



the **GOSPEL**PROJECT.

# FROM ONE NATION TO ALL NATIONS

BABIES & TODDLERS LEADER GUIDE

VOLUME 11





**THE GOSPEL PROJECT FOR PRESCHOOL:  
BABIES & TODDLERS LEADER GUIDE**

VOLUME 11 • FROM ONE NATION TO ALL NATIONS

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## SESSION AT A GLANCE



### PREPARE

- **Read the Bible story, Gospel Gems, and Christ Connection.** For additional help for preparing, visit [www.gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com).
- **Familiarize yourself with the session content**, noting which activity options will work best in your context.
- **Gather and prepare session supplies**, including posters and activity printables as needed.
- **Contact families and pray for your babies and toddlers** during the week.



### BABIES ACTIVITIES

- **Choose the activities that will work in your context** as you teach babies. Consider repeating activities throughout the session. Share the gospel gems throughout the time together, such as when changing diapers, feeding, or rocking babies.



### TODDLERS ACTIVITIES

- **Tell the Bible story during Circle Time**, during snack time, or another time when you can hold the toddlers' attention. Alternatively, tell the Bible story to toddlers one-on-one while they play.
- **Choose the activities that will work in your context** to incorporate into the normal rhythm of ministry. Since toddlers learn through repetition, consider repeating activities throughout the session.



### 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

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### 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 has been taught in the unit.

## QUICK REFERENCE

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### Printables, Posters, and Cards

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			✓		✓
Big Picture Cards	Purchase at <a href="http://www.gospelproject.com">www.gospelproject.com</a>				✓



UNIT 31 | SESSION 1

# THE APOSTLES WERE ARRESTED

ACTS 5

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus wants us to tell others about Him.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5

## BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Jesus' friends told people about Him.
- Jesus is our Savior.
- Jesus wants us to tell others about Him.

## BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

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."



## BABIES ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Acts 5. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

#### 1 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “London Bridge”:

“We can tell about Jesus, about Jesus, about Jesus.  
We can tell about Jesus. He is our Savior.”

**SAY** “ Jesus’ friends told people that Jesus is the Savior. Did you know that Jesus wants you and me to tell people about Him? Jesus wants us to tell everyone about Him! ”

#### 2 LOOK AT PHOTOS OF FRIENDS

Bring in photos of friends. Sit babies in leaders’ laps and show pictures of friends as you tell about each friend. Then point to other babies in the room and say, “[Insert a baby’s name] is a friend!” Point to each baby, say his name, share something special about him, and declare that he is a friend.

**SAY** “ Jesus’ friends loved Jesus. They told many people about Him. We love Jesus too! Jesus wants us to tell people about Him. ”

#### 3 PAT WATER

Laminate or slide the Bible story picture in a gallon-size ziplock bag. Spread a towel on the floor. Place the picture in a shallow baking pan on the towel. Pour a small amount of water in the pan. Allow babies to pat the water as you point out shapes, items, and other details from the picture.

**SAY** “ Look at the men in this picture. They told Jesus’ friends to stop telling people about Him. Jesus wants us to tell others about Him too! ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## TODDLER ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

#### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Acts 5. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

#### 2 OPEN AND CLOSE

Spread several board books about Jesus and classroom toys that open and close on the floor in front of you. Guide toddlers to open and close the books and toys. Encourage children to say “open” and “close” as they play. Review the Bible story, focusing on how the doors of the jail were closed, but how God sent an angel to open the doors so Jesus' friends could go free.

**SAY** “ Jesus' friends were telling people about Jesus. This made the religious leaders mad. They put Jesus' friends in jail and closed the door. That night, God sent an angel to open the doors. ”

#### 3 MAKE A SURPRISE PAINTING

Lay paper in the bottom of a plastic container with a lid. Add a few drops of paint and a few broken crayons or other small objects to the box. Close the container and invite toddlers to shake the container one at a time. Open the container and reveal the painting. Tell the story.

**SAY** “ Jesus' friends told others about Jesus. Did this make the leaders happy or mad? That's right—they were mad. Jesus' friends were also surprised when they looked inside the jail! Jesus' friends were gone! God sent an angel to open the doors of the jail! ”

#### 4 PULL OUT THE PEOPLE

Use painter's tape to attach people figures to the inside bottom and sides of a box. Offer the box to a toddler and suggest they remove the tape to get the people out of the box. Suggest the toddlers pretend to make the people say, “Jesus loves you!” Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ Jesus' friends were stuck in jail. Who did God send to free Jesus' friends? Yes! God sent an angel to open the doors of the jail so Jesus' friends could go free! But they did not stop telling people about Jesus. Did you know that Jesus wants you to tell people about Him too? ”

#### 5 MATCH SOUNDS

Place bells, rocks, small plastic beads, and other items in ziplock bags (one per bag). Place matching items in empty water bottles (one per bottle). Secure the openings with duct tape. Place the containers in front of the toddlers to shake and match the sounds. Retell the story.

**SAY** “ In the Bible story, who were people listening to? Jesus' friends! Many people believed in Jesus because they listened to Jesus' friends. Jesus wants us to tell others about Him too! ”



# THE APOSTLES WERE ARRESTED

## ACTS 5

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus wants us to tell others about Him.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: TALK TO A PUPPET

Gather a puppet (or make one from a paper bag or clean sock, googly eyes, yarn, and other craft items). Use the puppet to talk with the toddlers about the Bible story. Make the puppet say, “Jesus is our Savior.” Allow interested toddlers to put on the puppet and make it say, “Jesus is our Savior.”

**SAY** “ Who is our Savior? Yes! Jesus! Jesus’ friends told everyone that Jesus is the Savior. Other people tried to make them stop, but they just kept talking about Jesus. Jesus wants us to tell others about Him too! ”

### 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing the song below to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”:

“Jesus, Jesus, we love Him. He’s our Savior and our friend.  
Tell the world about Him now. Do not stop until they know.  
Jesus, Jesus we love Him. He’s our Savior and our friend.”

### 3 MATCH COLORS

Gather colored paper (five colors, two pieces of each color). Write the letters J-E-S-U-S on separate sheets of paper, one letter per color. Make a second matching set of papers. Tape one set of papers to the floor in order and scatter the second set around the room. Invite the toddlers to match the colors to spell Jesus’ name.

**SAY** “ You matched the colors and spelled JESUS. Does Jesus want us to tell others about Him? Yes! Jesus wants everyone to know that He is the Savior. ”

### 4 PLAY “WIGGLE, WIGGLE, WIGGLE, STOP!”

Invite children to play a wiggle game. Say “Wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, stop!” Lead children to wiggle and stop as you chant. Expand the activity by giving simple instructions like “clap three times” or “turn in a circle” each time you say “stop.”

**SAY** “ You stopped when I said, ‘Stop!’ People in our Bible story told Jesus’ friends to stop telling about Jesus, but did they stop? No! They wanted everyone to know about Jesus. Jesus wants us all to tell others about Him. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.



UNIT 31 | SESSION 2

# THE CHURCH HANDLED A PROBLEM

## ACTS 6

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** We can serve others so people all over the world can hear and believe the good news about Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5

### BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Jesus' friends chose leaders to serve the church.
- Church leaders help people.
- We can help others and tell them about Jesus.

### BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

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.



## BABIES ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Acts 6. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

#### 1 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “London Bridge”:

“We can tell about Jesus, about Jesus, about Jesus.  
We can tell about Jesus. He is our Savior.”

**SAY** “ Jesus wants everyone to know that He is the Savior. We can help others and tell them about Jesus. ”

#### 2 MAKE A CHOICE

Position babies on their tummies. Place classroom toys just out of the babies’ reach. Ask, “Which one do you want to play with?” Say, “You made a good choice,” as the babies reach for a toy. Help the babies grasp the toys. After a few moments, offer another set of toys to choose from. Read the gospel gems as the babies choose and play with the toys.

**SAY** “ Today you made choices. In our Bible story, Jesus’ friends chose seven leaders to serve the church. Church leaders helped people. We can help people too! We can tell them about Jesus! ”

#### 3 STACK BLOCKS

Sit babies on the floor in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Place a few foam blocks in front of each baby. Demonstrate how to stack the blocks. As the babies try, say, “Let me help you!” Guide the babies’ hands to stack the blocks. Continue playing as interest allows.

**SAY** “ Sometimes people need help. I helped you stack the blocks. The church leaders in our Bible story helped people so that more people would hear about Jesus. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## TODDLER ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

#### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Acts 6. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

#### 2 MAKE CARDS

Consult your church leaders for the names of widows in your church who might enjoy receiving a card from your group. Write a simple greeting on a blank card or an unlined index card like, *We care about you.* Use crayons and a washable stamp ink pad to make fingerprints and other decorations on the card. Use baby wipes for easy cleanup.

**SAY** “ In our Bible story today, church leaders helped people. You made a card for someone in our church. You can help people every day by encouraging them and by telling them about Jesus! ”

#### 3 STICK FOOD

Cut two large circles from colorful paper about the size of a dinner plate. Tape the circles (plates) to the wall at the toddlers' height. Tape a sheet of clear contact plastic, sticky side out, over the circles. Place a basket of toy food items below the “plates.” Suggest toddlers stick food items to the plates. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ In our story, some people were not getting enough food, so the church chose seven leaders who obeyed God and made good choices. These leaders helped take care of all the people in the church. Can we help people in the church? Yes! We can help others and tell them about Jesus! ”

#### 4 SEE SEVEN THINGS

Place classroom items in groups of seven in separate ziplock bags and seal with tape. Suggested items include seven craft sticks, small toys, pom-poms, and so forth. Invite a child to investigate the bags. Ask, “How many [item name] are in this bag?” Count the objects aloud. Repeat for other bags. Review the Bible story, focusing on the number seven.

**SAY** “ How many items did we count today? Seven! How many of Jesus' friends were chosen to serve the church? That's right, seven! The church chose seven people to help. ”

#### 5 MAKE FOOD

Offer children various colors of play dough. Instruct toddlers to shape the play dough into food items and serve the food to their friends. Talk about the Bible story as the children play.

**SAY** “ The people in the Bible story helped. Can we help people in our church? Yes! We can help serve others so that people all over the world can hear and believe the good news about Jesus. ”

# THE CHURCH HANDLED A PROBLEM

## ACTS 6

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** We can serve others so people all over the world can hear and believe the good news about Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: DROP POM-POMS

Use painter's tape to attach several cardboard tubes to the wall. Arrange a few straight up and down and others at an angle. Demonstrate how to drop pom-poms into the tubes. Distribute pom-poms and suggest that toddlers work together. One toddler can drop a pom-pom through the tube, and another can try to catch it with her hand or in a small plastic bowl. Expand the activity by challenging toddlers to drop more than one pom-pom through each tube. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ We worked together to drop and catch our pom-poms! Our church works together too! They help and serve people all over the world. We can also help others by telling them about Jesus. ”

### 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing the song below to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”:

“Jesus, Jesus, we love Him. He’s our Savior and our friend.  
Tell the world about Him now. Do not stop until they know.  
Jesus, Jesus we love Him. He’s our Savior and our friend.”

### 3 FEED BABY DOLLS

Place a towel over a small chair or toy high chair. Place a plastic doll on the towel. Offer a doll bib and a small bowl with a very small amount of water in it. Use a baby spoon and demonstrate how to feed the doll water. Provide a washcloth to dry the water. Offer the spoon to an interested toddler and invite her to feed the baby as you retell the Bible story.

**SAY** “ Today you gave food to the baby dolls! Did the church leaders give food to the widows? Yes, the leaders obeyed God and made good choices. These leaders helped take care of all the people in the church. ”

### 4 CLEAN THE CHURCH

Invite the children to be your helpers. Offer a damp washcloth or sponge and suggest the toddlers wipe down the tables and chairs. Toddlers may enjoy cleaning toy foods and dishes or other plastic waterproof toys. Thank the toddlers for helping.

**SAY** “ Thank you for helping at church today! The church leaders in our story helped people. We help at church so that people all over the world can hear and believe the good news about Jesus. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.



UNIT 31 | SESSION 3

## STEPHEN WAS ARRESTED

ACTS 6-7

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** We can follow Jesus even when it is hard because Jesus died for us.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5

### BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Stephen loved and followed Jesus.
- The religious leaders did not like what Stephen said.
- Stephen was hurt for following Jesus.

### BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

Stephen loved Jesus. One day, some Jews told lies about Stephen. They did not like Stephen, and they wanted him to get in trouble. The religious leaders asked Stephen if the Jews' 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.



## BABIES ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Acts 6. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

#### 1 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “London Bridge”:

“We can follow (clap) Jesus, (clap) Jesus, (clap) Jesus.  
We can follow (clap) Jesus. He is our Savior.”

**SAY** “ Stephen loved and followed Jesus. Stephen told people about Jesus. He wanted everyone to know that Jesus is the Savior. ”

#### 2 FIND PICTURES OF JESUS

Place Bible board books open to a picture of Jesus on the floor. Place several rattles or other small toys around the books. Cover the books with scarves. Position babies near the books. Shake a rattle to get the babies interested. When a baby removes a scarf say, “Look you found a picture of Jesus!” Read the gospel gems to the babies as they explore the Bibles.

**SAY** “ Who did Stephen love? Jesus! Stephen loved and followed Jesus. We can love and follow Jesus too! ”

#### 3 FILL AND DUMP

Gather foam blocks and a large, plastic bowl. Tape a few small paper hearts to some of the blocks. Pile the blocks near the bowl. Pick up a block and drop it into the bowl to entice the babies to do the same. Clap when the babies drop the blocks in the bowl. If a baby chooses a block with a heart on it say, “Jesus loves you!” When the bowl is full, dump out the blocks and replay.

**SAY** “ Stephen loved Jesus. The religious leaders did not like what Stephen said. Stephen was hurt for following Jesus. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## TODDLER ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

#### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Acts 6. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

#### 2 WALK ON A HEART PATH

Cut out hearts from colorful paper and tape them in a path. Guide a toddler to walk, hop, or tiptoe along the path. Instruct toddlers to sit on the hearts as you retell the story. Display the Bible story picture and allow toddlers to explore the faces of each person in the picture.

**SAY** “ Today, we followed a path. In our Bible story, we learned that Stephen loved and followed Jesus. Can we follow Jesus? Yes, we can love and follow Jesus by listening to Him and telling others about Him today! ”

#### 3 ERASE WORDS

Use a dry erase marker to write JESUS on a dry erase board. Call attention to the word as you talk about the Bible story. Distribute an eraser and invite the child to erase the word Jesus from the board. Rewrite the word each time it is erased. Continue as interest allows. Talk about how the religious leaders did not like Stephen's words. They wanted Stephen to stop talking about Jesus. Use baby wipes to clean the child's hands.

**SAY** “ What name did you see on our board today? Yes, Jesus! Steven said, ‘I see Jesus standing next to God.’ This made the people very angry. We can follow Jesus even when it is hard. ”

#### 4 TRACE A HEART

Draw a large heart on a sheet of paper (one per child). Instruct toddlers to follow the outline with a dot marker to dot-trace around the heart. Retell the story as the toddlers work.

**SAY** “ Stephen loved Jesus very much. Stephen followed Jesus even when it was hard. Can we follow Jesus too? Yes! We can follow Jesus even when it's hard because Jesus died for us. ”

#### 5 LOOK UP

Tape several pictures of Jesus to the underside of a table. Place a few classroom toys under the table. Suggest that the toddlers go under the table and play with the toys. Guide the toddlers to look up and see the pictures of Jesus. Suggest that the toddlers lay down and look up at the pictures of Jesus as you review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ When you looked up, who did you see? You looked up and saw Jesus! In our Bible story, when Stephen looked up, who did he see? He saw Jesus too, standing next to God! ”



# STEPHEN WAS ARRESTED

## ACTS 6-7

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** We can follow Jesus even when it is hard because Jesus died for us.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: SHAKE SHAKERS TO MUSIC



Fill plastic bottles with dry rice or beans. Secure the lids with tape or hot glue to ensure safety. Play worship music on an electronic device as you lead the children to shake the shakers. Suggest two children sit facing each other and roll the shaker back and forth as they listen to the music.

**SAY** “ Who was our music about today? Yes, our music was about Jesus! We can worship Jesus because He died for us. Our key passage phrase says, ‘Jesus took our punishment.’ We can love Jesus and follow Him even when it’s hard. ”

### 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing the song below to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”:

“Jesus, Jesus, we love Him. He’s our Savior and our friend.  
Tell the world about Him now. Do not stop until they know.  
Jesus, Jesus we love Him. He’s our Savior and our friend.”

### 3 PLAY WITH A MEDICAL KIT

Offer toddlers an age-appropriate medical kit, plastic dolls, and strips of cloths or paper towels. Explain that the dolls are hurt and need help. Show toddlers how to wrap the strips of cloth around the dolls as bandages. Allow toddlers to care for the dolls. Guide the children to hug the dolls and say, “Jesus loves you!” Review the Bible story as the toddlers play.

**SAY** “ Who was hurt in our Bible story? Yes, Stephen was! Stephen loved and followed Jesus, but Stephen was hurt for following Jesus. We can care for others when they are hurt. ”

### 4 ROLL A BALL

Cut out a large heart, circle, and triangle from colorful paper. Make one set for every two toddlers. Tape each of the shapes to the floor in a row about 6 inches apart. Invite two toddlers to sit facing each other on opposite sides of the shapes. Point to each shape and say its color and shape. Lead the children to say the shapes’ names aloud. Offer the toddlers small playground balls. Challenge toddlers to roll the balls across the hearts as you say, “Jesus loves [insert child’s name]!” Play as interest allows.

**SAY** “ Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves all of us! He loved us so much that He died for us so we can live with Him forever! We can follow Jesus, even when it’s hard. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.



UNIT 31 | SESSION 4

## THE CHURCH SPREAD OUT

ACTS 8

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God wants us to tell others about Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5

### BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Philip heard a man reading God's Word.
- Philip told the man about Jesus.
- God wants us to tell others about Jesus.

### BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

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 aloud 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 and went home happy.



## BABIES ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Acts 8. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

#### 1 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “London Bridge”:

“We can tell about Jesus, about Jesus, about Jesus.  
We can tell about Jesus. He is our Savior.”

| SAY “ Thank You, God, for Jesus, our Savior. Philip told the man about Jesus. The man believed in Jesus and went home happy. God wants us to tell others about Jesus too. ”

#### 2 TAP ON A BOX

Place a Bible and the Bible story picture in a plastic shoebox and close the lid. Sit babies in horseshoe-shaped pillows in front of the box. Use a large craft stick or wooden spoon to tap the box. Ask, “Do you hear the tapping?” Encourage the babies to tap the box and hear the sound it makes. Then open the box and look at the Bible and the Bible story picture. Add a piece of fabric or thin blanket, jingle bells, or a string of plastic beads to the box for babies to hear the difference in each sound.

| SAY “ Philip heard a man reading God’s Word. This is a Bible. The Bible is God’s Word. ”

#### 3 CRAWL THROUGH A BOX

Make a box tunnel by folding a large cardboard box so that both ends are open. Secure with tape, if necessary. Tape the Bible story picture to the inside of the box. Place the box near the babies. Lay a few classroom toys on the opposite end of the box. Shake a toy to encourage the babies to crawl through the box. Point out the Bible story picture as the babies play.

| SAY “ Did you see the Bible story picture? Philip told a man about Jesus. Jesus wants us to tell others about Him. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## TODDLER ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

#### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Acts 8. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

#### 2 PULL A WAGON

Use painter's tape to secure the Bible story picture on a wall at the toddlers' eye level. Offer a child a small toy wagon. Help the child to place a doll and a Bible in the wagon. Suggest the toddler pull the wagon to the Bible story picture as you retell the Bible story.

**SAY** “ In our picture, two men are in a chariot—a two-wheeled wagon made of wood and leather that is pulled by horses. The man was reading aloud the words of the Bible, but did he understand what he was reading? No! Philip helped the man understand the words about Jesus. ”

#### 3 FEEL WET AND DRY

Place a few cotton balls, a paper towel, a sponge, and a washcloth on a rimmed baking sheet. Invite the toddlers to touch the items. Point out how each item is dry. Use a spray bottle filled with water to wet the items. Allow toddlers to use the spray bottle with close supervision. Invite the toddlers to touch the wet items. Talk about the difference between wet and dry.

**SAY** “ God told Philip to go to a road in the desert—a very dry place, where there is not a lot of water. Philip obeyed God. Philip heard a man reading God's Word. Philip told a man about Jesus. ”

#### 4 KNOCK OVER BOTTLES



Pour a small amount of sand or rice into empty plastic bottles. Seal the bottles with tape or glue. Arrange the bottles in a triangle, similar to bowling pins. Provide small playground balls for toddlers to roll and knock over the bottles. Explain that when we tell one person about Jesus, and they tell someone else, the good news of Jesus spreads! Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ Who does God want us to tell others about? God wants us to tell others about Jesus! ”

#### 5 LOOK THROUGH COLOR

Cut out a frame from heavyweight paper or cardstock. Tape colorful cellophane to the inside back of the frame. Invite a child to look around the room through the frame. Suggest the child look at a friend, a toy, and a Bible. Guide him to notice the way the color changes when they look through the cellophane. Say, “Jesus changes everything.” Retell the Bible story.

**SAY** “ Who did Philip see in our Bible story? Yes! Philip saw a man reading God's Word! Philip helped the man understand what he was reading. Philip told the man about Jesus. ”

# THE CHURCH SPREAD OUT

## ACTS 8

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God wants us to tell others about Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: PUSH CARS

Invite toddlers to play with toy cars. Make a road using painter's tape for the toddlers to push the cars along. Use small cardboard boxes and tubes or paper to make tunnels. Prop up a rimless baking sheet or flat piece of cardboard to make a ramp. Retell the Bible story as the toddlers play.

**SAY** “ God told Philip to go to a desert road. There, Philip heard a man reading God’s Word. Philip helped the man understand what he was reading and told him about Jesus. Can we tell people about Jesus? Yes! God wants us to tell others about Jesus! ”

### 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing the song below to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”:

“Jesus, Jesus, we love Him. He’s our Savior and our friend.  
Tell the world about Him now. Do not stop until they know.  
Jesus, Jesus we love Him. He’s our Savior and our friend.”

### 3 GLUE SHEEP

Prepare sheep outlines for each toddler. (Draw an uppercase U as a sheep’s face, then form lowercase Us on each side of the sheep’s face as the ears.) Place small bowls of liquid glue in the center of each table. Invite toddlers to dip a cotton ball into the glue and stick it between the ears of their sheep. Allow toddlers to use crayons to color in the ears, face, and add legs of their sheep. Write Tell about Jesus on each paper. Retell the Bible story as toddlers work.

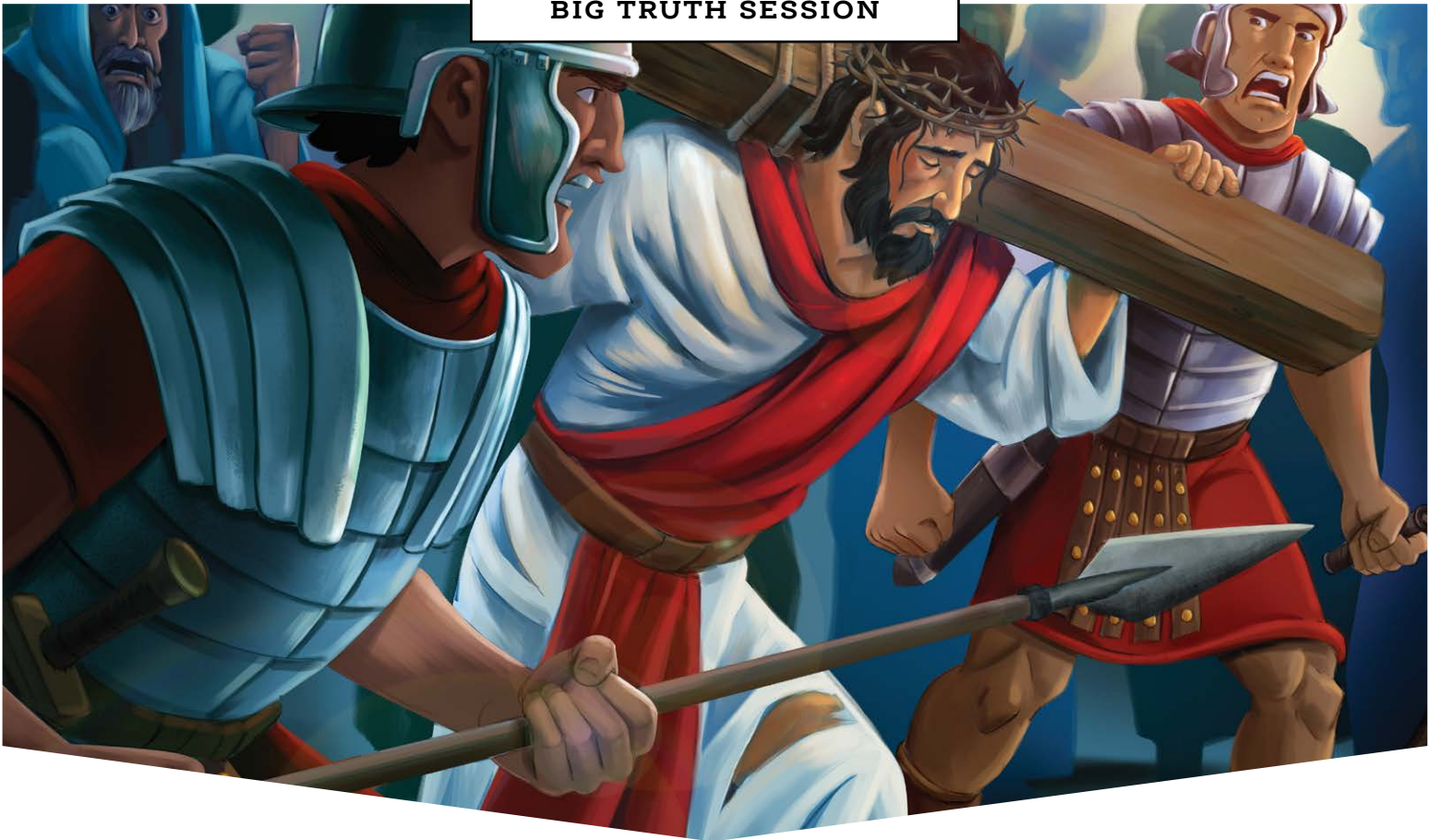
**SAY** “ Philip told the man that Jesus was led away like what? That’s right! A sheep! Philip taught the man and helped him understand what he was reading. Philip told the man about Jesus. God wants us to tell others about Jesus too! ”

### 4 FIND THE PICTURES

Print, cut apart, and tape one copy of the “Find the Pictures” printable around the room. Invite the toddlers to play a game. Hold up the first picture and explain how it relates to the Bible story. Challenge children to find the matching picture hidden in the room. Repeat for all pictures to review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ Can we tell this story using our pictures? Yes! God wants us to tell others about Jesus and help them understand how much He loves them! We can use pictures, words, or even our own actions to teach people about Jesus. Philip taught the man about Jesus, and we can too! ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.



UNIT 31 | SESSION 5

## JESUS SUFFERED FOR US

### PHILIPPIANS 2

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus died on the cross to rescue people from their sins.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5

#### BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Jesus was hurt and died for us.
- Paul told people to be like Jesus.
- Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God.

#### BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

Paul wrote a letter to say thank you 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.”



## BABIES ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Philippians 2. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

#### 1 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “London Bridge”:

“Jesus died to rescue us, rescue us, rescue us.  
Jesus died to rescue us. He is our Savior.”

**SAY** “ Jesus is our Savior. Jesus was hurt and died to rescue people from their sins. Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God. ”

#### 2 FIND THE BIBLE

Place a Bible on the floor in front of the babies. Drape a hand towel or cloth napkin over the Bible. Say a baby’s name to get his attention. Slowly lift the towel to show the Bible. Then cover the Bible again. Ask, “Where is the Bible?” Uncover the Bible and say, “There it is!” Repeat as interest allows.

**SAY** “ This is the Bible. The Bible tells about Jesus. All the words in the Bible are true. Jesus was hurt and died to rescue us! ”

#### 3 ROLL A BALL

Tape a cross to one side of an inflated beach ball and a picture of Jesus to the other side. Sit babies across from one another on the floor in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Slowly roll the ball back and forth, pointing out and saying, “Cross” and “Jesus,” for the babies as the ball rolls. Talk about the Bible story.

**SAY** “ Can you find the picture of Jesus? Jesus loves us! Can you find the cross? Jesus was hurt and died on the cross for us. Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## TODDLER ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

#### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Philippians 2. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

#### 2 PAINT WITH COTTON SWABS

Provide painting smocks and black paper for each toddler. Squirt a small amount of white or yellow washable paint on a paper plate. Demonstrate how to dip the cotton swabs into the paint and make dots on the papers. Talk about how the dots look like stars. Retell the story.

**SAY** “ When we follow and obey Jesus, what did Paul say we were like? Yes! Stars! Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God. He will help us be like Jesus. ”

#### 3 TRACE LETTERS

Display and open age-appropriate junk mail for toddlers to see. Explain that letters are used to make words. Encourage toddlers to notice all the different letters on the mail. Write JESUS on the papers for each toddler. Direct toddlers to trace the letters with their fingers as you read aloud and sound out the word Jesus. Review the Bible story as the toddlers trace.

**SAY** “ Paul wrote a letter to his friends. Who was his letter about? That’s right! Jesus! Paul told his friends to be like Jesus; Jesus is God. Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God. ”

#### 4 SHINE A LIGHT

Before the session, use nails or sharpened pencils to punch holes in a large cardboard box. Hold the box in front of a light to allow the light to shine through the holes. Explain that light shines in dark places, like stars. Allow toddlers to explore the box as you retell the story.

**SAY** “ God wants us to follow Jesus. Paul said that when we follow Jesus, we will shine like what? That’s right! Stars! When we follow Jesus, we are like a light shining in the dark to other people. ”

#### 5 WRITE THE LETTER J



Fill gallon-size ziplock bags with colored rice or candy sprinkles. Write the letter J on a sheet of paper and slide it in the bags. Seal the bags with duct tape. Consider double bagging to prevent leaks. Lay out the bags, covering the letter J. Invite toddlers find and write the letter in the rice or sprinkles as you review the story.

**SAY** “ Who was Paul’s letter about? Yes! Paul wrote a letter about Jesus! Paul told his friends to be like Jesus. Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God. ”



# JESUS SUFFERED FOR US

## PHILIPPIANS 2

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus died on the cross to rescue people from their sins.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: PLAY WITH MAGNETIC LETTERS

Fill a plastic container with shredded paper. Hide magnetic alphabet letters that spell JESUS among the strips of paper. Challenge the children to find all of the letters. Write JESUS on a sheet of paper and tape it to a magnetic baking sheet. Challenge children to match the magnetic letters to the ones on the paper. Assist as needed. Review the story as toddlers play.

**SAY** “ Paul wrote about Jesus. Who did Paul tell people to be like? Yes! Jesus! He told his friends to be like Jesus; Jesus is God. Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God. ”

### 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing the song below to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”:

“Jesus, Jesus, we love Him. He’s our Savior and our friend.  
Tell the world about Him now. Do not stop until they know.  
Jesus, Jesus we love Him. He’s our Savior and our friend.”

### 3 FIND ALL THE PEOPLE

Draw a simple stick person on a sticky note (at least two per child). Tape the Bible story picture or any other picture of Jesus to a wall at toddlers’ eye level. Adhere the sticky notes all around the room. Guide the toddlers to notice the picture of Jesus. Challenge them to find the stick people from around the room and place them on the picture of Jesus. Retell the story, focusing on how everyone everywhere will one day know and say “Jesus is Lord!”

**SAY** “ What did Paul say that everyone everywhere would say? Yes! ‘Jesus is Lord!’ Paul told his friends that one day everyone everywhere would know and say that Jesus is Lord. Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God. ”

### 4 RECORD WORDS

Gather the toddlers and lead them to say, “Jesus is Lord” in various ways. Ways include to whisper or talk like a giant, a robot, a pirate, and so forth. If possible, record the toddlers’ voices with an electronic recording device and play it back for them to hear. Continue as interest allows. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ What did Paul say everyone would say about Jesus? Right! Jesus is Lord! Paul told people to be like Jesus; Jesus is God! He is our Lord! Because of Jesus, we can follow and obey God. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.



UNIT 32 | SESSION 1

## PETER PERFORMED MIRACLES

ACTS 9

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God gave Peter power to do miracles like Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** The church has many people who help. 1 Corinthians 12:12

### BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- God gave Jesus' friends power to help people.
- Peter was a leader in the church.
- Peter healed two of Jesus' friends.

### BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

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.



## BABIES ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Acts 9. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

#### 1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “God Is So Good”:

“God is so good, God is so good,  
God is so good, He’s so good to me.  
We are His church, we are His church,  
We are His church, and He loves us so.”

**SAY** “ God is so good. We can praise God that He loves us! Our key passage phrase says, ‘The church has many people who help.’ God gave Jesus’ friends power to help people. ”

#### 2 HELP BABIES

Hold babies in leaders’ arms. Gently rock babies back and forth as you talk about the Bible story. Help babies in sitting up, crawling, standing up, and walking across the room. Assist babies by supporting them as they sit, crawl, stand, or walk. Hold each baby’s hands and encourage them in their efforts by saying, “I will help you.” Read the key passage phrase aloud as leaders help the babies.

**SAY** “ Our key passage says, ‘The church has many people who help.’ God gave Jesus’ friends power to help people. Can we help people? Yes! God gave Jesus’ friends power to help people. God gave Peter the power to do miracles like Jesus. ”

#### 3 FOLLOW THE LEADER

Print the Bible story picture. Point to Peter. Say, “Peter was a leader in the church.” Explain that we follow leaders. Move the picture slowly in different directions. Encourage babies to follow the picture with their eyes. For more mobile babies, allow babies to crawl to the picture as you move it around the room.

**SAY** “ Peter was a leader in the church. God gave Peter power to do miracles like Jesus. Peter healed two of Jesus’ friends. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## TODDLER ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

#### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Acts 9. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

#### 2 PLAY HEALER

Provide age-appropriate medical kits. Encourage children to play with and explore the items in the kit. Talk about the Bible story as the toddlers play.

**SAY** “ We know doctors help us, but who is our Healer? Yes! Jesus is! God gave Jesus’ friends the power to heal people and to tell people about Jesus. Peter healed two of Jesus’ friends. ”

#### 3 ACT OUT THE STORY

Provide people figures and fabric scraps. Assign one figure to be “Aeneas” and one to be “Dorcas.” Invite the toddlers to act out the story as they listen. Reread the story, pausing for toddlers to respond. Allow toddlers to act out the story by lying down, praying, getting up, and so forth.

**SAY** “ In our story, we learned that Aeneas could not walk and Dorcas got sick. God gave Jesus’ friends power to heal people and tell people about Jesus. When Peter healed Aeneas and Dorcas, many people believed in Jesus. ”

#### 4 BUILD A CITY

Gather foam blocks and people figures. Designate one people figure as “Peter.” Encourage toddlers to build cities and move Peter from city to city. Retell the story as toddlers play.

**SAY** “ In our story, who moved from city to city? That’s right! Peter did! Peter was a leader in the church. Peter went to visit friends in different towns. Peter healed two of Jesus’ friends. ”

#### 5 MAKE ICE PACKS



Gather iodized salt, water, measuring cups and spoons, and sandwich-size ziplock bags. Add 2 tablespoons of salt and 2 cups of water to each bag. Seal bags and secure with duct tape. Place each bag inside a second ziplock bag to prevent leaks. Inform parents to place the bags in the freezer for several hours or overnight. Prepare an example beforehand. Retell the story.

**SAY** “ Ice packs can help us feel better when we get bumps or bruises. Aeneas could not walk. He needed more than an ice pack. He needed a miracle to be healed. Peter visited Aeneas and said, ‘Jesus heals you!’ Aeneas was healed! God gave Peter power to do miracles like Jesus. ”

# PETER PERFORMED MIRACLES

## ACTS 9

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God gave Peter power to do miracles like Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** The church has many people who help. 1 Corinthians 12:12

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: PLAY A GAME

Assist toddlers to form a line and play follow-the-leader. Invite toddlers to follow you in various ways such as hopping, tiptoeing, marching, and more. Replay as time permits, choosing a new leader for each round.

**SAY** “ Who did we follow in our game? Yes! The leader! Peter was a leader in the church. Peter went to different towns and visited friends. God gave Peter power to do miracles like Jesus. When this happened, many people believed in Jesus. ”

### 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “God Is So Good”:

“God is so good, God is so good,  
God is so good, He’s so good to me.  
We are His church, we are His church,  
We are His church, and He loves us so.”

**SAY** “ God is so good! We can praise God that He loves us! God gave Jesus’ friends power to heal people and to tell people about Jesus. ”

### 3 HELP CLEAN

Prepare a spray bottle filled up halfway with dish soap and the other half with water. Provide each toddler with a paper towel or washcloth. Spray different areas of the room and invite toddlers to “clean” with the towels. Talk about different ways to help people.

**SAY** “ Dorcas loved Jesus and helped people. When we help each other, we show our love for Jesus. How did you help me today? You helped me clean! God gave Peter power to help people through miracles like Jesus. ”

### 4 STICK BANDAGES

Provide self-adhesive bandages and colored paper for toddlers to explore. Write Jesus heals! on each paper. Assist toddlers with opening and sticking the bandages onto their papers. Retell the Bible story.

**SAY** “ Dorcas and Aeneas needed more than a bandage to heal them. They needed a miracle. God gave Peter power to do miracles like Jesus. Peter healed Dorcas and Aeneas. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.



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.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** The church has many people who help. 1 Corinthians 12:12

#### BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Peter saw a vision of animals that God made clean.
- Peter told Cornelius good news: Jesus is for everyone!
- Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven.

#### BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

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 sent by 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.



## BABIES ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Acts 10. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

#### 1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “God Is So Good”:

“God is so good, God is so good,  
God is so good, He’s so good to me.  
God has good news, God has good news,  
God has good news, Jesus is for all!”

**SAY** “ Jesus is for everyone! God showed Peter the good news about Jesus. Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven. ”

#### 2 PAINT WITH WATER

Provide babies with black construction paper, chalk, paintbrushes (or damp sponges), paper towels, and cups of water. Use the chalk to scribble on each babies’ papers and allow them to “paint” the papers clean. Read the gospel gems as the babies paint. If desired, use damp sponges instead of paintbrushes for babies to daub the water onto their papers.

**SAY** “ Peter told Cornelius good news: Jesus is for everyone! Cornelius, his family, and his friends believed in Jesus and were baptized with water. God made them clean! Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven. ”

#### 3 LOOK AT ANIMALS

Provide a variety of books about animals (including snakes, lizards, or birds). Look at the books with the babies. Point out snakes, lizards, or birds. Talk with babies about what you see. Read the first gospel gems as you look at animals with the babies.

**SAY** “ Some people believed animals like lizards, snakes, and birds were not clean. Peter saw a vision of animals that God made clean. God showed Peter that the good news about Jesus is for everyone. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## TODDLER ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

#### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Acts 10. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

#### 2 MAKE ANIMAL ART

Place a blue sheet of paper and a tissue on the table. Instruct toddlers to glue the tissue flat onto paper. Provide stickers of animals from the story (all kinds of animals, snakes and lizards, and birds) to place on top of the tissue. Review the story as toddlers work.

**SAY** “ Peter saw a vision of animals that God made clean. The animals came down from the sky on a sheet. Peter told people the good news: Jesus is for everyone! ”

#### 3 RAISE AND LOWER THE BLANKET

Spread out a blanket in front of the toddlers. Invite toddlers to place various animal toys on the blanket. Grab the blanket by the corners and lift it up and down, without dropping the animals. Review the Bible story as you raise and lower the blanket.

**SAY** “ What did Peter see in his vision? That’s right! Animals! Peter saw a vision of animals that God made clean. When Peter saw Cornelius, he told him good news: Jesus is for all people. Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven. ”

#### 4 CONDUCT AN EXPERIMENT



Gather sugar cubes and a small, clear container of warm water on the table. Place a sugar cube in the water. Allow toddlers to watch and share what happens to the sugar cube. Comment that the sugar cube disappeared. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ What happened when we put the sugar cube in the warm water? It disappeared! Our sins disappear when we put our trust in Jesus. Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven. ”

#### 5 EXPLORE DIFFERENT CULTURES

Print and cut apart the “Cultures” printable. Point out similarities and differences between each picture. Be sensitive to the toddlers who may have different backgrounds or cultures.

**SAY** “ Everyone is different, and our differences are beautiful to Jesus. Who is Jesus for? Jesus is for everyone! God showed Peter that the good news about Jesus is for everyone. ”



# PETER LEARNED THAT JESUS IS FOR ALL

## ACTS 10

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God showed Peter that the good news about Jesus is for everyone.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** The church has many people who help. 1 Corinthians 12:12

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: PLAY FREEZE GAME

Play upbeat worship music on an electronic device. Encourage toddlers to dance along with the music. Guide toddlers to freeze when the music stops. When the music stops, state “Jesus is for everyone!” Resume music and replay as interest allows. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ What was the good news that God showed Peter? Yes! God showed Peter that Jesus is for everyone! Peter told Cornelius this good news. We can share that good news with others today! ”

### 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “God Is So Good”:

“God is so good, God is so good,  
God is so good, He’s so good to me.  
God has good news, God has good news,  
God has good news, Jesus is for all!”

### 3 PLAY WITH WATER

Place two shallow buckets, sponges, and cups on towels laid out on the floor. Fill one bucket halfway with water and encourage toddlers to explore with the sponges. Show toddlers how to fill a sponge with water and then squeeze the water into the empty bucket. Encourage toddlers to play as you review the story.

**SAY** “ Our lives change when we believe in Jesus. Cornelius, his family, and his friends believed in Jesus and were baptized with water. Baptism is a special celebration for believers. Everyone who believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven. ”

### 4 COMPARE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE



Gather different colored candy-coated chocolate pieces or different colored boiled eggs, a knife (adult use only), and a paper plate. Display the items. Invite toddlers to look at and talk about the different colors they see. Ask toddlers if they think the colors on the inside will be the same or different. Crack open the eggs or cut open the candies to find out! Observe how the outsides are different, but the insides are the same.

**SAY** “ Were our items the same or different on the inside? That’s right! They were the same! We all look different on the outside, but we have the same needs on the inside. We all need Jesus. God showed Peter that the good news about Jesus is for everyone. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.



UNIT 32 | SESSION 3

# GENTILES BECAME PART OF THE CHURCH

## ACTS 11

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** We can celebrate when others believe in Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** The church has many people who help. 1 Corinthians 12:12

### BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Peter told people about Jesus.
- Many people heard the good news and believed.
- We can be happy when people love Jesus.

### BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

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.



## BABIES ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Acts 11. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

#### 1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “God Is So Good”:

“God is so good, God is so good,  
God is so good, He’s so good to me.  
I praise His name, I praise His name,  
I praise His name, He’s so good to me.”

**SAY** “ Many people heard the good news that God is good! We can celebrate when others believe in Jesus! ”

#### 2 CHEER FOR JESUS

Place babies in a circle in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Instruct leaders to take the babies’ hands and clap them together. Then raise the babies’ arms up over their heads. After each action say, “We can be happy” in a gentle, cheerful tone. Then place babies’ hands over their chests and say, “When people love Jesus” in a sweet, loving voice. Repeat as desired. Provide musical instruments to lengthen activity if desired.

**SAY** “ Let’s celebrate! We can be happy when people love Jesus! We can celebrate when others believe in Jesus! ”

#### 3 SPREAD PAINT

Slide a piece of paper in a gallon-size ziplock bag. Squirt a few drops of colorful, washable paint and seal the bag. Secure the opening with duct tape. Consider double-bagging to prevent leaks. Secure the bags to the table or floor in front of each baby. Encourage the babies to push on the paint to spread it across the paper.

**SAY** “ Peter told people about Jesus. The good news about Jesus spread. Many believed in Jesus. We can celebrate when others believe in Jesus. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## TODDLER ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

#### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Acts 11. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

#### 2 MAKE FOOTPRINT ART

Remove the toddlers' shoes and socks. Squirt a thin layer of washable paint on a paper plate and lay it on the ground. Place a sheet of paper next to the plate. Guide toddlers to step in the paint and then on the paper to create walking footprints. Set footprints aside to dry. Write *Keep following God* on each child's art. Retell the Bible story.

**SAY** “ Many people heard the good news about Jesus. Once we believe in Jesus, should we stop following Him? No! We must keep following God! Barnabas told people to keep following God. ”

#### 3 BLOW BUBBLES

Play upbeat worship music on an electronic device as you blow bubbles over the toddlers. Allow toddlers to dance and celebrate as they play with the bubbles. Call attention to how many bubbles there are. Challenge the toddlers to count the bubbles. Review the story.

**SAY** “ Our bubbles spread just like the good news of Jesus. Many people heard the good news and believed. When the people heard, what did they do? They praised God! We can celebrate when others believe in Jesus. ”

#### 4 EXPLORE MAPS

Provide a variety of maps and magnifying glasses for toddlers to examine the maps. Show the toddlers where they live on the map. If possible, point to the country of Turkey. Talk about how far you live from where Peter lived. Review the Bible story as the toddlers explore.

**SAY** “ Who did Peter tell people about? Jesus! Peter told people about Jesus no matter who they were or where they came from. Peter told about Jesus, and we can too! ”

#### 5 PASS A BALL

Invite toddlers to sit in a circle. Take turns passing an inflated beach ball around the circle. Then take turns passing the ball to friends across the circle. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ Who did Peter tell people about? Yes! Jesus! Peter passed the good news about Jesus to many people! When those people heard the good news, many of them believed. We can all celebrate when others believe in Jesus. ”

# GENTILES BECAME PART OF THE CHURCH

## ACTS 11

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** We can celebrate when others believe in Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** The church has many people who help. 1 Corinthians 12:12

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: CELEBRATE BELIEVERS

Play upbeat worship music on an electronic device. Provide musical instruments for toddlers to play along. Allow toddlers to celebrate and praise God. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ When the people heard the good news about Jesus, they praised God! Who do we praise? Yes! We praise God! Today we are dancing and playing music to celebrate! We can celebrate when others believe in Jesus. ”

### 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “God Is So Good”:

“God is so good, God is so good,  
God is so good, He’s so good to me.  
I praise His name, I praise His name,  
I praise His name, He’s so good to me.”

**SAY** “ Many people heard the good news that God is good! We can celebrate when others believe in Jesus! ”

### 3 MAKE HAPPY FACES

Provide large googly eyes and yarn on a plate. Use liquid glue to secure the eyes and yarn onto the plate to create a happy face. Write We can be happy when people love Jesus on each child’s plate. Ensure no child puts anything in his mouth.

**SAY** “ What are some things that make you happy? [Allow responses.] We also can be happy when people love who? That’s right, Jesus! We can be happy when people love Jesus. We can celebrate that others believe in Jesus! ”

### 4 LEARN ABOUT OTHER NATIONS

Provide books with pictures of people from various backgrounds and cultures. Talk about the similarities and the differences you see in the pictures. Talk about the Bible story. Be sensitive to the toddlers who may have different backgrounds or cultures.

**SAY** “ Peter told many people about Jesus, no matter who they were or where they came from. Many people heard the news about Jesus and believed. Can we tell people about Jesus? Yes! We can tell others the good news about Jesus too! ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.



UNIT 32 | SESSION 4

# PETER WAS RESCUED FROM PRISON

## ACTS 12

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God hears and answers prayers.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** The church has many people who help. 1 Corinthians 12:12

### BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Peter was in prison for telling people about Jesus.
- God sent an angel to rescue Peter from prison.
- God hears us when we pray.

### BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

King Herod put Peter in prison. 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 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!



## BABIES ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Acts 12. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

#### 1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “God Is So Good”:

“God is so good, God is so good,  
God is so good, He’s so good to me.  
God hears our prayers, God hears our prayers,  
God hears our prayers, and He answers us.”

**SAY** “ God is so good. God sent an angel to rescue Peter from prison. God hears and answers prayers. ”

#### 2 UNLINK CHAINS

Link together three or four plastic chain links for each baby to manipulate and explore. Say the first gospel gem (“Peter was in prison for telling people about Jesus”) as babies try to pull the links apart. Then say the second gospel gem (“God sent an angel to rescue Peter from prison”) as you help babies break the chains apart. Congratulate babies on their efforts.

**SAY** “ Peter was in prison for telling people about Jesus. Peter’s friends were praying for him to be rescued. God heard their prayers. God sent an angel to rescue Peter from prison. ”

#### 3 RESCUE THE PEOPLE

Place a few people figurines in a cake pan. Stretch thick rubber bands or cloth headbands around the pan. Encourage babies to reach into the pan and remove the people. Talk about Bible story as babies play. Monitor closely as babies play with rubber bands to ensure safety.

**SAY** “ Paul was in prison for telling people about Jesus. One night, an angel appeared and rescued Peter. God sent the angel to rescue Peter! ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## TODDLER ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

#### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Acts 12. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

#### 2 MAKE PRAYER HANDS

Provide papers folded in half lengthwise and a washable ink pad. Unfold the paper. Press each toddler's hand in the ink and on his paper (pinky against the fold). Repeat for both hands. Fold and unfold papers to make prayer hands. Provide art supplies for toddlers to decorate their hands. Keep paper towels and wipes handy for easy cleanup. Retell the story.

**SAY** “ What did the people do while Peter was in prison? That's right! They prayed! The people prayed for Peter to be rescued. God heard their prayers. God sent an angel to rescue Peter from prison. God hears and answers prayers! ”

#### 3 COMPARE VOLUMES

Provide musical instruments. Demonstrate being loud and soft with the instruments.

**SAY** “ Do you think God can hear us if we pray loudly? Do you think God can hear us if we pray quietly? God hears us no matter what! We can be loud or quiet when we pray. God hears us when we pray. God hears and answers prayers. ”

#### 4 PRACTICE LACING

Print Bible story pictures on heavyweight paper (one per child). Cut the picture in half to show Peter at the door. Use a hole punch to make three or four holes across the top and bottom of the picture. Place a chenille stem through one hole to resemble the bars of a prison. Provide more chenille stems for toddlers to practice lacing in and out of the holes.

**SAY** “ Peter loved Jesus. Peter wanted to share the good news. But where did King Herod put Peter? Yes! He put Peter in prison for telling people about Jesus. But God did not leave Peter in prison. God sent an angel to rescue Peter! ”

#### 5 EXPLORE CHAINS

Provide toddlers with chains varying in type, size, and length. Allow toddlers to explore and talk about the differences in the chains. Monitor closely to ensure safety. Retell the story.

**SAY** “ Are the chains easy to break? No! Chains are not easily broken. Peter had chains on his wrists when he was in prison. When God sent an angel to rescue Peter, his chains broke! ”



# PETER WAS RESCUED FROM PRISON

## ACTS 12

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God hears and answers prayers.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** The church has many people who help. 1 Corinthians 12:12

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: LISTEN TO THE MUSIC

Play simple worship songs on an electronic device. Challenge toddlers to listen to the music while others are talking. Then challenge the toddlers to list everything that they heard (what the others were talking about, the instruments used in the song, the words of the song, and so forth). Repeat, experimenting with different volumes and songs. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ Can we hear everything going on around us at the same time? No! We cannot hear everything, but God does! God hears everything! God hears and answers our prayers. ”

### 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “God Is So Good”:

“God is so good, God is so good,  
God is so good, He’s so good to me.  
God hears our prayers, God hears our prayers,  
God hears our prayers, and He answers us.”

**SAY** “ God is so good. God heard the prayers for Peter. God sent an angel to rescue Peter from prison. God hears and answers prayers. ”

### 3 LINK CHAINS

Provide 1-inch wide colorful paper strips and a stapler or tape. Demonstrate how to curve the papers into a circle. Tape or staple in place. Link and curve a second strip through the first to create a chain. Review the Bible story as toddlers work. Write *God sent an angel to rescue Peter from prison* on the last paper strip. Secure the last strip to the two ends of each child’s chain. Read aloud the last strip and allow toddlers to break their chains, if desired.

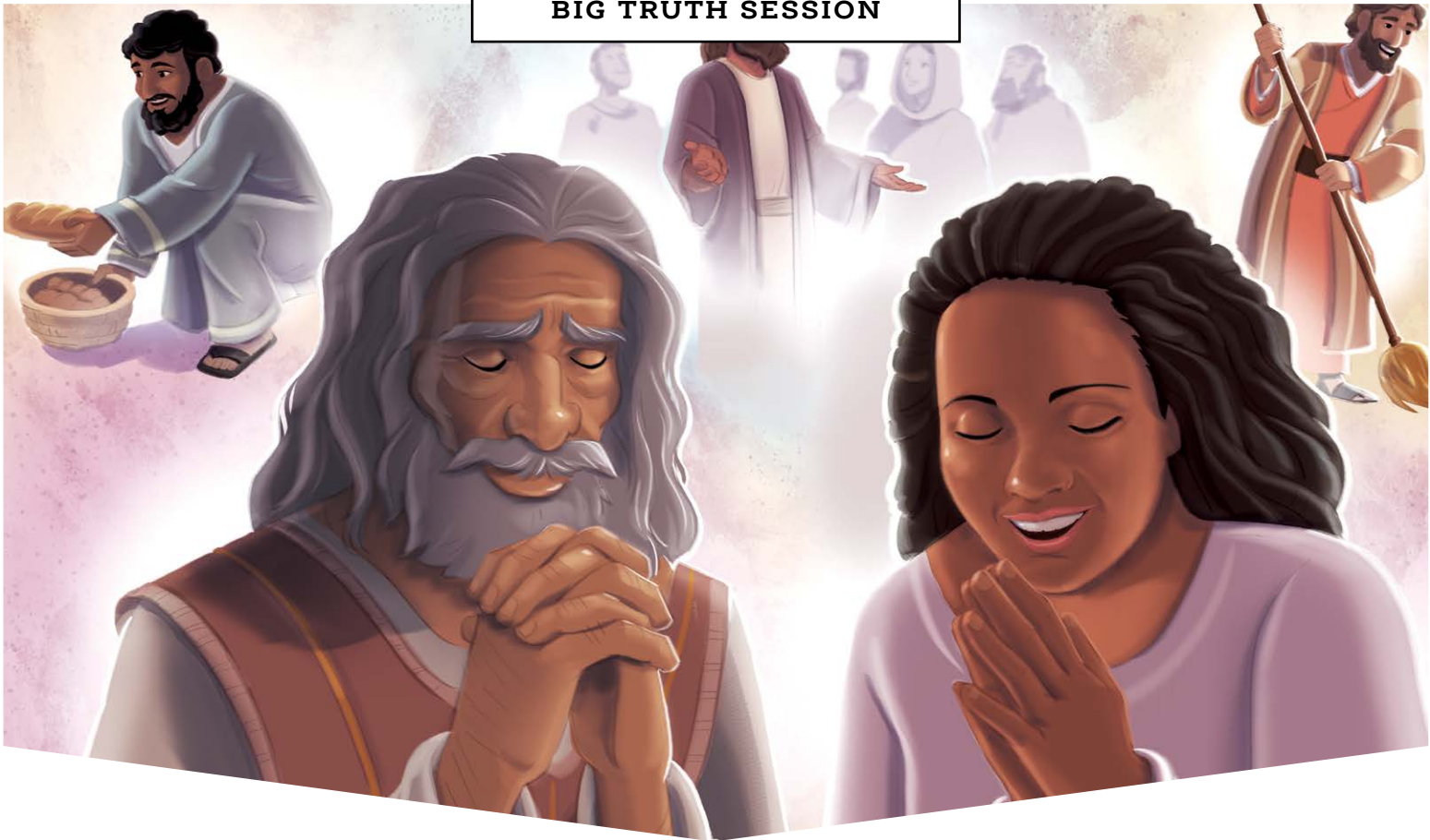
**SAY** “ Peter was in prison for telling people about Jesus. Who did God send to rescue Peter? That’s right! When God sent an angel to rescue Peter from prison, the chains on Peter’s wrists fell off! Peter followed the angel out of the prison. ”

### 4 RESCUE PETER

Gather magnetic or foam letters P, E, T, E, and R. Wrap chenille stems around the letters. Assist toddlers in removing the chenille stems and placing the letters in order to spell Peter.

**SAY** “ Who was in prison in our Bible story? Yes! Peter was in prison for telling people about Jesus. The people prayed for Peter. God heard their prayers. God sent an angel to rescue Peter. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.



UNIT 32 | SESSION 5

## WE ARE PART OF ONE CHURCH

1 CORINTHIANS 12

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Believers are part of one church.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** The church has many people who help. 1 Corinthians 12:12

### BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- The church works together like one body.
- Paul wrote that many people are part of the church.
- Every part of the church is important.

### BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

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.”



## BABIES ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to 1 Corinthians 12. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

#### 1 BUILD A CHURCH

Place large interlocking blocks in the middle of the floor. Sit babies in horseshoe-shaped pillows or in leaders' laps. Encourage babies to work together in stacking the blocks on top of one another to build a church. Cheer for the babies as they help one another build. Read the gospel gems as the babies build the church.

| SAY “ Our key passage phrase says, ‘The church has many people who help.’ We helped build our church today! Believers are part of one church. ”

#### 2 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “God Is So Good”:

“God is so good, God is so good,  
God is so good, He’s so good to me.  
We are His church, we are His church,  
We are His church, and He loves us so.”

| SAY “ God is so good to believers. Because He is so good, we can sing songs and praise Him! ”

#### 3 POINT OUT BODY PARTS

Sit babies in horseshoe-shaped pillows or in leaders' laps. Provide each baby with a plastic baby doll. Point out various body parts on each doll such as eyes, ears, nose, arms, fingers, or toes. As leaders point to one body part on the doll, guide them to also point to the same part on each baby. Talk about the Bible story as babies play.

| SAY “ The church works together like one body. Many people are a part of the church. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church's security guidelines. Give parents today's big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## TODDLER ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

#### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 12. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

#### 2 LABEL BODY PARTS

Place a large sheet of paper (4–5 feet long) on the floor. Instruct one child to lie down on his back on the paper. Trace his outline onto the paper. Assist toddlers in noticing different basic body parts and adding them to the outline as you go. Guide the conversation so that toddlers list body parts such as eyes, ears, mouth, nose, arms, legs, and other appropriate parts.

**SAY** “ A church, like our body outline, has many parts. All of the parts work together as one. Every part of the church is important. ”

#### 3 COUNT PEOPLE

Place an empty basket beside multiple people figures. Hold the basket and explain how this is the church. Challenge toddlers to work together to count the number of people figures. As you count, place each figure into the basket. Review the story as toddlers play with figures.

**SAY** “ Are we all a part of the church? Yes! Many different people are a part of the church. There are so many, it would be difficult for us to count! All believers are part of one church. ”

#### 4 COMPLETE THE CHURCH

Print the “Churches” printable. Cut each picture into three pieces. Invite toddlers to arrange the pieces to complete each church. (Make sure pictures are different enough for toddlers to piece each “church” together without frustration.) For an added challenge, mix up all four pictures for toddlers to sort and complete. Retell the story as toddlers play.

**SAY** “ Is a church complete without all of its parts? No! Every part of the church is important. The building, the people, and you! ”

#### 5 TAKE A WALK

Consult your church's safety and security guidelines. Lead toddlers on a walk around outside (weather permitting) or inside the church building. As you walk, point out different parts of the church. Talk about the Bible story as you walk.

**SAY** “ These are all different parts of our church. Is one part of the church more important than the other? No! All parts are important. Every part of the church works together as one. ”

# WE ARE PART OF ONE CHURCH

## 1 CORINTHIANS 12

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Believers are part of one church.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** The church has many people who help. 1 Corinthians 12:12

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: PLAY A GAME

Sing “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes.” As you sing, gesture to each part of the body as it is said. Speed up with each round to create additional fun. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “Are we a part of the church? Yes! We are all a part of one church. Our key passage says, ‘The church has many people who help.’ A church is often called a body. Like our bodies, a church works together as one.”

### 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “God Is So Good”:

“God is so good, God is so good,  
God is so good, He’s so good to me.  
We are His church, we are His church,  
We are His church, and He loves us so.”

**SAY** “Many different people are a part of the church, but God loves us all! Believers are part of one church. God is so good to believers.”

### 3 MAKE COLLABORATIVE ART

Place a large sheet of paper on the floor. Write *Believers are part of one church* on the paper. Provide paper plates with daubs of washable finger paint in various colors on them. Encourage children to add their handprints and fingerprints to the paper. Retell the story.

**SAY** “Who is the church? Right! People who believe in Jesus are part of one church. Each of our hands is important because we can help with our hands. Our key passage phrase says, ‘The church has many people who help.’ Every part of the church is important. We can all help each other!”

### 4 CREATE A BODY

Provide felt ovals, decorating art supplies (googly eyes, cotton balls, chenille stems, yarn, etc.), ziplock bags, and liquid glue. Squirt glue onto paper plates for toddlers to dip and stick items to their ovals. (If preferred, provide precut felt face shapes [ears, noses, and mouths]. Show how felt sticks to felt.) Allow toddlers to explore different faces. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “If our bodies had no ears, how might we hear? If our bodies only had eyes, how might we smell? The church works together like one body. Not everyone is the same, but every part of the church is important.”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.



UNIT 33 | SESSION 1

## PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

### ACTS 9

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God changes us to be like Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** God sent Jesus to save people. John 3:17

#### **BABIES GOSPEL GEMS**

- Jesus spoke to Paul, and Paul believed in Jesus.
- God chose Paul to tell people about Jesus.
- Paul loved Jesus and told people about Him.

#### **BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:**

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.



## BABIES ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Acts 9. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

#### 1 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “Muffin Man”:

“God sent Jesus to save people,  
To save people, to save people,  
God sent Jesus to save people,  
Just like you and me.”

**SAY** “ Can God change us and save us from our sins? Yes! Our key passage phrase says, ‘God sent Jesus to save people.’ ”

#### 2 PULL UP THE HEARTS

Use painter’s tape to tape a heart shape on the floor (one per baby). Sit babies in horseshoe-shaped pillows and call attention to the end of the tape. Assist babies in pulling up the tape as you read the third gospel gem.

**SAY** “ Who did Paul love? Paul loved Jesus and told people about Him! We can love Jesus with all our hearts and tell others about Him too. ”

#### 3 CHOOSE AND SHARE

Fill an empty box with several classroom toys. Allow babies to choose a toy from the box to play with. Read the gospel gems as the babies make their choices and share with others around them. Congratulate babies on their choices.

**SAY** “ God chose Paul to tell people about Jesus. Paul believed in Jesus, and you can too! God loves you and wants you to be like Jesus. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## TODDLER ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

#### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Acts 9. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

#### 2 PLAY "WHO ARE YOU?"

Direct toddlers to place their hands around their eyes, with their faces to the ground. Instruct the toddlers to ask, "Who are you?" Respond with various animal sounds. Allow toddlers to guess the animal. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** " In our Bible story, what question did Paul ask? Yes! He asked 'Who are You?' Jesus spoke to Paul, and Paul believed in Jesus. We can believe in Jesus too! God changes us to be like Jesus. "

#### 3 STOP AND FREEZE

Tape a path on the floor. Provide a flashlight and musical instruments or rhythm sticks. Direct toddlers to choose an instrument to play as they walk on the path. When the flashlight turns on, toddlers must freeze and stop playing their instruments. When the flashlight is off, toddlers may continue walking down the road. Review the story, playing as interest allows.

**SAY** " Who was traveling along the road? Paul! Paul was against God. He tried to stop people from telling about Jesus. But when Jesus spoke to Paul, Paul stopped! Now, Paul believed in Jesus! "

#### 4 HELP PAUL SEE

Use painter's tape to mark start and finish lines around the room. Choose two helpers. Assign one child to be "Paul" and the other to lead him around the room. Place a blindfold on Paul as the helper leads him safely around the room. Once at the end, instruct a leader to be "Ananias" and to remove the blindfold. Repeat, switching roles as time allows. Retell the Bible story as toddlers play. Be sensitive to toddlers who do not want to be blindfolded.

**SAY** " Who helped Paul see again? Ananias! God sent Ananias to help Paul see again. Paul loved Jesus and told people all about Him. "

#### 5 SEE AND WORK THE PUZZLE

Print two copies of the Bible story picture. Display one picture and talk about what the toddlers see. Remove the picture from sight. Then cut apart the other picture into a simple puzzle for toddlers to work. Repeat as interest allows. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** " God chose Paul to tell people about Jesus. Paul loved Jesus. Who did Paul tell people about? Jesus! Paul told people about Jesus, and we can too! "



# PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

## ACTS 9

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God changes us to be like Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** God sent Jesus to save people. John 3:17

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: TAKE A PICTURE WALK

Encourage toddlers to sit in a circle. Hold up the Bible story picture. Lead toddlers to take a picture walk through the story. Allow toddlers to look at the picture and answer prompting questions such as: “Are the people in the picture happy, sad, or afraid?” “Who are the people in the picture?” “Where is the bright light coming from?” Give each child a chance to tell about something she sees in the picture. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ In our Bible story, what did Paul see? Yes! He saw a bright light! The bright light was coming down from heaven. Who was speaking to Paul? That’s right! Jesus was speaking to Paul. Jesus spoke to Paul, and Paul believed in Jesus. ”

### 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “Muffin Man”:

“God sent Jesus to save people,  
To save people, to save people,  
God sent Jesus to save people,  
Just like you and me.”

### 3 FIND HEARTS

Cut out construction paper hearts and write God sent Jesus to save people on the hearts (one word per heart). Hide the hearts around the room. Allow toddlers to find all the hearts and bring them to you. Once they are all found, place the words in order and read the verse to the toddlers. Rehide the hearts, and replay as time permits. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ Who did Paul tell people about? Yes, Jesus! Paul loved Jesus and told all people about Him. We can love and tell people about Jesus too! ”

### 4 EXAMINE OBJECTS

Collect objects of various sizes and textures (leaves, seeds, flowers, soil, bark, pencil shavings, and so forth) and lay them out for the toddlers to see. Provide nonbreakable magnifying glasses and encourage toddlers to examine the objects. Allow toddlers to share and use descriptive words of what they see.

**SAY** “ God chose Paul to tell people about Jesus. God sent Ananias to help Paul see again. Who did God send to save people? Jesus! God’s Word changes us to be like Jesus. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.



UNIT 33 | SESSION 2

## PAUL BECAME A MISSIONARY

ACTS 13-14

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** We tell others about Jesus so they can hear and believe.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** God sent Jesus to save people. John 3:17

### BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Paul and Barnabas traveled to tell people about Jesus.
- Paul healed a man who could not walk.
- Many people believed in Jesus.

### BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

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 (LISS truh). 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.



## BABIES ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Acts 13. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

#### 1 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “Muffin Man”:

“God sent Jesus to save people,  
To save people, to save people,  
God sent Jesus to save people,  
Just like you and me.”

| SAY “ Who sent Jesus to save people? God! We can tell people about Jesus! ”

#### 2 RESCUE THE PEOPLE

Gather plastic people figures and painter’s tape. Tape across each figure to secure them to the floor. Show babies how to pull up the tape and rescue the people. Allow babies to pull at the tape as you read the gospel gems. Congratulate the babies on their efforts.

| SAY “ Our key passage phrase says ‘God sent Jesus to save people.’ We can tell others about Jesus so they can hear, believe, and be rescued! ”

#### 3 TRAVEL AND TELL

Provide large toy blocks or plastic interlocking blocks and two people figures. Assist babies in building cities by stacking the blocks. Use a hand-over-hand method to guide babies to place blocks on top of each other. Read the gospel gems, using the two figures as Paul and Barnabas who traveled to tell people about Jesus.

| SAY “ Paul and Barnabas traveled to tell people about Jesus. We can tell people about Jesus too! God sent Jesus to save us because He loves us. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## TODDLER ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

#### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Acts 13. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

#### 2 HEAL THE MAN

Print and cut apart “Peter Heals” printable (one per child). Provide crayons and encourage toddlers to color the two pieces. When complete, place a brass fastener loosely on the dot to secure the two halves of the figure together. When attached loosely, the figure’s legs should move freely. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ Who healed a man that could not walk? Yes, Paul healed a man that could not walk! Paul also told the people about Jesus. We tell others about Jesus so they can hear and believe. ”

#### 3 SING A SONG

Sing to the familiar tune of “London Bridge”: “Paul healed a man who could not walk, could not walk, could not walk / Paul healed a man who could not walk, with God’s power.” Encourage children to march in a circle as they praise God. Sing the song in different ways such as fast or slow, in a low or a high voice, and so forth.

**SAY** “ Who healed a man who could not walk? Paul! God had a special job for Paul—to tell people about Jesus. We can love Jesus and tell others about Him too! ”

#### 4 ACT OUT THE STORY

Choose volunteers to act out the Bible story. Choose toddlers to be Paul, Barnabas, and the man who could not walk. Allow the rest of the toddlers to be the church who prays for Paul and Barnabas. Allow toddlers to walk, lay down, sit, model praying hands, and so forth during the story. Switch roles and retell the Bible story as interest allows.

**SAY** “ Who did God use to heal a man that could not walk? Paul! Paul and Barnabas told people about the love of Jesus. ”

#### 5 BUILD A CITY

Provide plastic interlocking blocks, cars, and people figures. Encourage toddlers to build a city by stacking the blocks. Encourage the children to listen to the Bible story as they build.

**SAY** “ We are building a city! Who went to many cities to tell people about Jesus? Paul and Barnabas! Paul and Barnabas traveled to tell people about Jesus. Many people believed in Jesus. We can also tell others about Jesus so they can hear and believe too! ”

# PAUL BECAME A MISSIONARY

## ACTS 13–14

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** We tell others about Jesus so they can hear and believe.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** God sent Jesus to save people. John 3:17

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: PLAY A GAME

Gather toddlers to play a game similar to Simon Says with things that Jesus says. Only include things Jesus says; do not try to trick the toddlers. Use suggested statements such as: “Jesus says to love our neighbor,” and encourage toddlers to hug their friends; or “Jesus says to tell others about Him,” and encourage toddlers to tell a friend about Jesus; and so forth. Continue with things Jesus tells us to do. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ Jesus told Paul and Barnabas to tell others about Jesus. Did we just tell our friends about Jesus? Yes! Paul and Barnabas obeyed Jesus and we did too! We tell others about Jesus so they can hear and believe. ”

### 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “Muffin Man”:

“God sent Jesus to save people,  
To save people, to save people,  
God sent Jesus to save people,  
Just like you and me.”

### 3 PAINT THE CHURCH

Gather painting smocks for each child, washable paints, and heavyweight paper. Cover each child’s hand with paint and place it on the paper. Instruct each child to place one handprint on each paper until every paper has one handprint from every child in the group. Provide paper towels and baby wipes for easy cleanup. Retell the Bible story.

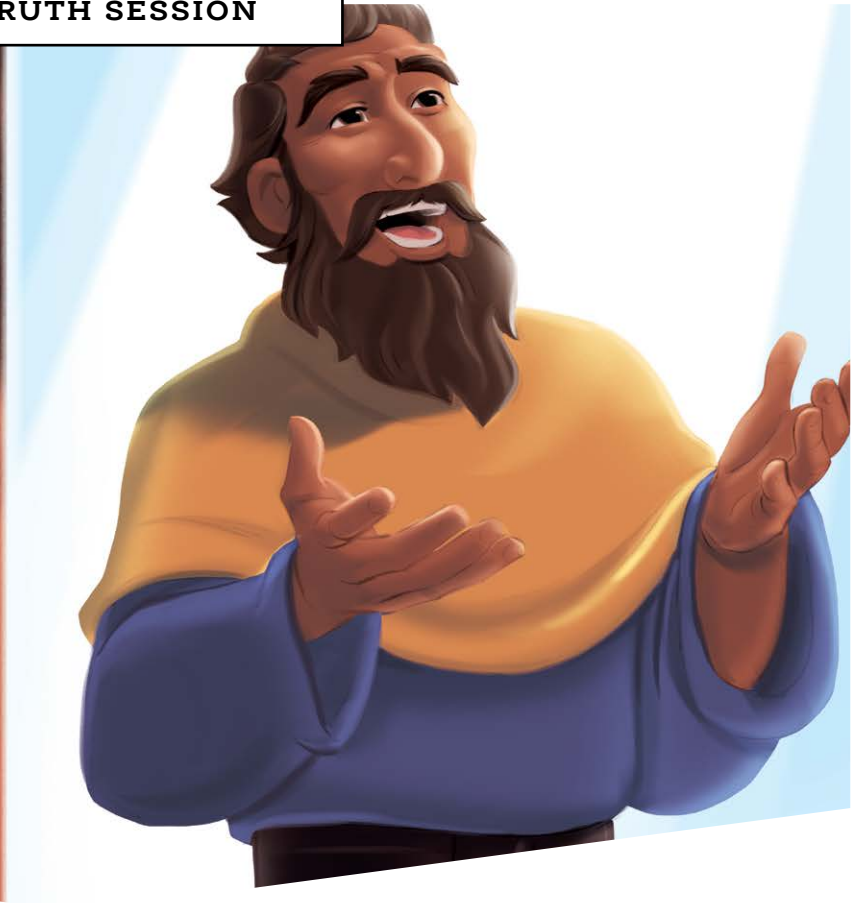
**SAY** “ Who put their hands on Paul and Barnabas and prayed for them? The church! The church is made up of people who know and love Jesus. We can pray for people to tell others about Jesus. ”

### 4 TAP THE RHYTHM

Provide rhythm sticks for each toddler. Tap your sticks together in the air twice as you say, “We love,” and tap your sticks on the ground twice as you say, “Jesus!” Lead the toddlers in saying, “We love (tap, tap) Jesus! (tap, tap)” Encourage the children to repeat the statement using different voices, volumes, and speed. Continue as interest allows. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ In our Bible story, who were the men that loved Jesus? Yes! Paul and Barnabas loved Jesus and told others about Him. We can love Jesus and tell others about Him too! ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.



UNIT 33 | SESSION 3

## JESUS CAN FORGIVE ANYONE

### 2 CORINTHIANS 5

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus can forgive anyone.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** God sent Jesus to save people. John 3:17

#### BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- God invites us into His family forever.
- Jesus makes us friends with God.
- We can tell others about Jesus.

#### BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

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.



## BABIES ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to 2 Corinthians 5. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

#### 1 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “Muffin Man”:

“God sent Jesus to save people,  
To save people, to save people,  
God sent Jesus to save people,  
Just like you and me.”

**SAY** “ Our key passage phrase says, ‘God sent Jesus to save people.’ That is good news! We can tell others about Jesus! ”

#### 2 MAKE FRIENDS WITH GOD ART

Provide each baby with a piece of construction paper. Squirt two small daubs of washable paint on the paper for babies to press their hands into. Position hands with thumbs touching so that when the art is turned upside-down, the handprints create a heart shape. On the bottom of each paper, write Jesus makes us friends with God. Provide paper towels and baby wipes for easy cleanup. If time allows, outline the heart shape in each baby’s handprints so it is easy to see.

**SAY** “ Who makes us God’s friend? Jesus does! God invites us to His family forever. We can love others and tell them about Jesus. ”

#### 3 TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS

Display various picture Bibles with pictures of Jesus in them. Open each Bible to a picture of Jesus. Say “Jesus” as you point to each picture of Jesus in the different Bibles. Encourage babies to point to Jesus as you say His name. Read the gospel gems as the babies play.

**SAY** “ Jesus makes us friends with God. We can tell others about Jesus so they will know and love Jesus too! ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## TODDLER ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

#### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to 2 Corinthians 5. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

#### 2 THREAD THE HEART

Print and cut apart a heart shape from heavyweight paper for each child. Hole punch around the heart. Knot one end of a 24-inch piece of yarn and place a small piece of tape around the other (one per child). Allow the toddlers to thread the yarn through the holes around the heart, and tie in place. Write *God loves us and invites us into His family forever* on the hearts.

**SAY** “ Who loves us and invites us into His family forever? That’s right, God! God sent Jesus to save people and invites us into His family forever. ”

#### 3 PLAY AND PASS

Sing to the familiar tune “The More We Get Together”: “We can tell others about Him, about Him, about Him / We can tell others about Him, it’s Jesus, God’s Son.” Provide various musical instruments for toddlers to sing and play along. As the song concludes, instruct each child to pass his instrument to the person sitting next to him. Continue playing and passing instruments until each child has had a turn.

**SAY** “ Who can we tell others about? Jesus! God sent His Son, Jesus, to save people. We can tell others about Him! ”

#### 4 WRITE LETTERS

Write *God wants us to tell others about Jesus* on each paper (one per toddler). Lay out prepared papers, markers or crayons, and envelopes on the table. Encourage children to “write” letters. Place their finished letters in the envelopes. Retell the story as toddlers write their letters.

**SAY** “ Who wrote letters to Jesus’ followers? Yes, Paul did! Paul wrote letters to remind people that God invites us into His family forever. ”

#### 5 WORK CROSS PUZZLES

Cut out crosses in various sizes from different colors of heavyweight paper. Cut each cross into a puzzle and encourage toddlers to put their puzzles together. Review the story.

**SAY** “ Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to make us right with God. Who made us friends with God? Jesus! Jesus can forgive anyone! ”



# JESUS CAN FORGIVE ANYONE

## 2 CORINTHIANS 5

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus can forgive anyone.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** God sent Jesus to save people. John 3:17

### 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Display the Bible story picture. Encourage the toddlers to look at Paul's face in the first picture and Paul's face in the second picture. Allow toddlers to say what is the same and what is different in the two pictures. Explore emotions, body language, and even background colors to show how God changes us to be like Jesus. Retell the Bible story.

**SAY** “ Who can forgive everyone? Jesus! When we follow Jesus, we are forgiven and we are changed forever. ”

### 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “Muffin Man”:

“God sent Jesus to save people,  
To save people, to save people,  
God sent Jesus to save people,  
Just like you and me.”

### 3 MAKE A NEW CREATION

Provide each child with a basket coffee filter and a washable marker. Encourage the children to color or make dots on the filters. As the children finish, use a squirt bottle filled with water to lightly spray their filters. Allow the marker to bleed and create a pattern on the filter. As it dries, bunch the filter together in the middle and place a spring-type clothespin in the center. If possible, glue googly eyes and chenille stems (as antennae) on the clothespins before class.

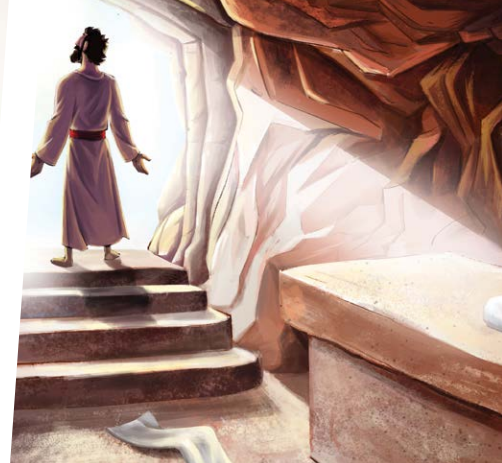
**SAY** “ Today we made a new creation—a butterfly! Who changes everything? Jesus! The Bible says that when we follow Jesus, we are changed. We are a new creation! ”

### 4 CHANGE THE COLOR

Prepare three clear containers of different colored water using food color—one with blue water, one with yellow, and one with red. Label the container with blue water “God.” Review the Bible story and remind the children that God can change us. Slowly pour the blue water into each of the other colors. Watch as the colors change from yellow to green and from red to purple. To make pouring easier, use a clear container with a spout for the blue water (“God” container).

**SAY** “ Who can change us? That’s right, God can! God sent His Son, Jesus, to forgive us, and Jesus can forgive anyone! We can tell others about Jesus! ”

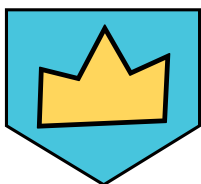
Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.



# 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.



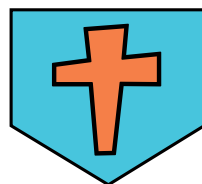
### God is King.

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 kids **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](http://gospelproject.com/blog)*

#### LET'S BE FRIENDS!

*[facebook.com/groups/gospelprojectforkidscommunity](https://facebook.com/groups/gospelprojectforkidscommunity)*

Lifeway<sup>TM</sup> preschool

[gospelproject.com/preschool](http://gospelproject.com/preschool)



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