers (optional)

Follow the light

- flashlight



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the *Love and Live* sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the *Love and Live* sections of the leader guide.

FIND AND COMPLETE THE HIDDEN PUZZLE

Post the big picture question poster near the entrance to the classroom. On the back of the Bible story picture, write a message that says, *Paul was an enemy of Jesus, but then God changed him. When we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out.* Cut the Bible story picture into a two-piece puzzle. Tape the puzzle pieces in two separate places in the classroom. Greet preschoolers as they enter the room. Encourage them to find the puzzle pieces and complete the puzzle. Give clues as needed to help boys and girls. Celebrate when the puzzle is completed. Read the message on the back of the puzzle to preschoolers and talk about the picture. Encourage preschoolers to hide the puzzle pieces again for the next preschooler to find.

SAY “ I am so glad that you are at church today. Our big picture question and answer is, **Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is saved.** Today’s Bible story is about Paul. He trusted in Jesus and was saved. ”





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Invite preschoolers to find a friend or two and lead them to group time by holding hands. Allow a preschooler to lead you to group time if needed.

SAY “ In our Bible story today, Paul was traveling along when a very bright light came down from heaven. He could not see. The men who were traveling with Paul led him into the city. ”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Acts 9:1-30 and tell the following Bible story.

PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

SAY “ In the early days of the church, Paul worked hard to stop people from telling about Jesus. Paul was traveling along when a very bright light came down from heaven. Paul fell to the ground. Then Paul heard a voice saying, “Why are you against Me?”

“Who are You, Lord?” Paul asked.

“I am Jesus,” He said. Jesus told Paul to go into the city and wait for more instructions.

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

A man named Ananias (an uh NIGH uhs) lived in the city. God told him to go visit Paul. God said, “I have chosen Paul to tell many people about Me.”

Ananias went to Paul and said, “Jesus sent me here to help you.” Then Ananias put his hands on Paul, and Paul could see again. Paul got up and was baptized.

Paul went to the synagogues. “Jesus is the Son of God!” Paul said. The people were amazed. They knew Paul had been an enemy of Jesus, but now he loved Jesus! ”

Christ Connection: Paul was an enemy of Jesus, but then God changed him. When we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Ask preschoolers how they think the people felt at different times in the story. Encourage boys and girls to show each expression with their faces as they answer. Review different parts of the story such as the bright light coming down from heaven, Paul hearing Jesus' voice, Paul opening his eyes and not being able to see, Ananias placing his hands on Paul, and the people hearing Paul teach.

SAY “ You showed how Paul and the other people in our story felt. How would you feel if you saw a bright light come down from heaven? How does it make you feel to know that when we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out? ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow.”

“God sent His Son, Jesus.
God sent His Son, Jesus.
God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people.”

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

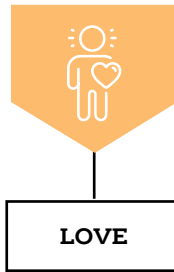
Place the key passage phrase marker at John 3:17. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Lead preschoolers to learn the key passage phrase by using the following motions as you repeat the key passage phrase several times: God (point upward) sent His Son, Jesus (touch the palm of each hand with a finger from the opposite hand), into the world (stretch arms outward) to save people (point to people in the classroom). John 3:17.

SAY “ God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people. Jesus saved Paul. Paul had been an enemy of Jesus, but then God changed him. He loved Jesus! ”

6 PRAY

Pray. Thank God for changing Paul. Thank God that when we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out.





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 LEAD FRIENDS



Invite three or four preschoolers to form a line and hold hands, creating a chain. Hold hands with the first child in line and lead the boys and girls around the classroom. Navigate preschoolers around classroom furniture and fixtures. Be cautious of your pace so that everyone is able to keep up. Allow boys and girls an opportunity to lead their friends as well.

SAY “ You did a great job leading your friends around the obstacles in the room. Paul’s friends had to lead him into the city. He was traveling when a very bright light came down from heaven. A voice asked him, ‘Why are you against me?’ It was Jesus. Jesus told him to go into the city and wait for more instructions. When Paul opened his eyes, he couldn’t see anything. His friends had to lead him. ”

2 GUESS THE ITEMS

Before the session, cut holes on both ends of a shoebox large enough for a preschooler’s hand to fit through. Place a familiar item in the box for the preschooler to feel and try to guess what it is. Items could include a crayon, a marker, a small block, a people figure, or an animal figure. Invite a preschooler to place his hands through the holes and feel the object without looking. Encourage him to guess what he thinks it is. After he has guessed, open the lid to reveal the object.

SAY “ You guessed what was in the box just by feeling it. You could not see what it was. Did you guess correctly? There was a time when Paul could not see. He had been an enemy of Jesus. He worked hard to stop people from telling others about Jesus. When he was traveling, a very bright light came down from heaven. The voice of Jesus asked, ‘Why are you against Me?’ When Paul opened his eyes, he could not see. God sent Ananias to help Paul. Ananias put his hands on Paul, and he could see again. ”

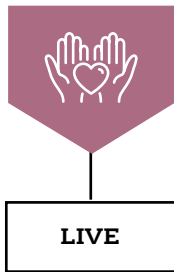
3 FIND AND SPELL JESUS

Fill a large plastic container with 1 to 2 inches of sand. Bury the magnetic letters J-E-S-U-S in the sand. Place a plastic tablecloth on the floor for easier clean up. Place the container of sand on the floor. Write JESUS on a piece of paper for preschoolers to match up with the letters as they find them. Invite preschoolers to dig for the letters. Demonstrate how to match the letters to the word Jesus written on the paper. Encourage boys and girls to bury the letters again after they have spelled Jesus.

SAY “ You spelled the name Jesus. In the early days of the church, Paul worked hard to stop people from telling about Jesus. Paul was an enemy of Jesus, but then God changed him. Paul started teaching that Jesus is the Son of God. When we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out. ”

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 CREATE A TEXTURE COLLAGE

Cut items of various textures into small pieces. Place the textured items, construction paper, and glue sticks on the table for preschoolers to explore. Talk about how the items feel. Invite preschoolers to create a texture collage by gluing the items to their papers. Place a key passage phrase label on the collage as well.

SAY “ The items on your paper all have a different texture that you can feel, even if you cannot see. Paul could not see for a few days after a bright light came down from heaven. Paul was an enemy of Jesus, but then God changed him. Our key passage phrase says, ‘God sent His Son, Jesus, in the world to save people.’ God saved Paul and changed his life. When we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY

Set up a few cozy book nook areas in the room. Tell preschoolers to find a partner and go to a cozy area to read. Tell the preschoolers to take turns “reading” a book to each other, turning the pages, looking at the pictures, and telling what they see. After a few minutes, encourage preschoolers to trade books with other pairs to read and learn from other books. Display the photo of Betsey Stockton.

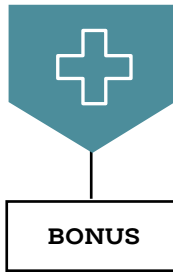
SAY “ Betsey Stockton became interested in learning and reading books in the library of the home she worked in. She also attended evening classes at a college to learn more. She learned about God and His Son, Jesus, at the college. Later, Betsey wanted to be a teacher to help children learn how to read and write. She also wanted to be a missionary to help them know more about Jesus. [Pray and thank God for people like Betsey Stockton who help others learn more about Jesus.] ”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION

Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “ Paul was an enemy of Jesus, but then God changed him. When we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 SHIELD EYES FROM LIGHT

Invite preschoolers to use their hands or arms to pretend to shield their eyes from a bright light as they come to group time.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Acts 9 and talk about the Bible story using the summarized points below.

PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

- In the early days of the church, Paul was against God. He tried to stop people from telling about Jesus.
- One day, Paul was traveling along a road when a very bright light came down from heaven. Paul fell down and heard a voice.
- “Who are You?” Paul asked. “I am Jesus,” the voice said. Jesus told Paul what to do. God had chosen Paul to tell people about Jesus.
- When Paul got up, he couldn’t see! The men with Paul took his hand and led him to the city.
- A man named Ananias visited him there. God sent Ananias to help Paul see again. Now Paul loved Jesus and told people all about Him.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow.”

“God sent His Son, Jesus.

God sent His Son, Jesus.

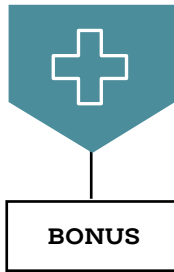
God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people.”

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at John 3:17. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Encourage preschoolers to stomp with the syllables of the key passage phrase as you repeat it several times.

5 PRAY

Pray. Thank God that He changes us when we trust in Him.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 GUESS WHO IS SPEAKING



Guide preschoolers to sit side by side, all facing the same direction. Choose one preschooler to be the “listener.” Invite her to stand or sit with her back to the other preschoolers. Choose a preschooler to say, “Jesus loves you.” Encourage the “listener” to guess who was speaking. Play several rounds, allowing boys and girls the opportunity to each listen and speak.

SAY “ You guessed who was speaking by listening to their voice. You could not see your friend, but you knew who spoke. Paul could not see after a bright light came down from heaven. His friends had to lead him into the city. God sent Ananias to help Paul as well. Ananias put his hands on Paul, and he could see again. Paul got up and was baptized. God had changed him. ”

7 MAKE A SOUND SHAKER

Place the materials on the table. Invite preschoolers to make a sound shaker with an empty water bottle, dried beans, rice, and sand. Demonstrate how to use the funnel to add the beans, rice, and sand to the water bottle. Encourage boys and girls to listen to the shakers and experiment with the different sounds they hear as they add the different ingredients. Tape the bottles closed. Some preschoolers may want to decorate their sound shakers with stickers.

SAY “ I like the sound shaker that you made. If I listen closely, I can tell if you used beans, rice, sand, or all three in your shaker without using my eyes. Paul could not see after a bright light came down from heaven. God sent Ananias to help Paul. Ananias put his hands on Paul, and Paul could see again. Paul was an enemy of Jesus, but then God changed him. ”

8 FOLLOW THE LIGHT

Dim the lights without turning them off completely, if possible. Shine a flashlight to gain the preschoolers’ attention. Encourage boys and girls to walk to where you shine the flashlight. Shine the flashlight on several areas of the classroom. Allow preschoolers to take turns shining the light for their friends. Remind boys and girls to shine the light on an area of the classroom, not in anyone’s eyes.

SAY “ You followed the light. Paul was traveling along, trying to stop people from telling about Jesus when a very bright light came down from heaven. He heard Jesus say, ‘Why are you against Me?’ Paul opened his eyes, but he could not see. God sent a man named Ananias to help Paul. God had chosen Paul to tell many people about Him. Paul was an enemy of Jesus, but then God changed him. When we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.



UNIT 33 | SESSION 2

PAUL BECAME A MISSIONARY

ACTS 13–14

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Paul shared the good news about Jesus with anyone who would listen. Many people believed in Jesus, and the church grew. God wants us to tell others about Jesus so they can be saved from their sins.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

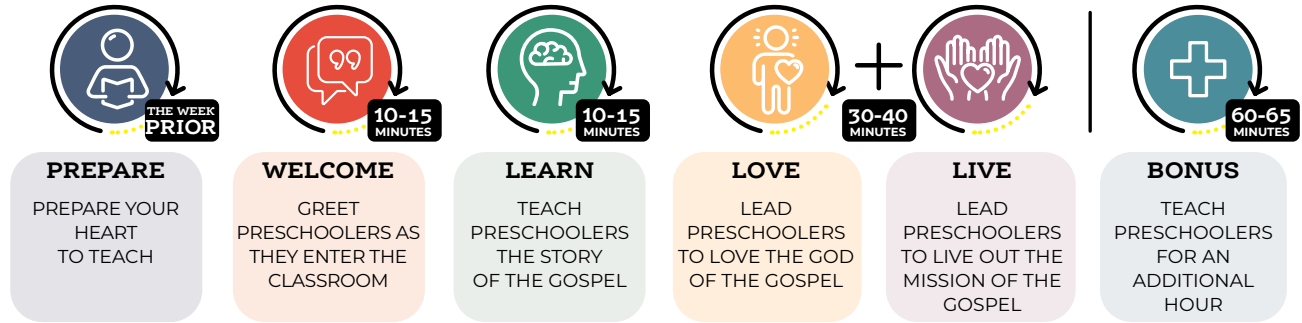
Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is saved.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people. John 3:17



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



LEADER Bible Study

The beginnings of Paul’s journey as a missionary in Acts 13–14 showcased the power and providence of God, even amid harsh persecution. From being sent out and set apart by the Holy Spirit to being wrongly celebrated as gods and experiencing mistreatment and stonings, Paul remained fixed on the hope he found in Jesus. No matter the circumstances he faced, he kept proclaiming Jesus’ name and paving the way for the gospel to be known around the world.

What patterns do we see in Paul’s life that propelled the gospel farther? What role do hardships play in our spiritual lives as we seek to live on mission for Christ and His good news of salvation?

As we read of Paul’s journeys, we find that he continually sought to abide in Christ through the spiritual disciplines of fasting, prayer, and sharing the gospel. We also see that he did not back down from difficult situations; not even false prophets and sorcerers could derail him from proclaiming God’s truth! Despite the grueling hassles of life on the road and not having a place to call home, Paul chose obedience to God’s calling above any earthly comfort as he trusted the glories of heaven far outweighed any momentary affliction.

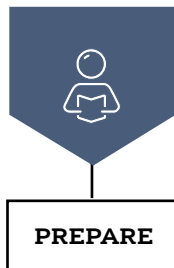
While many insulted Paul, opposed him,

and rejected the words of life he spoke, he shook the dust off his feet and pressed on, filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. This same Spirit that filled Paul and sustained him on his missionary journeys also lives in us who trust in Christ. Paul’s dependence on the Spirit and his obedience to the gospel mission provide a model for us to follow as we seek to live on mission.

Encourage the kids you lead to recognize Paul’s perseverance and how the love of Jesus compelled him to share the gospel no matter the difficulties he faced. Ask the Lord to assist you as you live out this conviction through teaching it to the next generation of Christ followers.

TERMS TO KNOW

Missionary: a Christian chosen by God who obeys His command to go and tell another group of people the good news about Jesus



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Find and complete the hidden puzzle

- Big Picture Question Poster



LEARN

Review the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- sticky notes

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Complete puzzles

- wooden or cardboard puzzles of people
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- brown paper lunch sacks (optional)

Guess the items

- travel items (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, hairbrush, socks, shoes, shirt, snack container, etc.)



LIVE

Paint with vehicles

- smocks, 1 per child
- washable paint
- paper plates
- small vehicles
- "Key Passage Phrase Labels" printable, 1 copy

Missions activity

- hula hoops, 2
- leis, 20–30 (at least 1 per child)

Snack and transition

- snacks
- Activity Page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards For Families, 1 per child



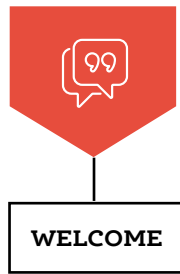
BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Create a map collage

- Bibles with maps
- old maps



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the *Love* and *Live* sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the *Love* and *Live* sections of the leader guide.

FIND AND COMPLETE THE HIDDEN PUZZLE

Post the big picture question poster near the entrance to the classroom. Write a message that says, “Paul shared the good news about Jesus. God wants us to tell others about Jesus so they can be saved from their sins.” on the back of the Bible story picture. Cut the Bible story picture into a two-or three-piece puzzle. Tape the puzzle pieces in separate places in the classroom. Greet preschoolers as they enter the room. Encourage them to find the puzzle pieces and complete the puzzle. Give clues as needed to help boys and girls. Celebrate when the puzzle is completed. Read the message on the back of the puzzle to preschoolers and talk about the picture. Encourage preschoolers to hide the puzzle pieces again for the next preschooler to find.

SAY “ I am so glad that you are at church today. Our big picture question asks, **Who can be saved? It reminds us that Anyone who trusts in Jesus is saved.** There is a special message hidden in the classroom. Can you find the message? It is written on puzzle pieces. The message is about Paul. He and Barnabas traveled to other cities to tell the good news about Jesus. God wants us to tell others about Jesus, too. ”





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Encourage boys and girls to walk with you around the classroom. Invite preschoolers to choose other ways to travel around the room such as hopping, walking on tiptoes, or taking very small or very large steps. After you have traveled around the classroom several times, end at the group time area.

SAY “ We traveled around our classroom. Paul and Barnabas traveled to other cities. God told them that they had an important job to do. Paul and Barnabas went to tell the good news about Jesus. ”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Acts 13–14 and tell the following Bible story.

PAUL BECAME A MISSIONARY

SAY “ God told Paul and Barnabas that they had an important job to do. God led Paul and Barnabas to other cities to tell the good news about Jesus.

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. Paul healed the man! When the people saw this miracle, 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.”

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 shared the good news about Jesus with anyone who would listen. Many people believed in Jesus, and the church grew. God wants us to tell others about Jesus so they can be saved from their sins.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Cover the Bible story picture with several sticky notes. Use one sticky note for each preschooler in your class. You may need to cut the notes into smaller pieces if you have a large group. Allow each preschooler to remove one note to reveal the Bible story picture. Talk about what you see and ask questions about the story as boys and girls reveal the picture.

SAY “ Who are the people in the picture? (Paul and Barnabas) Where were they going? (Lystra, Derbe, somewhere to tell people about Jesus) What important job did God have for them to do? (telling people the good news about Jesus) You discovered a picture of Paul and Barnabas. They were going to tell other people the good news about Jesus. God wants us to tell others about Jesus too. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow.”

“God sent His Son, Jesus.
God sent His Son, Jesus.
God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people.”

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

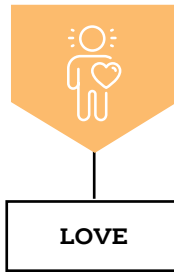
Place the key passage phrase marker at John 3:17. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Lead preschoolers to learn the key passage phrase. Invite boys and girls to clap out the syllables of the key passage phrase as they say it with you several times.

SAY “ God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people. Paul and Barnabas traveled to other cities to tell people this good news about Jesus. God wants us to tell others about Jesus so they can be saved from their sins. ”

6 PRAY

Pray. Thank God for sending Jesus. Ask Him to help us tell other people the good news about Jesus like Paul and Barnabas did.





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 GO FOR A WALK



Invite preschoolers to take a walk with you around the church. Follow your church's security procedures for leaving the classroom. If weather conditions permit, consider taking your class on a walk outside. Point out things you see along the way. Greet the people you see. Encourage boys and girls to tell the people you meet that Jesus loves them.

SAY ☞ God led Paul and Barnabas to other cities to tell the good news about Jesus. They walked to many places. Their journey was longer than ours, but they told people the good news of Jesus, just like we did. Many people believed. Paul and Barnabas then 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. ☞

2 COMPLETE PUZZLES

Place several puzzles of people on the table. Encourage boys and girls to complete the puzzles. Talk about the people in each scene. Older preschoolers may enjoy placing the puzzle pieces in a small sack and pulling out each puzzle piece one at a time to place in the puzzle frame for an added challenge.

SAY ☞ You did a great job putting the puzzles together. Look at the people in each of these puzzles. I see boys and girls and men and women. God loves people. He gave Paul and Barnabas an important job to do. They went to other cities to tell the people the good news about Jesus. Paul shared the good news about Jesus with anyone who would listen. Many people believed in Jesus, and the church grew. God wants us to tell others about Jesus so they can be saved from their sins. ☞

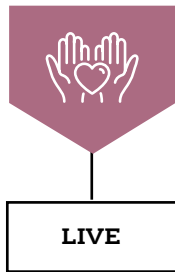
3 GUESS THE ITEMS

Display several travel items (toothbrush, toothpaste, snack container, comb, etc.) on the table and give preschoolers a few minutes to explore them. Remove the items from the preschoolers' view. Describe one of the items and see if boys and girls can guess which one you are thinking of. You can modify the game by putting two or three of the items back on the table and describing one of them for boys and girls to guess, if needed. Older preschoolers may want to take a turn describing an item for their friends to guess.

SAY ☞ God led Paul and Barnabas to other cities to tell the good news of Jesus. When we go on a trip, we pack items like these to take with us. Paul and Barnabas went to Lystra and Derbe to tell people about Jesus. Finally, they returned to their church and told the other believers everything that God had done on their journey. ☞

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 PAINT WITH VEHICLES

Assist preschoolers with placing a smock over their clothes. Place a small amount of washable paint on a paper plate. Demonstrate how to roll toy vehicles through the paint on the paper plate and then onto a piece of construction paper, leaving a pattern of tire tracks. Encourage preschoolers to place a key passage phrase label on their paper.

SAY “ When we travel, we use vehicles like the ones we painted with. Paul and Barnabas did not use cars or trucks, but they traveled to other cities to tell the good news about Jesus. Our key passage phrase says, ‘God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people.’ This is the good news Paul and Barnabas told the people. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY

Place two hula hoops side by side at one end of the room. Place half of the leis inside each hoop. Form two teams and line each team up in front of their hoop on the opposite side of the room. Explain that the first player will walk down, grab a lei, and put it around his neck before walking back to his team. The player should transfer his lei to the next player, who will walk down to get another lei to put around her neck. She will come back and transfer both leis to the next player. Continue until the last player returns with all the leis around his neck. Play additional rounds with different preschoolers at the end of the line. Close in prayer, thanking God for the missionary work of Betsey Stockton in Hawaii.

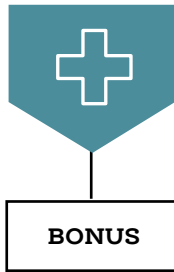
SAY “ This flower necklace is called a lei. Leis are often given to visitors in Hawaii and used in special celebrations. Betsey Stockton served as a missionary and teacher in Hawaii about 200 years ago. She told people about Jesus so they might be saved from their sins. **Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is saved.** ”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION

Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “ Paul shared the good news about Jesus with anyone who would listen. Many people believed in Jesus, and the church grew. God wants us to tell others about Jesus so they can be saved from their sins. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 PRETEND TO TRAVEL

Invite preschoolers to pretend to pack a bag for a trip. Encourage boys and girls to pretend to unzip a suitcase. Ask what items they would pack to take on a trip. Act out placing each item in the pretend suitcase. When the suitcase is full, encourage preschoolers to pretend to zip it back up and place it behind their backs. Tell preschoolers that in today's story Paul and Barnabas went on a trip to tell other the good news about Jesus.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Acts 13–14 and talk about the Bible story using the summarized points below.

PAUL BECAME A MISSIONARY

- God had a special job for Paul. Paul and Barnabas were to go to cities to tell people about Jesus. The church put their hands on Paul and Barnabas and prayed for them.
- Paul and Barnabas went to Lystra. When Paul healed a man who could not walk, the people thought that Paul and Barnabas were like gods! But Paul and Barnabas said, "We are men, just like you! We are just men who love Jesus!"
- After that, Paul and Barnabas went to many towns to teach people about Jesus. Many people believed the good news.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

"God sent His Son, Jesus.

God sent His Son, Jesus.

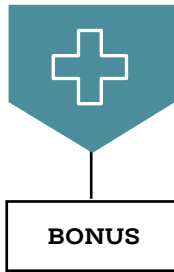
God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people."

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at John 3:17. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Encourage preschoolers to repeat the key passage phrase with you several times. Alternate saying the phrase in a loud and then quiet voice.

5 PRAY

Pray. Thank God that we can know the good news about Jesus and that we can tell others about Him.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 PLAY A MOVEMENT GAME

Invite preschoolers to line up across one side of the classroom. Give simple directions for ways that boys and girls can move to the other side of the room. Examples may include taking five small steps, hopping three times, or taking four steps on tiptoes. Allow boys and girls to take turns calling out new ways to move across the room.

SAY “ You traveled in some interesting ways from one side of the classroom to the other. Paul and Barnabas traveled to many cities to tell the good news about Jesus. In one of the cities, they met a man who had not been able to walk his whole life. Paul healed the man. When the people saw this miracle, they thought Paul and Barnabas were gods. Paul and Barnabas told them they were men just like they were. Paul said they were there to tell them the good news about God. ”

7 CREATE A MAP COLLAGE

Cut an old map into small, simple shapes that preschoolers can use to make a collage. Open the Bibles to the map section. Display other maps on the table for preschoolers to explore. Encourage boys and girls to look at the maps and talk about places they have been. Point out the cities of Lystra and Derbe where Paul and Barnabas traveled. After preschoolers have had time to explore the maps, encourage them to make a collage or pattern with the shapes you cut out. Older preschoolers may enjoy cutting out their own shapes.

SAY “ Maps help us know how to get where we are going. We can use a map to know the way. Paul and Barnabas traveled to many cities to tell others about Jesus. Lystra and Derbe were two of the cities. Where have you traveled? God wants us to tell others about Jesus as we travel as well. ”

8 CREATE A PATH

Draw arrows on several sheets of construction paper. Encourage preschoolers to create a path using the arrows. Secure the papers by taping them to the floor or wall. Assist boys and girls with the placement as they navigate around classroom furniture and fixtures. Preschoolers may want to go under tables or around various obstacles in the room. Once the path is complete, take turns following the path where it leads.

SAY “ You created a path all around our classroom. Paul and Barnabas followed a path to the cities of Lystra and Derbe to tell the people the good news about Jesus. Many of the people believed in Jesus, and the church grew. God wants us to tell others about Jesus so they can be saved from their sins. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.



UNIT 33 | SESSION 3

JESUS CAN FORGIVE ANYONE

2 CORINTHIANS 5

CHRIST CONNECTION:

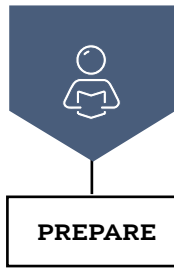
Jesus can forgive anyone. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

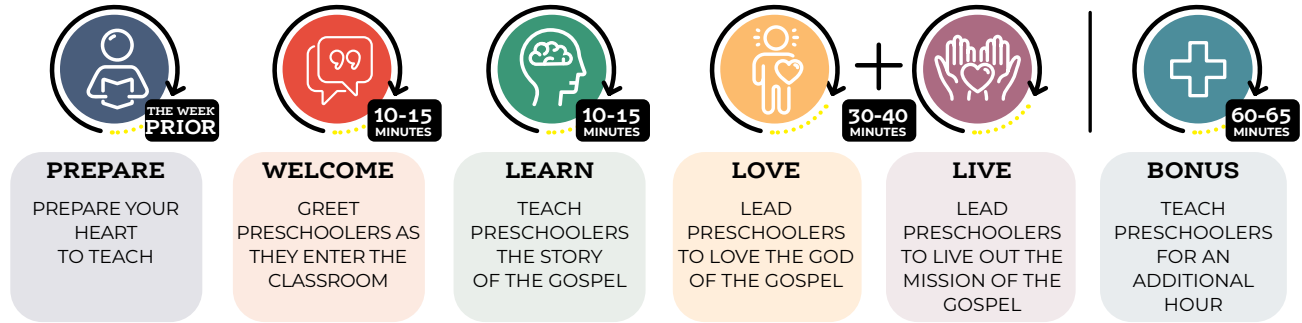
Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is saved.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people. John 3:17



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



LEADER Bible Study

One theme Paul wrote about in the book of 2 Corinthians is the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ. He shared of his own need for reconciliation with God and how he—like us—had been tasked with taking part in the Lord’s ministry of reconciliation. Being a part of God’s family means bringing others into His kingdom, too.

How can anyone be forgiven of their sins? What does it look like to live as one forgiven by God?

Like Paul, we are all in need of the Lord’s forgiveness because we have all sinned against Him. Paul reminded the Corinthian church that forgiveness of sins has been made possible through Christ’s perfect sacrifice. It is faith in Jesus alone that reconciles us to God, and it is faith in Jesus by which our sins are not counted against us. Through Jesus’ willing sacrifice on our behalf, He was made sin so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. Thus, forgiveness is given to anyone who turns to Christ as Savior and Lord.

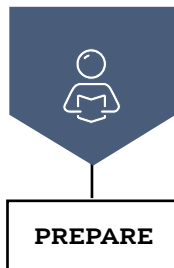
Paul continued to encourage the Corinthians to live as forgiven people who are compelled by the love of Christ to share the gospel with others. No longer should we live for ourselves, seeking after the ways of the world. Rather, we live as new creations,

set on making much of Jesus and declaring how only He can reconcile us to God. The hearts of forgiven people saved by grace have a deep desire for others to know the love of Jesus and be saved.

As you prepare for this session, consider the forgiveness you’ve received from God. How has repentance played a role in your life as a believer? What is your testimony of being brought from death to life, and how can you share it with the kids in your class? Ask God to make the reality of His power to save and forgive real in the hearts and minds of your class today.

DOCTRINE TO KNOW

Christ as Reconciliation: Through Christ’s death, God provides the means whereby the broken relationship between God and humanity is restored and renewed.



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Find and complete the hidden puzzle

- Big Picture Question Poster



LEARN

Introduce the Bible story

- manilla envelope

Review the Bible story

- envelopes

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



LOVE

Care for dolls

- doll clothes
- blankets
- baby bottles
- baby toys

Play musical instruments

- musical instruments
- worship songs of your choice (optional)



LIVE

Paint a cross

- smocks, 1 per child
- painter's tape
- watercolor paints
- paintbrushes
- small cups for water
- "Key Passage Phrase Labels" printable, 1 copy

Missions activity

- Allergy Alert
- yarn
- plate
- O-shaped cereal

Snack and transition

- snacks
- Activity Page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards For Families, 1 per child



BONUS

Spell the name

Jesus

- sticky notes

Say the key passage phrase

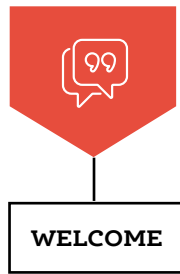
- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Play with a doll house

- doll house
- people figures

Create a life-size drawing

- large paper



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the *Love and Live* sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the *Love and Live* sections of the leader guide.

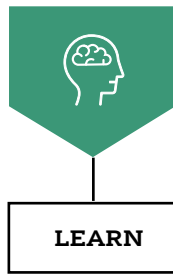
FIND AND COMPLETE THE HIDDEN PUZZLE

Post the big picture question poster near the entrance to the classroom. Write the message *Jesus can forgive anyone* on the back of the Bible story picture poster. Cut the Bible story picture into a three-piece puzzle. Tape the puzzle pieces in separate places in the classroom. Greet preschoolers as they enter the room. Encourage them to find the puzzle pieces and complete the puzzle. Celebrate when the puzzle is completed. Read the message on the back of the puzzle to preschoolers and talk about the picture. Encourage preschoolers to hide the puzzle pieces again for the next preschooler to find.

SAY “ I am so glad that you are at church today. Our big picture answer reminds us that **Anyone who trusts in Jesus is saved.** There is a special message hidden on puzzle pieces in the classroom. Can you find the puzzle pieces? Paul wrote a message like this to the people in Corinth. He reminded Jesus’ followers that because of Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family forever. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Write a letter to the preschoolers in your class. Tell boys and girls that Jesus can forgive anyone. Remind them that when we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family forever. Place the letter in a large manila envelope and hide it in the classroom. Invite preschoolers to help you find the envelope with the special letter inside. Once someone has found the envelope, invite everyone to group time and read the letter aloud.

SAY “ Paul wrote a letter like this one to the people in the church in Corinth. He wanted to share the good news that Jesus came into the world to rescue sinners. ”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to 2 Corinthians 5 and tell the following Bible story.

JESUS CAN FORGIVE ANYONE

SAY “ Paul wrote letters to the church in Corinth. Paul reminded Jesus’ followers in the church that because of Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family forever. God loves us, and He wants us to tell people about Jesus.

Jesus had saved Paul, who was Jesus’ enemy. Without Jesus, everyone is an enemy of God. Paul wanted to share the good news that Jesus came into the world to rescue sinners.

Paul wrote, “We want to obey God and tell people about Jesus because Jesus loves us. We love Him too!”

Jesus changes everything. Paul wrote, “When we follow Jesus, we are changed. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!”

Something amazing happened when Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. Paul wrote, “God made us right through Jesus.”

God gives us the mission of telling others about Jesus. Paul wrote, “God can use us so other people will know and love Jesus. We can tell others the good news.” ”

Christ Connection: Jesus can forgive anyone. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family forever.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Ask each preschooler to name someone he or she can tell about Jesus. Write the name on an envelope and give the envelope to the child.

SAY “ Paul wrote a letter to the church in Corinth. When we write letters, we place them in envelopes. You can tell the people whose names we wrote on your envelopes about Jesus like Paul did. God gives us the mission of telling others about Jesus. God can use us so that other people will know and love Jesus. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow.”

“God sent His Son, Jesus.
God sent His Son, Jesus.
God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people.”

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at John 3:17. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage phrase. Encourage preschoolers to say the phrase with you multiple times. Each time you say the phrase, leave out a word, leading preschoolers to say the missing word.

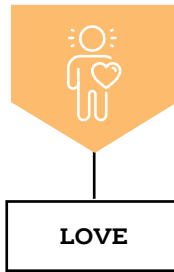
“God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save ____ . John 3:17.”
“God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to ____ people. John 3:17.”
“God sent His Son, Jesus, into the ____ to save people. John 3:17.”
“God sent His Son, ____, into the world to save people. John 3:17.”
“ ____ sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people. John 3:17.”

SAY “ God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people. Paul said that Jesus can forgive anyone. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family forever. ”

6 PRAY

Pray. Thank God for sending Jesus. Ask God to help us tell others about Him and how much He loves them.





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 CUT OUT HEARTS



Fold small pieces of construction paper in half. Draw half of a heart shape against the fold. Demonstrate for preschoolers how to cut along the outline. Assist preschoolers as needed with cutting. Then open the folded paper to reveal the whole heart. Provide additional construction paper and glue sticks for preschoolers who would like to glue their hearts onto paper.

SAY *“Hearts remind me of love. Paul wrote a letter to the church in Corinth. In his letter, he told the people that we want to obey God and tell people about Jesus because Jesus loves us, and we love Him too. God give us the mission of telling others about Jesus. We can tell others the good news. God can use us so that other people will know and love Jesus too.”*

2 CARE FOR DOLLS

Place dolls, blankets, doll clothes, baby bottles, and other baby toys out for preschoolers to explore. Encourage boys and girls to care for the dolls. Demonstrate how to dress the dolls and wrap them in blankets. Preschoolers may enjoy pretending to give the dolls a bath or feed them a meal. Talk about how families love and care for each other.

SAY *“Families love and care for one another. Paul reminded Jesus’ followers that because of Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family forever. Jesus saved Paul, who was Jesus’ enemy. Without Jesus, everyone is an enemy of God, but Jesus can forgive anyone. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family forever.”*

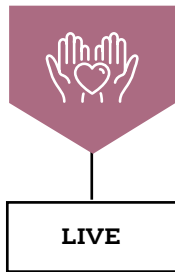
3 PLAY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Invite preschoolers to join you in playing musical instruments such as rhythm sticks, bells, or a xylophone. Encourage the boys and girls to sing songs about Jesus. Sing familiar songs such as “Jesus Loves Me” or the key passage phrase song for this unit. Consider playing recordings of familiar praise songs that preschoolers can play their instruments to and sing along with as well.

SAY *“You made beautiful music with the instruments you were playing. We can play instruments and sing songs to praise God. We want to obey God and tell people about Jesus because Jesus loves us. Jesus changes everything. Paul wrote and told the people that when we follow Jesus, we are changed. He said that if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! God made us right through Jesus.”*

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 PAINT A CROSS

Use painter's tape to make a cross on a piece of construction paper for each child. Place the paper, watercolor paints, brushes, and small cups of water on the table. Assist preschoolers with placing a smock over their clothes. Demonstrate how to paint over the whole paper, including over the tape. Once the paint has dried, remove the tape to reveal a cross. Place a key passage phrase label on the paper.

SAY “ Look at the cross you made. A cross reminds me of Jesus. Something amazing happened when Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. God made us right through Jesus. Our key passage phrase says that God sent His son, Jesus, into the world to save people. ”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Before the session, display the Allergy Alert for parents to see. Cut yarn into about 18-inch strands. Distribute a plate with a handful of O-shaped cereal to each preschooler. Show preschoolers how to make an edible lei by stringing some cereal on the yarn. Help preschoolers secure the ends of their leis and taste the items on their edible lei. Close in prayer, thanking God for missionaries who tell people about Jesus.

SAY “ Your leis look delicious! Betsey Stockton and Charles and Harriet Stewart were part of a missionary team that traveled to Hawaii. Betsey taught children in a school until they had to go back home due to Harriet's health. They returned home and Betsey continued to teach children in school and share about God and His Son, Jesus. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people. ”

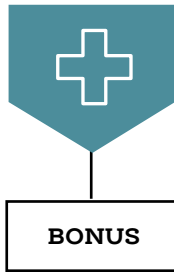
3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “ Jesus can forgive anyone. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family forever. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 SPELL THE NAME JESUS

Write the letters J-E-S-U-S on individual sticky notes and stick them up around the room. If you have more than five preschoolers in your class, make another set or draw hearts on a few sticky notes so that there is a sticky note for every child. Invite preschoolers to find the notes and bring them to group time. When everyone has brought their notes, arrange them to spell Jesus. Tell preschoolers that Paul wrote a letter to the church in Corinth to encourage them to tell others about Jesus.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to 2 Corinthians 5 and talk about the Bible story using the summarized points below.

JESUS CAN FORGIVE ANYONE

- Paul wrote letters to remind Jesus' followers that because of Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family forever. God loves us, and He wants us to tell people about Jesus.
- Paul was Jesus' enemy, and Jesus rescued him. We are all enemies of God until we know and love Jesus. Paul wanted to obey God and tell people about Jesus because Jesus loves us.
- Jesus changes everything! Paul wrote, "When we follow Jesus, we are changed. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."
- Jesus died and rose from the dead to make us right with God. God wants us to tell others about Jesus so they will know and love Jesus, too.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

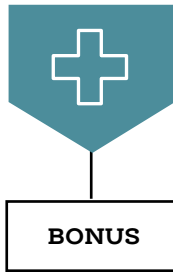
"God sent His Son, Jesus.
God sent His Son, Jesus.
God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people."

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at John 3:17. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Encourage preschoolers to turn and tell a friend the key passage phrase. Allow time for each child to have a turn if they would like.

5 PRAY

Pray. Thank God for forgiving our sin and inviting us into His family forever when we trust in Him.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 **MAKE THE LETTER J**



Place containers of play dough out for preschoolers to use. Demonstrate how to make a letter j with the play dough. Guide boys and girls to roll the play dough into the shape of a rope. Demonstrate how to curve the rope into the shape of the letter j. Some preschoolers may enjoy creating other letters, such as the letters of their name. Older preschoolers may want to work together to spell the name Jesus with the play dough.

SAY “ You made the letter j. j is the first letter in Jesus. Paul reminded Jesus’ followers in the church that because of Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family forever. Something amazing happened when Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. God made us right through Jesus. God loves us, and He wants us to tell people about Jesus. ”

7 **PLAY WITH A DOLL HOUSE**

Invite preschoolers to play with a doll house. Talk about the different people in the family who live in the house and how they care for one another. Encourage boys and girls to act out different activities they would do at home with their families. Be sensitive to preschoolers’ family situations.

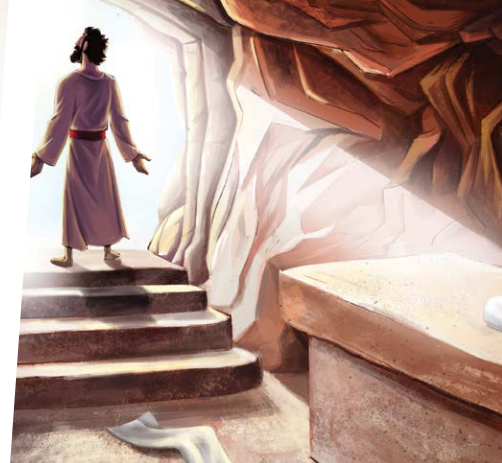
SAY “ Families love and care for one another. Paul reminded Jesus’ followers in the church that because of Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family forever. God gives us the mission of telling others about Jesus. God can use us so other people will know and love Jesus. Jesus can forgive anyone. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family forever. ”

8 **CREATE A LIFE-SIZE DRAWING**

Unroll a large piece of paper on the floor. Invite a preschooler to lie down on the paper so that you can trace her outline. Invite her to add details such as eyes, a nose, a mouth, hair, and clothing to her outline. Write on the paper, *I can tell people about Jesus.*

SAY “ You made a life-size drawing of yourself. This drawing cannot talk, but you can. You can tell others about Jesus. God gives us the mission of telling others about Jesus. In one of his letters, Paul wrote, ‘God can use us so other people will know and love Jesus. We can tell others the good news.’ Who can you tell about Jesus? ”

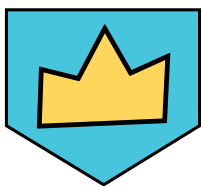
Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.



THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR PRESCHOOLERS

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



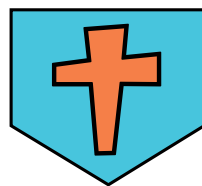
God is King.

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.

THE GOSPEL PROJECT

The Gospel Project is designed to help your preschoolers **LEARN** the gospel story of Scripture, **LOVE** the Author and Subject of that gospel story, and then to **LIVE** out their part in this ongoing gospel story.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

WEEKLY AUDIO HELPS:

Listen to The Gospel Project for Kids in your favorite podcast app

BLOG:

gospelproject.com/blog

LET'S BE FRIENDS!

facebook.com/groups/gospelprojectforkidscommunity

LifewayTM preschool

gospelproject.com/preschool



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