



the **GOSPEL**PROJECT.

# FROM ONE NATION TO ALL NATIONS

OLDER PRESCHOOL LEADER GUIDE

VOLUME 11





**THE GOSPEL PROJECT FOR PRESCHOOL:  
OLDER PRESCHOOL LEADER GUIDE**

VOLUME 11 • FROM ONE NATION TO ALL NATIONS

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[www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com)  
ISBN: 978-1-4300-8172-2  
Item 005845265

Printed in the United States of  
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Unit 31: The Church Is Opposed

Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

- 6 **SESSION 1: The Apostles Were Arrested** (Acts 5)
- 16 **SESSION 2: The Church Handled a Problem** (Acts 6)
- 26 **SESSION 3: Stephen Was Arrested** (Acts 6–7)
- 36 **SESSION 4: The Church Spread Out** (Acts 8)
- 46 **SESSION 5 (Big Truth Session): Jesus Suffered for Us** (Philippians 2)

### Unit 32: The Church Grows

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

- 56 **SESSION 1: Peter Performed Miracles** (Acts 9)
- 66 **SESSION 2: Peter Learned That Jesus Is for All** (Acts 10)
- 76 **SESSION 3: Gentiles Became Part of the Church** (Acts 11)
- 86 **SESSION 4: Peter Was Rescued from Prison** (Acts 12)
- 96 **SESSION 5 (Big Truth Session): We Are Part of One Church** (1 Corinthians 12)

### Unit 33: The Church Goes

Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins.

- 106 **SESSION 1: Paul Became a Christian** (Acts 9)
- 116 **SESSION 2: Paul Became a Missionary** (Acts 13–14)
- 126 **SESSION 3 (Big Truth Session): Jesus Can Forgive Anyone** (2 Corinthians 5)

## SESSION AT A GLANCE



### PREPARE

- **Read the Leader Bible Study and Bible story** including the Christ Connection. For additional help, read the Leader Blog Post and listen to the Leader Training Episode. Both can be found at [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, videos, and activity printables as needed.
- **Contact families and pray for your preschoolers** during the week.



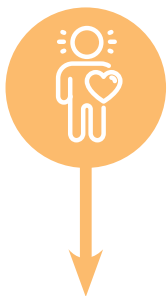
### WELCOME

- **Greet preschoolers** as they arrive, **build relationships**, and **help new children connect** to the group.
- Guide preschoolers to complete the **Activity Page** and prepare one or both of the **Session Starter Activities** to introduce this week's story.



### LEARN

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



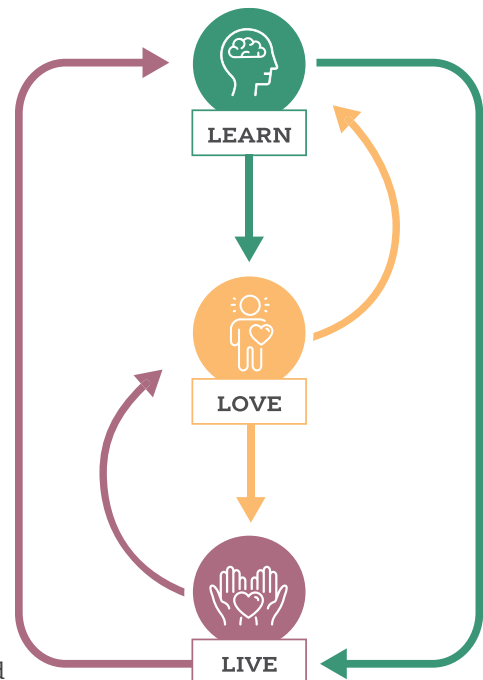
### LOVE

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



### LIVE

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



## NOTABLE FEATURES

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### Suggested Times

Each session is designed to be completed in 55–75 minutes but can be shortened or lengthened as needed.

### Missions

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

### Big Truth Sessions

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

### Make it fit

Each session provides flexibility for customization based on the needs and structure of your preschool ministry. The Learn portion contains most, or all, of the videos and music making it ideal for a large group gathering with the Welcome, Love, and Live portions working well for small groups. Alternatively, the entire session can be completed in small groups, or as one large group, or with activity stations.

## QUICK REFERENCE

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### Printables, Videos, and Music

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

	Additional Resources GospelProject.com	Ministry Starter Kit			Digital Subscription
		DVD	Files Disc	Music CD	
Activity Printables	✓		✓		✓
Posters			✓		✓
Videos		✓	✓		✓
Music				✓	✓
Activity Pages	Purchase at <a href="http://www.gospelproject.com">www.gospelproject.com</a>				✓
Big Picture Cards	Purchase at <a href="http://www.gospelproject.com">www.gospelproject.com</a>				✓



## VOLUME 11 - FROM ONE NATION TO ALL NATIONS

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

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

Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.



**THE APOSTLES  
WERE ARRESTED**  
Acts 5



**THE CHURCH HANDLED  
A PROBLEM**  
Acts 6



**STEPHEN WAS  
ARRESTED**  
Acts 6-7



**THE CHURCH  
SPREAD OUT**  
Acts 8



**BIG TRUTH SESSION**

**JESUS SUFFERED  
FOR US**  
Philippians 2

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

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



**PETER PERFORMED  
MIRACLES**  
Acts 9



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



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



**PETER WAS RESCUED  
FROM PRISON**  
Acts 12



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

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

Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins.



**PAUL BECAME A  
CHRISTIAN**  
Acts 9



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



**JESUS CAN  
FORGIVE ANYONE**  
2 Corinthians 5



UNIT 31 | SESSION 1

## THE APOSTLES WERE ARRESTED

ACTS 5

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus calls His followers to tell others about Him, even when it is hard. Jesus suffered, and His followers will too. We can have joy in hard times, knowing God uses everything for His glory.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 53:5





## YOUR HEART TO TEACH



## LEADER Bible Study

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

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

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

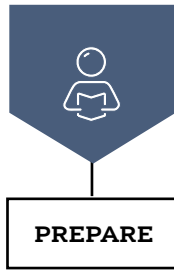
Even when the apostles experienced persecution and shameful mistreatment, the

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

As you prepare to teach this session to your preschoolers, consider all that the apostles endured as they sought to share God's Word so that people might hear and believe in the name of Jesus. If you find yourself in a difficult circumstance, thank God for their example of endurance despite times of trouble. Help the preschoolers you teach understand that when we face rejection and suffering, Christ remains near to us, just as He did to His church so long ago. We, too, can count it all joy as we face trials and trust that Jesus is worth giving our lives to.

### PEOPLE TO KNOW

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



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

## GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



**WELCOME**

### Welcome

- “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5)” song

### Activity Page

- “Find the Temple” activity page, 1 per child

### Find the empty cup

- dark colored plastic cups, 3
- small objects to fit underneath cups, 2

### Transition

- countdown video (optional)



**LEARN**

### Learn about the Bible

- bookmark
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

### Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- “The Apostles Were Arrested” video (optional)
- storytelling tips props (optional)

### Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5)” song

### Learn the Big Picture

#### Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

#### Missions moment

- “Overview of Europe”missions video



**LOVE**

### Snack and talk

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

### Make a collage

- “Places I Go” printable
- magazines (with pictures of places people can go) (optional)



**LIVE**

### Make a chain

- construction paper strips
- clear tape or stapler

### Complete the course

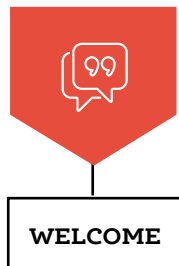
- objects to set up an obstacle course (hula hoops, jump ropes, chairs)

### Match the flags

- “European Flag Puzzles” printable

### Transition

- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per child
- “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5)” song
- Big Picture Cards for Families



## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete “Find the Temple” on the activity page.

**SAY** “ In the Bible story we will hear today, Peter and John were put in jail for telling others about Jesus. An angel of the Lord helped free them and told them to go to the temple to continue preaching. Peter and John told people about Jesus, even when it was hard. ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today's Bible story.

#### STOP AND GO



Invite preschoolers to stand in a line on one side of the room. Encourage them to move across the room using a specific motion (baby steps, crawl, tiptoe, walk backward, spin, and so forth) when you say, “Go.” Lead them to stop when you say, “Stop.” Continue saying “stop” and “go” until everyone moves to the opposite side of the room. Return to the other side of the room using a different motion.

**SAY** “ You did a great job listening and following directions! Was it hard to do what I asked you to do? [Allow responses.] When we follow directions, we are obeying. Today we will learn about two men who obeyed God's commands, even when it was hard. ”

#### FIND THE EMPTY CUP

Place three plastic cups upside down on a table. Hide two small items under two of the cups. Carefully move the cups around. Encourage preschoolers to guess which cup is empty. Invite one child to lift the cup he thinks is empty. If it is empty, start the game again. If it is not empty, invite a different child to choose the cup she thinks is empty. Continue until preschoolers find the empty cup.

**SAY** “ In today's Bible story, we will hear a story about two men who were put in jail for obeying God. But, they did not stay in jail! When the guards came to get them, their jail cell was empty! ”

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers' attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to follow the leader as they transition to Learn.

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Ask preschoolers if they have ever heard really good news that they wanted to share with everyone. Invite a few children to share an example of good news. Share a personal example of exciting news with preschoolers if time permits.

**SAY** “Wow! You have some exciting news! When I have good news, I want to tell everyone. What are some ways I could tell others my good news? [Allow responses.] Yes! I could video chat, call a friend, or send a text. In our story today, we will hear about some great news that Jesus’ friends wanted to share with everyone.”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Acts 5 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “Today we will open our Bible to hear a true story from the book of Acts. Acts is in the New Testament. This book tells us about the first church and what life was like for believers after Jesus returned to heaven.”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### THE APOSTLES WERE ARRESTED

“Peter and John had been let out of jail, but they did not stop telling people about Jesus. **Jesus’ followers were healing people at the temple, and more and more people believed in the Lord.**

**The high priest and other religious leaders were jealous, so they arrested Jesus’ followers and put them in jail. But that night, an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail so Jesus’ followers could be free. The angel told them, “Go to the temple and tell the people all about Jesus.”** So the next morning, the followers went to the temple and began to teach.

**That next day, the high priest and other religious leaders met together. They told their servants to go to the jail and bring Jesus’ followers to them. When the servants got to the jail, the jail doors were locked and guards stood outside. But when they went inside, the followers weren’t there.**

**Then someone came to them and said, “Jesus’ followers are teaching in the temple!” So the religious leaders grabbed Jesus’ followers and said, “Didn’t we tell you to stop teaching about**



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### Jesus? Everyone in Jerusalem has heard what you are saying!”

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

The Jewish leaders were angry and wanted to hurt Peter and the other followers. But one of the religious leaders, a man named Gamaliel, told them, “We have to be careful. If these men are lying and we leave them alone, their plans will fail. But if their words are from God, we won’t be able to stop them.”

The Jewish leaders agreed with Gamaliel. Instead of killing Jesus’ disciples, they beat them and told them to stop talking about Jesus. Then they let them go. The disciples praised God. They kept teaching about Jesus every day in the temple and in people’s homes, saying that Jesus is the Messiah. ”

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Make facial expressions:** Encourage preschoolers to make facial expressions to show various emotions the people felt in today’s Bible story.

**Interview Peter and John:** Invite two adults to dress up in Bible times clothing and pretend to be Peter and John. Interview them as you tell the story, asking questions about how they felt when they were in jail, how they felt when the angel helped them get out of jail, and how they felt when the leaders told them they must stop telling others about Jesus.

### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ Jesus calls His followers to tell others about Him, even when it is hard. Jesus suffered, and His followers will too. We can have joy in hard times, knowing God uses everything for His glory. ”

### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ Peter and John knew God wanted them to tell people about Jesus. What happened to them because they kept telling people about Jesus? (They were put in jail.) When the angel helped them escape from jail, where did they go? (They went to the temple to teach.) What did some people want to do to Peter and John? (They wanted to hurt them.) When it was hard and people wanted to hurt Peter and John, they continued to obey God and tell about Jesus. ”

### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at Isaiah 53:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration.

**SAY** “ This verse helps us remember what Jesus did for us on the cross. He died and came back to life to rescue us from our sins, to give us peace. This is the good news Peter, John, and the rest of Jesus’ followers told others. This is the same message God wants us to tell others today, as well. ”

Sing the key passage song, “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “ Our big picture question asks, **Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.** When Jesus told His followers to tell others about Him, He wanted people to know that through His death, and His resurrection, He rescued sinners. While Jesus was on earth, He never did anything wrong. He lived a perfect life, yet He suffered for us. This is great news we should tell everyone! ”

### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

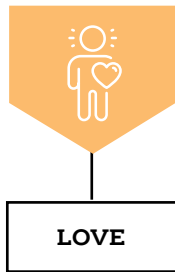
Show the “Overview of Europe” missions video. Then point to Europe on a world map.

**SAY** “ Europe is a continent with many people, but a lot of people still need to hear the good news about Jesus and trust Him to rescue them from their sins. ”

Pray that new churches can be started in Europe and more people will want to learn about Jesus. Pray that the many people moving to Europe from other countries will also hear and believe the good news about Jesus.

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





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God because of what we learned

### 1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “ God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to rescue sinners. This is news everyone needs to hear! Help us tell others about You, even when it is hard. Help the people who hear Your good news believe in You. Amen. ”

### 2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “ What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ When Peter and John were told to stop telling others about Jesus, what did they do? ”

**SAY** “ Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners. ”

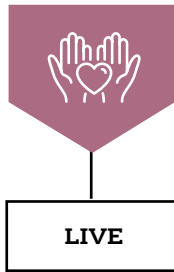
### 3 MAKE A COLLAGE

Distribute age-appropriate magazines, blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, and construction paper to preschoolers. Encourage them to find pictures of different places they might go as they flip through magazines or use the “Places I Go” printable. Assist preschoolers in cutting out the pictures and gluing them onto paper. If your preschoolers are younger, you may need to pre-cut pictures from magazines for them to glue. As preschoolers look at pictures, talk about different places they go each day where they can tell people about Jesus.

**SAY** “ Before Jesus returned to heaven, He told His followers to go and make disciples of all nations. This meant He wanted them to tell people everywhere about Him. These pictures on your collages are all places you can tell others about Jesus. No matter where you go, God wants you to tell others about Him. It will not always be easy, but obeying God is always the right thing to do. ”

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





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### **TELL OTHERS**



Write Jesus on a sheet of construction paper. Gather preschoolers in a circle on the floor. Point out the name Jesus on the paper. Choose one child to stand in the middle of the circle with his eyes closed. Begin passing the paper around the circle until the child in the middle shouts, “Stop!” Guide the child holding the paper to respond by saying something she knows about Jesus. Assist as needed. If preschoolers are younger, invite them to simply repeat a truth such as “Jesus is God’s Son,” “Jesus loves you,” or “Jesus rescues sinners.” Choose another child to stand in the middle and repeat activity as time allows.

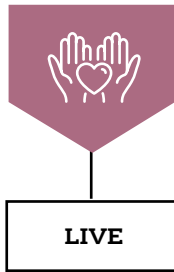
**SAY** “ Church leaders asked Peter and John to stop telling people about Jesus. Did they listen? [Allow responses.] No! They knew obeying God was most important, so they continued to tell everyone the good news of God’s love. We should tell everyone about Jesus too! It will not always be easy, but talking to others about Jesus is always the right thing to do! ”

#### **MAKE A CHAIN**

Cut construction paper into long strips. Distribute five paper strips to each child or consider allowing older preschoolers to use scissors to cut out their strips. Encourage boys and girls to decorate the strips with crayons or washable markers. Demonstrate how to make a loop with the first paper strip, and then tape or staple the ends together. Place the next strip of paper through the loop. Join the two ends together with tape or a staple. Continue until each strip of paper is used to make a chain.

**SAY** “ These paper chains remind us of the importance of telling others about Jesus. Peter and John would not stop talking to others about Jesus—even if that meant they were put in chains while in jail. God wants us to obey Him and tell others about His Son, even when it is hard. ”





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### COMPLETE THE COURSE

Set up an obstacle course using hula hoops, jump ropes, chairs, and other available supplies. Demonstrate how to complete the obstacle course. Lead preschoolers to complete the course; assist preschoolers as needed. Encourage preschoolers to cheer for their friends as they go through the obstacles.

**SAY** “ What was the hardest part of the obstacle course for you? [Allow responses.] Courses like these can be hard to complete. But, I am so proud of each of you for continuing to try the course even when it was hard. In today’s Bible story, we learned that God wants us to tell others about Jesus no matter what. We can tell other people that Jesus came to rescue them from their sins. **Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.** ”

### MATCH THE FLAGS



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

**SAY** “ Europe is a continent with many people, and a lot of these people do not know about Jesus. We need to pray for the people living in the European countries and for missionaries telling them about Jesus. [Lead a prayer.] ”

### 2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



UNIT 31 | SESSION 2

## THE CHURCH HANDLED A PROBLEM

### ACTS 6

#### **CHRIST CONNECTION:**

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

#### **BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

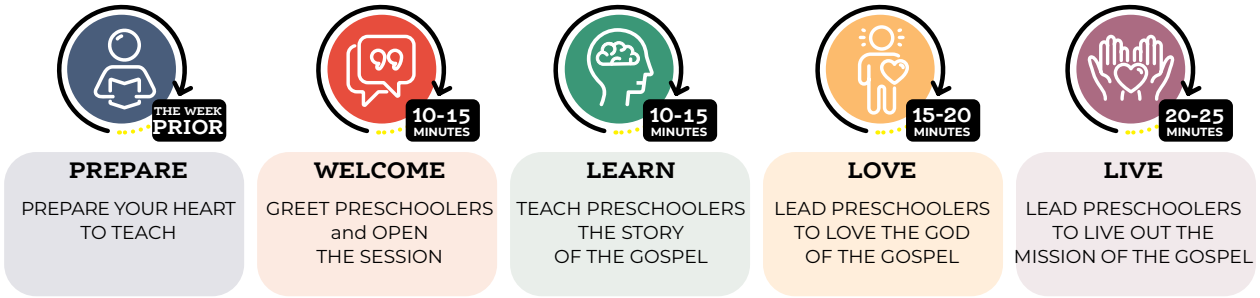
Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

#### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Isaiah 53:5



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



## LEADER Bible Study

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

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

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

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

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

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

### TERMS TO KNOW

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



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

## GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



WELCOME

### Welcome

- “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5)” song

### Activity Page

- “Circle and Count” activity page, 1 per child

### Draw faces

- “Faces” printable, 1 per child

### Transition

- countdown video (optional)



LEARN

### Introduce the Bible story

- pictures of church staff members (optional)

### Learn about the Bible

- bookmark
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

### Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- “The Church Handled a Problem” video (optional)
- storytelling tips props (optional)

### Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5)” song
- beanbag

### Learn the Big Picture

#### Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

### Missions moment

- “Jones Family Photo” printable



LOVE

### Snack and talk

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

### Deliver the food

- pretend food items (toy food or empty food boxes), 1 per child
- reusable grocery bags



LIVE

### Make a banner

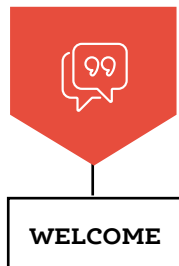
- large roll of paper
- masking tape

### Build a castle

- “Jones Family Photo” printable
- building materials (such as wooden blocks, cereal boxes, or cardboard tubes)

### Transition

- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per child
- “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5)” song
- Big Picture Cards for Families



## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete “Circle and Count” on the activity page.

**SAY** “ In the Bible story we will hear today, Jesus’ friends chose seven men to help take care of the people in the early church so they could spend their time telling others about Jesus. Just like they had special jobs to do, we each have important ways we can serve others in the church, too. ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today’s Bible story.

#### GUESS THE JOB



Choose a child to play out a specific job in front of the other preschoolers. Whisper the job to the child. Encourage the group to try to guess what the job is. Use jobs that preschoolers will be able to play out with motions such as firefighter, chef, artist, pilot, doctor, and so forth. If preschoolers want to use their own ideas, invite them to do so. Assist children with ideas on how to play out various jobs if needed.

**SAY** “ These are all jobs you can have one day. Can you name other jobs people might have when they grow up? [Allow responses.] Those are great ideas! Today we will learn about people who were chosen for a special job in the church. ”

#### DRAW FACES

Distribute a “Faces” printable and crayons to each child. Lead them to count the number of circles on the printable. Invite preschoolers to draw faces in each of the blank circles. (Note: If you prefer not to use the printable, draw seven circles on paper for each child to decorate as faces.)

**SAY** “ We counted seven different faces on our paper. In today’s Bible story, we will learn about seven men who were chosen to be special helpers in the church. ”

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers’ attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to count to seven (repeating as necessary) while walking as they transition to Learn.

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Display several pictures of church staff members or volunteers who serve in your church. Ask preschoolers to name the different people and tell what they do at church. If you do not have pictures of staff available, ask preschoolers to name different jobs they think people might have at your church. Offer hints to help children if needed.

**SAY** “ There are many different jobs people can do in our church. Today we will hear a story from the Bible about seven men who were chosen for a special job in the very first church. ”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Acts 6 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “ The Bible is God’s Word. Every story in the Bible is true; that means it really happened. Today’s Bible story comes from the New Testament book of Acts. ”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### THE CHURCH HANDLED A PROBLEM

“ After Jesus rose from the dead and went back to heaven, Jesus’ followers taught people about Him. **Many people believed in Jesus, and the church grew. But there was a problem. Some of the people in the church** thought that other people in the church were not doing the right thing. They **said that the widows—women whose husbands had died—were not getting what they needed when the church gave out the daily food. God wants His people to help widows.**

**So Jesus’ friends—the twelve disciples—got together with everyone in the church.** They said, “God chose us to preach about Jesus. We should not stop preaching to solve these problems.” **They told the people in the church to choose seven leaders who could be in charge of things like making sure the widows got enough food.**

**Jesus’ friends said that the seven leaders should be good men—men who are wise and full of the Holy Spirit. They should obey God and make good choices. These leaders would help take care of all the people in the church. Then Jesus’ friends could keep praying and preaching.** Both jobs were important, but if the friends stopped preaching, no one would learn about Jesus. And people needed to learn about Jesus to believe in Him.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

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

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

### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

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

### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ God had given Jesus' friends a job to do, do you remember what it was? (tell people about Jesus, preach) The friends needed help. They could not take care of all the needs of people in the church and continue to preach. How did the Jesus' friends handle this problem? (They told the church to choose leaders to be in charge of things like making sure everyone had food.) How many leaders did they choose? (seven) God wanted the disciples to help spread the good news about Jesus to others. He also wanted people in the church to be cared for. Everyone had an important job to do, and by working together, the gospel was able to reach more people. ”

### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at Isaiah 53:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Gather preschoolers in a circle. Pass a beanbag around the circle as preschoolers count to seven. When you reach seven, invite the child holding the beanbag to name an action to do while preschoolers repeat the verse together. Actions could include clapping, marching, patting knees, and so forth. Continue as time allows.

**SAY** “ The disciples had an important message to preach to the people. This Bible verse reminds us of this message. Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin. As more people believed this message, the church grew. Because the church grew, they needed more helpers to take care of the needs of the people. ”

Sing the key passage song, “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Draw pictures:** Draw seven stick figures as you name the people the church chose as helpers. Use a dry erase board or large sheet of paper on an easel to draw on. Count the number of people together after they are drawn.

**Choose the seven:** Choose seven preschoolers to stand in the front of the room as you talk about the disciples choosing seven men to be helpers. Give each child a sign with the name of one of the helpers (Acts 6:5) to hold while they stand in the front. Include adult leaders, if needed.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “ Our big picture question asks, **Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.** How did Jesus rescue sinners? Through Jesus’ death on the cross and resurrection, we are saved. This is the gospel. God called the disciples to tell others this good news. We are given the job to tell people this good news, as well. ”

### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

Print a copy of the “Jones Family Photo” printable and display it as you tell the preschoolers about the missionary family in Germany.

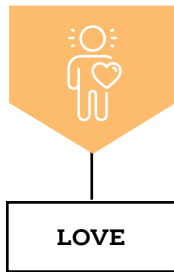
**SAY** “ Casey and Amy Jones are missionaries in Leipzig, Germany. [Point to Germany on a world map or globe.] The area has many small lakes, hiking trails, and a nature park. The main train station there is one of the most beautiful in the country. Other fun places to visit are castles, fortresses, and museums. Casey and Amy work with the local churches in Germany to start new Bible studies groups and other churches. ”

Pray for Casey, Amy, and other missionaries in Germany to find ways to build friendships with the people living in Germany so they can tell them about Jesus.

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







## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God because of what we learned

### 1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “ God, thank You for people who serve in our church. Thank You for the ways they help spread the gospel by serving others. Even though we are young, there are ways we can serve, too. Show us how we can be helpers at church. Amen. ”

### 2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “ What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ Why did the church choose seven special helpers? ”

**SAY** “ Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners. ”

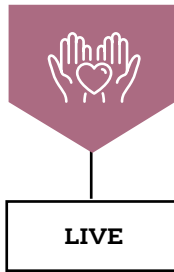
### 3 DELIVER THE FOOD

Set up several reusable grocery bags on one side of the room. Place pretend food items such as toy food or empty food boxes in a pile on the other side of the room. (Try to have one food item per child. Run several rounds of this relay to give each child a chance to participate.) Form teams based on the number of grocery bags available. Line up each team on the side of the room with the food items. Invite preschoolers to grab one food item, quickly walk to their team’s bag, place the item in the bag, and return to the line. Continue until each child has a chance to place a food item in a bag or all the food items are placed in bags. Repeat the activity as time allows.

**SAY** “ The first church had a problem. Some of the women whose husbands had died were not getting food to eat. The disciples were busy preaching the good news of Jesus to others. They did not have time to take care of these needs. It was important to take care of these women. The church chose special helpers to take care of the needs of the people, like making sure these women received food. God wants people to serve in the church so more people can see God’s love and hear the good news of Jesus’ death and resurrection. ”

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





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### **PLAY A GAME**



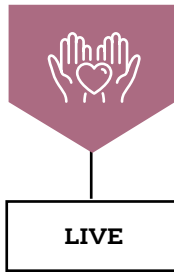
Gather preschoolers in a circle on the floor to play a “Duck, Duck, Goose” style game. Choose one child to be *It*. Instruct him to walk around the outside of the circle while gently tapping preschoolers on the back as he passes them. Invite him to say, “I choose,” each time he pats a child on the back, until he reaches the child he wants to chase him. Lead him to say, “You!” as he gently pats this child on the back. Guide this child to stand up and chase *It* around the circle until he circles the group once and sits back down in the open spot. Lead the child chosen to become the new leader. Continue the game as time allows, being sure each child has a turn to be *It*.

**SAY** “ In this game, the player who was *It* chose a friend to chase him around the circle by saying, ‘I choose, I choose, I choose you!’ Just like we were chosen in this game, the people in the first church chose seven special helpers to take care of the needs of the people. In our church, there are many ways we can help others. When we serve in our church, we provide ways for the good news of Jesus to be shared with others. As more people hear the gospel, more people will believe in Jesus’ death and resurrection. ”

#### **MAKE A BANNER**

Spread a large roll of paper on a table or the floor. Secure the paper to the table or floor with masking tape. Write *Thank You for Serving* in large letters on the banner. Invite preschoolers to decorate the banner using washable markers. Assist them in writing their names near their drawings. Hang the banner where church staff and volunteers will easily be able to see it. Say a prayer, thanking God for the many people who serve at your church.

**SAY** “ Many people serve or help in our church. They work together to spread the gospel to others. Not everyone is called to preach to groups of people like the disciples were, but there are ways every person can serve God through the church. Can you name ways people can help in the church? **[Allow responses.]** These are great answers! People can help with children, mow the grass, pick up trash, lead singing, visit people who are sick, and so much more. Jesus wants us to serve others so that people all over the world can hear and believe the news of His death and resurrection. ”



## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### LISTEN AND RESPOND



Choose different groups of preschoolers to do various actions together. Call out a characteristic describing a group of children, invite them to line up on one side of the room, and name the action you would like them to do together. Continue to choose different groups and name different actions for them to do. (Examples: All girls tiptoe across the room, all boys hold hands and walk across the room, children with brown hair pretend to row a boat across the room, children wearing red hop across the room, and so on)

**SAY** “ You did a great job working together to complete the task you were chosen to do. The church chose seven special helpers to take care of the needs of people in the church. This allowed the disciples more time to preach about Jesus. We can do many things to help in our church, too. Can you name ways you can help at church? [Allow responses.] You can also do things like pick up toys and help serve snacks. Sometimes we may be asked or chosen to do these jobs. Other times we can choose how we can serve on our own. Listening to God and obeying Him helps our church spread the gospel to others. ”

### BUILD A CASTLE



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

**SAY** “ Have you ever seen a castle? A castle is a very large home, sometimes made from stones or bricks. Casey and Amy work with local churches in Germany to start new Bible studies and new churches. Let’s pray for Casey, Amy, and other missionaries in Germany to become friends with the people and tell them about Jesus. [Lead in prayer.] ”

### 2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



UNIT 31 | SESSION 3

## STEPHEN WAS ARRESTED

ACTS 6-7

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

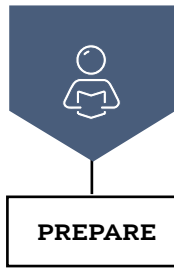
Jesus told His disciples that people would hurt them for loving Him. When people are mean to us because we love Jesus, we can be brave because people hurt Jesus too. Jesus died and came back to life, and one day we will live with Him forever.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

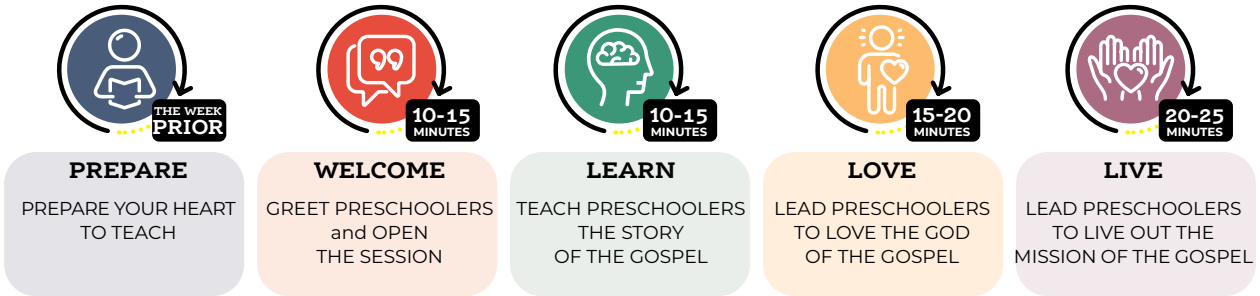
Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 53:5



## YOUR HEART TO TEACH



## LEADER Bible Study

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

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

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

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

Consider what it looks like for followers of Jesus to be so filled with the Holy Spirit that they remain on mission for the gospel no matter the cost. How could God use our faithful witness of the gospel to save even those most hostile to the good news? Explain to your preschoolers that when we find our comfort and hope in Jesus, we can withstand rejection we may face, as we exchange the momentary approval of man for the eternal favor and blessings of God.

### TERMS TO KNOW

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



## YOUR HEART TO TEACH

# GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



### WELCOME

#### Welcome

- “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5)” song

#### Activity Page

- “Match the Pictures” activity page, 1 per child

#### Choose the correct side

- construction paper, 1 green sheet and 1 red sheet

#### Lace the cards

- “Bible Lacing Card” printable on heavyweight paper, 1 per child
- hole punch
- yarn

#### Transition

- countdown video (optional)



### LEARN

#### Introduce the Bible story

- children’s Bibles and Bible storybooks

#### Learn about the Bible

- bookmark
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

#### Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- “Stephen Was Arrested” video (optional)
- storytelling tips props (optional)

#### Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5)” song

#### Learn the Big Picture

##### Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

##### Missions moment

- “The Jones Family in Germany” missions video



### LOVE

#### Snack and talk

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

#### Make clouds

- plastic tablecloth
- smocks
- shaving cream foam
- liquid glue
- measuring cups (1/2 cup or 1 cup)
- spoons
- bowls
- cotton balls
- construction paper, blue
- clothes pins (optional)



### LIVE

#### Open the Bibles

- paper bag or basket

#### Find the pictures

- “Bible Story Posters” printable
- bookmarks

#### Paint with cars

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

#### Transition

- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per child
- “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5)” song
- Big Picture Cards for Families



## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete “Match the Pictures” on the activity page.

**SAY** “ The Bible is filled with true stories that point to Jesus. In the Bible story we will hear today, a man named Stephen told church leaders stories from the Old Testament to teach them about God. Each of the stories on this activity page help us learn more about God’s plan for us. ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today’s Bible story.

#### CHOOSE THE CORRECT SIDE



Hang a red sheet of construction paper on one side of the room and a green sheet of construction paper on the other side of the room. Point out each paper to preschoolers. Name different stories found in the Bible and stories not found in the Bible. If children think the story is in the Bible, invite them to move to the green paper. If they do not think the story is in the Bible, invite them to move to the red paper. Include Bible stories such as God creating the world, Noah’s ark, David and Goliath, Daniel in the lions’ den, and so forth. Include stories not found in the Bible such as fairy tales and nursery rhymes.

**SAY** “ Today we will hear a story about a man named Stephen. Stephen used stories from the Bible to help those around him understand that Jesus is the Messiah. ”

#### LACE THE CARDS

Print and prepare the “Bible Lacing Card” printable according to instructions on the printable. Invite children to color a Bible lacing card. Demonstrate how to lace yarn in and out of the holes on the cards. As preschoolers lace their cards, talk about stories they have heard from the Bible.

**SAY** “ The Bible is filled with true stories. These stories point us to Jesus. Today we will hear how a man used stories from the Bible to teach people truth about who Jesus is. ”

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers’ attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to march together as they transition to Learn.

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Display various Bibles. Include a few different children's Bibles and Bible storybooks, as well.

**SAY** “ I love reading all types of books. The most important book I read is God’s Word, the Bible. The stories in the Bible really happened. They help us know more about who Jesus is and what He has done for us. Today we will learn about a man named Stephen. He used stories in the Bible to help explain to people that the message he was telling others was true. ”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Acts 6 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “ Today’s story comes from the New Testament book of Acts. Let’s listen to this true story from God’s Word. ”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### STEPHEN WAS ARRESTED

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

**The high priest asked Stephen if the Jews were telling the truth. Stephen answered by teaching the Jewish leaders about Jesus. He started in the Old Testament with stories about Abraham and Isaac, Joseph, and Moses.**

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

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

**The religious leaders were so angry! They did not like what Stephen was saying.** But Stephen looked up and said, “I see the heavens opened and Jesus is standing at God’s right side.” Suddenly, the





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

people yelled, covered their ears, and rushed toward Stephen. **They made Stephen leave the city, and then they threw rocks at him. Stephen said, “Jesus, forgive them!” Then he died. ”**

### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

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

### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ Stephen loved Jesus. He wanted people to believe in Him. Did everyone like Stephen? (No.) What did some people do because they did not like what Stephen was doing? (They told lies about him.) When church leaders asked if Stephen was telling the truth, he spent time teaching them about Jesus. He told them important stories from the Old Testament. He also told them that Jesus is the Messiah. How did the leaders respond to what Stephen taught them? (They were angry. They hurt Stephen.) People were mean to Stephen. They hurt him because he loved Jesus and wanted others to follow Him. Even though people hurt followers of Jesus, the followers continued to tell others the good news that Jesus died and came back to life. ”

### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at Isaiah 53:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Create a clapping, stomping, or patting rhythm as you say the verse. Invite preschoolers to repeat the verse and rhythm several times through.

**SAY** “ When Jesus lived on earth, people hurt Him. Jesus suffered greatly when He died on the cross. Stephen suffered greatly because He followed and loved Jesus. Jesus did not promise us that following Him would be easy. He even told us that people would be mean to us because we follow Him. Jesus suffered and died for us. But, because He died and came back to life, we can one day live forever with Him. ”

Sing the key passage song, “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Point to the sky:** Encourage preschoolers to point to the sky with both hands when you say “God” throughout the story.

**Look at pictures:** Use an illustrated Bible or show past Bible story picture posters of Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, and Solomon when their names are mentioned in the story.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “ Our big picture question asks, **Why did Jesus become human?** The answer is, **Jesus became human to rescue sinners.** Stephen told the church leaders what he knew to be true about Jesus. He told them Jesus is the Messiah. Even though Stephen was hurt for telling others about Jesus, he never stopped following Him. If others do not like that we believe in Jesus, we can be brave, knowing that people did not like the message Jesus preached, either. ”

### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

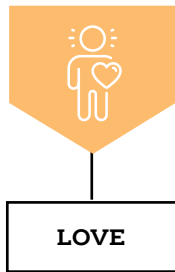
Show the “The Jones Family in Germany” missions video.

**SAY** “ In the past, the city of Berlin—the capital of Germany—was separated by a wall. People on one side of the wall were not allowed to go to the other side. The Bible tells us that our sin separates us from God. Only Jesus can bring us back to God because He lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead to take away our sins. Casey and Amy Jones are missionaries in Germany who are telling people the good news about Jesus. We can pray for the Joneses and for the people in Germany they will meet. ”

Lead a prayer for the Jones family and the mission work they are doing in Germany.

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





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God because of what we learned

### 1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “ God, thank You for sending Jesus to rescue sinners. Thank You that if we believe in Jesus and what He did on the cross for us, one day we will live forever with You. Help us love and follow You, even when others around us say mean or hurtful things. Amen. ”

### 2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “ What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What did Stephen tell the leaders who asked if he was telling the truth? ”

**SAY** “ Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners. ”

### 3 MAKE CLOUDS

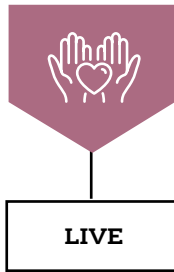


Cover a table with a plastic tablecloth. Distribute paint smocks to each child. Stir together equal parts shaving cream and liquid glue to make a puffy paint mixture. Invite preschoolers to dip cotton balls into the mixture and dab them onto blue construction paper. Consider making “paint daubers” by pinching a cotton ball with a clothes pin. Encourage preschoolers to make cloud shapes on their papers as they add additional layers of paint. Supervise children closely so that children do not touch their eyes, nose, or mouth with the mixture. (Note: This activity may be more of a sensory exercise than a craft to take home. Pictures will need to dry for several hours prior to being sent home.)

**SAY** “ Some religious leaders were angry with Stephen. They did not like the message he was preaching about Jesus. People decided to hurt him. Even though he faced death, Stephen continued to follow God. Before he died, Stephen looked up to the sky. He saw the heavens open and Jesus standing there. Stephen loved Jesus very much. He knew even if he faced harm for what he believed, Jesus would always be with him. When people are mean to us because we love Jesus, we can be brave because people hurt Jesus too. Jesus died and came back to life, and one day we will live with Him forever. ”

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





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### **PRETEND TO SERVE**



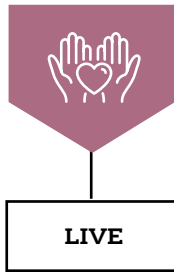
Form several small groups of preschoolers. Lead boys and girls to talk about different ways people serve in the church. Quietly tell each group an example of a way they can serve. Invite groups to play out the action in front of the remaining preschoolers. Use actions such as picking up toys, drawing a picture for a friend, greeting a new friend, picking up trash, passing out snacks, sharing toys, and so forth.

**SAY** “ Stephen was a follower of Jesus. He served in the church. Stephen was one of the seven helpers chosen to take care of the daily needs of people in the church. He also told people about Jesus. Not everyone liked what Stephen did or the message he shared with others. Stephen served God, even when it meant being hurt by others. There are many ways we can serve in our churches. Some people may not like that we follow Jesus and serve Him, but we can remember that it is always best to follow God first. ”

#### **OPEN THE BIBLES**

Cut strips of different colored construction paper to use as bookmarks. Cut a piece from each bookmark and place these pieces in a bag or basket. Make several sets of bookmarks. Place a set of different colored bookmarks in each Bible, spreading them throughout the Old Testament and New Testament. Place Bibles in different areas of the room. Invite a child to choose a piece of paper from the bag or basket. Invite several preschoolers to go to the Bibles and open them to the corresponding-colored bookmarks. Ask preschoolers to name if they think the book is in the Old Testament or the New Testament. Remind them that the Old Testament is in the front of the Bible and the New Testament is in the back of the Bible.

**SAY** “ The New Testament of the Bible tells us stories about Jesus and His followers. Stephen used stories from the Old Testament to help show the religious leaders that what he said about Jesus was true. The religious leaders did not like what Stephen said. Instead of believing in Jesus, they decided to hurt Stephen. Even though Stephen was hurt for following Jesus, he never stopped believing in Him. It is important for us to know stories from the Bible so we can tell people about the amazing things God has done. ”



## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### FIND THE PICTURES

Print and hang the “Bible Story Posters” printable around the room. Gather five Bibles and place a bookmark at the following references: Genesis 15 (God Made a Covenant with Abraham), Genesis 41:41-57 (God Had a Plan for Joseph), Exodus 3 (God Called Moses), Joshua 7 (Joshua Leads the People to the Promised Land), and 1 Kings 6 (Solomon Built the Temple). Place each Bible on the floor underneath the corresponding poster. Invite preschoolers to explore the room, looking for Bible story posters on the wall. Gather preschoolers around one of the posters when it is found. Talk about what is happening in the picture. Lead a child to open the Bible to the bookmark. Point out the story in the Bible. Continue exploring the room until all story posters are found.

**SAY** “ Stephen told religious leaders different stories from the Old Testament of the Bible as he tried to show them who Jesus is. He started from the beginning and told the leaders how the Bible points to Jesus even before He was born. Stephen told the truth about Jesus, and he died because of his words. When we tell others about Jesus, they might not like what we have to say. No matter how people respond, though, it is always the right thing to tell people about Jesus. ”

### PAINT WITH CARS



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

**SAY** “ In Germany, there is a long highway system where drivers on some parts can drive as fast as they want to. Anytime you ride in a car, you can say a prayer to God and ask Him to help the Jones family tell people in Germany about Jesus. ”

### 2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



UNIT 31 | SESSION 4

## THE CHURCH SPREAD OUT

### ACTS 8

**CHRIST CONNECTION:**

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

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Isaiah 53:5



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



## LEADER Bible Study

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

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

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

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

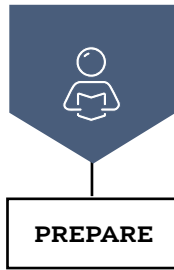
guide. While Philip did not know everything about the mysteries of God, he trusted that the Holy Spirit guided him down that desert road with divine purpose.

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

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

### PEOPLE TO KNOW

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



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

## GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



**WELCOME**

### Welcome

- “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5)” song

### Activity Page

- “Find the Hidden Scrolls” activity page, 1 per child

### Decorate chariots

- “Chariot Photo” printable
- cardboard boxes
- paper plates
- tape

### Transition

- countdown video (optional)



**LEARN**

### Introduce the Bible story

- transportation toys (car, bus, truck, bike, airplane, boat)

### Learn about the Bible

- bookmark
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

### Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- “The Church Spread Out” video (optional)
- storytelling tips props (optional)

### Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster, 4-5 copies
- “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5)” song
- yarn or ribbon

### Learn the Big Picture

#### Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

### Missions moment

- “Jones Family Photo” printable



**LOVE**

### Snack and talk

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

### Color with markers

- white heavyweight paper
- white crayon



**LIVE**

### Travel to tell

- index cards

### Write in sand

- small trays
- play sand

### Make pretzel patterns

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

### Transition

- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per child
- “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5)” song
- Big Picture Cards for Families





## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete “Find the Hidden Scrolls” on the activity page.

**SAY** “ In Bible times, people read God’s Word from scrolls. Today we will hear a story about a man who had trouble understanding what he read in God’s Word. God used a man named Philip to help him. ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today’s Bible story.

#### GUESS WHO



Describe one of the preschoolers in the room. Include descriptions such as a color she is wearing, the color of her hair, what her name starts with or rhymes with, and so forth. Encourage preschoolers to guess which of them you are describing. Continue playing as time allows, being sure each child has been described.

**SAY** “ Today we will hear a Bible story about a man who needed help understanding what he was reading in God’s Word. The man wanted to know who he was reading about. God sent a man named Philip to help him understand. ”

#### DECORATE CHARIOTS

Place boxes throughout the room. Show preschoolers the “Chariot Photo” printable and explain that people used chariots to travel during Bible times. Encourage preschoolers to use their imaginations to pretend the boxes are chariots. Invite them to decorate their chariots using washable markers. Suggest preschoolers decorate paper plates to look like wheels and tape them to the box. Lead preschoolers to stand in the boxes and pretend to drive or ride.

**SAY** “ In Bible times people used chariots to travel to different places. Would you want ride to church in a chariot? Today we will hear a story about a man who was reading God’s Word while he traveled in his chariot. ”

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers’ attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to pretend to drive a chariot as they transition to Learn.

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Hold up each transportation toy and ask preschoolers to tell you what it is and to describe how it is used for travel (land, water, air). Encourage them to raise their hands if they have ever used the various ways to travel.

**SAY** “ You did a great job describing these ways to travel! How did you get to church today? **[Allow responses.]** We will hear a Bible story about a man who was traveling home in a chariot. While he rode, the man read from God’s Word. ”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Acts 8 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “ Our Bible story is found in the book of Acts. Acts is found in the New Testament of the Bible. The Bible is God’s Word. It is filled with true stories. ”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### THE CHURCH SPREAD OUT

“ One day, an angel told Philip to go to a desert road. So Philip went.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**As they traveled down the road, they came to some water.** The man asked the chariot to stop.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

He wanted to be baptized because he believed in Jesus. Philip baptized the man in the water and the man went home happy. ”

### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

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

### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ Who told Philip to go to a desert road? (the Holy Spirit) What did he find when he traveled along the desert road? (He met an Ethiopian man reading from the Bible book of Isaiah.) The man did not understand what he was reading, so Philip spent time teaching him. When the Ethiopian man heard the good news of Jesus, he believed in Him. What did the man want to do as soon as he saw water? (get baptized) The Holy Spirit led Philip to help the man understand the good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and He is alive. We can share this good news with other people too! ”

### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Roll several copies of the key passage poster into scrolls. Tie a ribbon around each scroll. Hide the scrolls in the room. Place the key passage marker at Isaiah 53:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Encourage preschoolers to look for the scrolls hidden around the room. Lead boys and girls with scrolls to open them up. Point to each child’s scroll as you repeat the verse together.

**SAY** “ The man from Ethiopia had trouble understanding what he was reading in the Bible. Philip helped him by sharing that the person Isaiah wrote about was Jesus, the Messiah. Our key passage is found in the book of Isaiah. In fact, it is found in the same part of the Bible the man from Ethiopia was reading from. Isaiah 53:5 helps us see that through Jesus’ death, we can have peace. This verse tells us the good news about Jesus: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and He is alive. ”

Sing the key passage song, “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Ride in a chariot:** Make a chariot out of a large cardboard box. Decorate the box to look like a chariot. Add wheels to the sides using markers. Cut out the back of the box for a place to get in and out. Tell the Bible story while pretending to ride in the chariot.

**Ask questions:** Stop and ask questions throughout the story. Use questions such as, “How do you think Philip felt when ...” or “How do you think the Ethiopian man felt when ...”



LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “ Our big picture question asks, **Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.** Philip helped the Ethiopian man understand the good news about Jesus. What is this good news? Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and He is alive. He came to rescue sinners. ”

### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

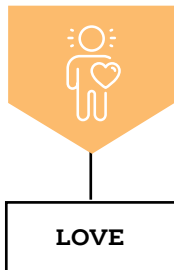
Print and display the “Jones Family Photo” printable. Remind preschoolers that Casey and Amy Jones help start new churches in Germany. They have worked with missionaries and Christians from many other countries. It is challenging for the missionaries to find ways to tell people who do not attend church about Jesus.

**SAY** “ When Amy Jones was your age, she learned at church that God wanted Christians to tell people from every country about Him. Amy began praying for people in Europe after her mother returned from a trip to England, many years before she became a missionary in Germany. ”

Lead preschoolers in prayer. Pray that Casey, Amy, and other missionaries serving in Germany can help the people know they are loved by God and He wants them to believe in His Son, Jesus, as their Savior and Lord.

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





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### LOVE God because of what we learned

#### 1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “ God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. Thank You that if we believe in Him, one day we will live with You forever. Thank You for the Bible that helps us know more about Jesus. Thank You for people that help us understand Your words in the Bible. Amen. ”

#### 2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “ What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ How did Philip help the Ethiopian man? ”

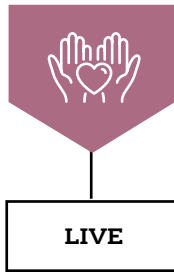
**SAY** “ Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners. ”

#### 3 COLOR WITH MARKERS

Use white crayon to write Jesus is alive in large letters on white heavyweight paper. Prepare one paper per child. Invite preschoolers to color over their papers with washable markers. Mention there is a hidden message on the paper that will be revealed as they color. Read the message on the paper once preschoolers finish coloring. Set the papers aside to dry. (Note: for best results, write the words with thick, heavy lines.)

**SAY** “ The words on your paper say Jesus is alive. Philip helped the Ethiopian man understand the good news about Jesus—that He died on the cross for our sins, and He is alive. The Ethiopian man believed the truths he read in the Bible, and he wanted to be baptized because he believed. Philip baptized the man when they came to water as they traveled. ”





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### **GUESS THE DRAWING**



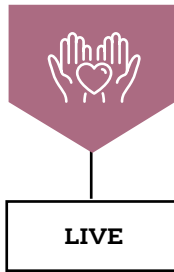
Invite a teacher to draw a picture using paper and crayons. As she draws, lead preschoolers to guess what she is drawing. Continue playing as time allows. If preschoolers are older, choose several to draw pictures for other children to guess what they are drawing. (Note: Pictures can be as simple as a flower, sunshine, or house. You don't have to be an artist to have fun with this game!)

**SAY** “ Did you have trouble understanding what I was drawing at first? [Allow responses.] It was hard to know what the picture was going to be before I finished it. If I would have stopped right in the middle of the drawing, you might not have ever guessed it. When the Ethiopian man was reading words from the Bible scroll, he did not understand them. He needed someone to help explain what the words meant. Philip helped the Ethiopian man see the big picture—the good news that Jesus came to rescue sinners through His death and resurrection. **Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.** ”

#### **TRAVEL TO TELL**

Place bookmarks in several Bibles at Isaiah 53:5. Place the Bibles on one side of the room. Write these motions on index cards: hop, ride in a chariot, fly, walk backward, crawl, and take giant steps. Invite preschoolers to form lines based on the number of Bibles available. Assign each line a Bible. Lead one child to choose an index card. Guide the first preschoolers in each line to travel to the Bibles using the motion on the card and open the Bible to the bookmark. Once the children have arrived and the Bibles are opened, say the key passage together. Continue the activity, allowing every child to travel to a Bible and open it to the bookmark.

**SAY** “ The Holy Spirit led Philip to a desert road. On this road Philip met an Ethiopian man traveling home in his chariot. He was reading a Bible scroll. Philip helped the man understand the words he read. The man believed what Philip told him. He became a follower of Jesus. We can follow Jesus, too. The Bible helps us know the good news about Jesus—He came to earth to rescue sinners by dying on the cross. He is alive today! ”



## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### WRITE IN SAND



Fill several shallow trays with sand. Write words relating to today's story in large letters on paper. These words could include Jesus, God, Isaiah, and saved. Invite preschoolers to use their finger to write these words in the sand using the words on the papers as guides. If preschoolers are not ready to write letters, invite them to make paths in the sand like a chariot might have made on a desert road.

**SAY** “ The Holy Spirit led Philip to a desert road. This road was probably covered with sand. On this road, Philip helped the Ethiopian man understand that Jesus is the Messiah. He died on the cross, and He is alive! This is the good news about Jesus! Just like Philip explained what the Bible said to the Ethiopian man, we have people who can help us understand what we read in the Bible, too. Who is someone that can help you understand what the Bible says? ”

### MAKE PRETZEL PATTERNS



Print and display the “Jones Family Photo” printable. Post an allergy alert for parents to see. Distribute a napkin and variety of pretzel sticks and mini pretzels to each preschooler. Mention that pretzels have been a part of German baking traditions for many years. Ask preschoolers to sort and count each kind of pretzel. Then lead them to create A-B-A-B patterns like stick, mini, stick, mini; or A-A-B patterns: stick, stick, mini; or A-A-B-B patterns: mini, mini, stick, stick. Provide time for preschoolers to come up with their own patterns as time allows. Allow preschoolers to eat their pretzels as you talk about Casey and Amy Jones helping to start new churches in Germany.

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

## 2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



UNIT 31 | SESSION 5

## **JESUS SUFFERED FOR US**

### **PHILIPPIANS 2**

**CHRIST CONNECTION:**

God's Son, Jesus, came to earth as a man. Jesus never sinned, but He died on the cross to rescue people from their sins. Jesus rose from the dead and is alive! Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever.

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Isaiah 53:5





YOUR HEART TO TEACH



## LEADER Bible Study

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

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

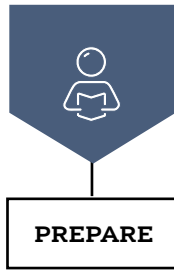
The sufferings of Jesus were rooted in humility as He sought not what was best for Himself, but rather what was for the good of sinful people. His obedience to deny Himself and seek the Father’s will demonstrates the same mindset we should have toward one another. The love Christ has shown us through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

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

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

### DOCTRINE TO KNOW

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



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

## GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



**WELCOME**

### Welcome

- “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5)” song

### Activity Page

- “Color the Hidden Picture” activity page, 1 per child

### Spell Jesus

- craft pom-poms

### Transition

- countdown video (optional)



**LEARN**

### Introduce the Bible story

- shape cut-outs (circle, triangle, square, heart)
- “Cross” printable

### Learn about the Bible

- bookmark
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

### Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- “Jesus Suffered for Us” video (optional)
- storytelling tips props (optional)

### Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5)” song

### Learn the Big Picture

#### Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

#### Missions moment

- “Jones Family Photo” printable



**LOVE**

### Snack and talk

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

### Make play dough stars

- star-shaped cookie cutters



**LIVE**

### Decorate a cross

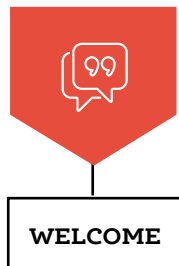
- “Cross” printable, 1 per child printed on heavyweight paper
- tissue paper squares

### Write a letter

- envelopes, 1 per child

### Transition

- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per child
- “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5)” song
- Big Picture Cards for Families



## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete “Color the Hidden Picture” on the activity page.

**SAY** “ What did you find when you colored the shapes with dots inside them? Yes! A cross was hidden in the picture. God’s Son, Jesus, came to earth as a man. Today we will hear that He died on the cross to rescue us from our sins. Jesus rose from the dead, and He is alive! ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today’s Bible story.

#### LISTEN TO THE RHYTHM



Gather preschoolers in a circle on the floor. Invite one child to make a rhythm pattern by clapping her hands, stomping her feet, and patting her knees. Lead preschoolers to repeat the rhythm. Guide various children to make rhythms for the rest of the group to repeat. Assist younger preschoolers in creating simple rhythms.

**SAY** “ You did a great job repeating the rhythms you heard! You listened and responded by making the same rhythm. Just like you followed directions in this game, God wants us to follow and obey His directions, too. Jesus always obeyed God when He was on earth. He is our perfect example to follow. ”

#### SPELL JESUS

Write the name Jesus in large letters on paper, one per child. Invite preschoolers to place pom-poms on the letters to spell Jesus. As preschoolers participate in the activity, talk about who Jesus is. Encourage boys and girls to share things they know about Jesus.

**SAY** “ Today we are celebrating Jesus! A man named Paul wrote a letter to a church reminding them about who Jesus is. In today’s Bible story time, we will look at this letter and learn more about Jesus and what He has done for us. ”

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers’ attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to march together while chanting the letters “J-E-S-U-S” as they transition to Learn.

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Before the session cut out a paper circle, triangle, square, and heart shape. Hold up one shape at a time. Ask preschoolers to name the shape. Show the “Cross” printable last.

**SAY** “ The last shape I held up was a cross. What do you know about this shape? [Allow responses, encouraging preschoolers to name things they know about crosses.] Today we will hear a story from the Bible that includes a cross. We will learn how a cross changed our lives forever. ”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Philippians 2 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “ Today’s Bible story comes from the book of Philippians. Philippians is in the New Testament of the Bible. It was a letter written by a man named Paul to the church at Philippi. ”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### JESUS SUFFERED FOR US

“ Paul, a follower of Jesus, was living as a prisoner in Rome. He **had been arrested because he taught people that Jesus had risen from the dead.**

While Paul was in prison, other believers visited Paul or sent him gifts. **The Christians in Philippi sent a gift to Paul, and he wrote them a letter to thank them. Paul told them to love people the way Jesus did and to put others first.**

Paul wrote, “Have the same attitude as Jesus. **Jesus is God, but He came to earth as a man.** He became like a servant and obeyed God’s plan—even though His plan was for Jesus to die on a cross.

“This is why God honored Jesus and gave Him the name that is above every name. **To honor Jesus, everyone in heaven and on earth and under the earth will bow down to Him.** And everyone will admit that Jesus Christ is Lord. This brings glory to God the Father.”

**Jesus suffered and died for us. Then He rose from the dead and is alive! Because of Jesus, we must follow and obey God.** God is changing us to be like Jesus. Paul wrote, “**Do everything without complaining and arguing** so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a world full of wickedness. **In this way, you will shine like stars in the world.**” ”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ God’s Son, Jesus, came to earth as a man. Jesus never sinned, but He died on the cross to rescue people from their sins. Jesus rose from the dead and is alive! Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever. ”

### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ Paul wrote a letter to the church in Philippi while he was in prison. Why was Paul in prison? (He preached that Jesus had risen from the dead, and leaders did not like this message.) In his letter, Paul reminded the people how they should live. What did Paul tell the people they should do? (Love people like Jesus. Put others first. Have the same attitude as Jesus. Do not complain or argue.) What was God’s plan for Jesus? (to die on the cross to rescue sinners) Paul reminded the people that Jesus is God, but He was willing to come to earth as a man to rescue people from their sins. Because of this, if we believe in Jesus and trust Him, our sins are forgiven, and one day we will live forever with God. ”

### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at Isaiah 53:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Invite preschoolers to say the verse using motions from memory. Assist as needed. If preschoolers are younger, say the verse with motions and invite them to repeat the words and motions together.

**SAY** “ Paul was a follower of Jesus. He believed Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. He believed Jesus is alive! Paul needed to be rescued from his sin, just like each of us. Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, we have forgiveness of sins. Jesus provides peace for those who believe in Him. ”

Sing the key passage song, “We Are Healed (Isaiah 53:5).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Display story props:** Display various props as you tell the Bible story. Use a scroll, a cross, a stone, and a star.

**Use motions:** Invite preschoolers to interact with the story by doing various actions as you tell the story. Play out writing a letter, bowing down, and being shining stars (open and close hands to make twinkling stars).



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “ Our big picture question asks, **Why did Jesus become human?** Do you remember the answer? The answer is, **Jesus became human to rescue sinners.** Paul reminds us in the book of Philippians that even though Jesus is God, He came to earth as a human. Jesus served others and obeyed God’s plan for Him. What was God’s plan? God’s plan for Jesus was to rescue sinners. Through His death on the cross, we have forgiveness for our sins. One day those who believe in Jesus will live forever with Him. ”

### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

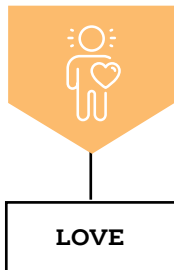
Print and display the “Jones Family Photo” printable.

**SAY** “ Casey and Amy Jones encourage people to think about going on a mission trip to Germany. Leipzig has a university where teens and young adults can build friendships with students so they can tell them about Jesus. Kids can also be involved in missions by going to a local park to get to know their neighbors and invite the families to church. A way you and your family can help is by giving money to support missionaries living in an expensive place like Germany. We can also support missionaries by praying for them. Let’s pray for Casey, Amy, and other missionaries telling people around the world about Jesus. ”

Ask a child volunteer to close in prayer, praying for the Jones’ family and their mission work in Germany.

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





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God because of what we learned

### 1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “ God, thank You for Jesus. Thank You that He came to earth to rescue sinners, died on a cross, was buried, and rose again. Because Jesus came to save sinners, we can be forgiven for the wrong things we do. Thank You, God, for sending Your Son to rescue us. Amen. ”

### 2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “ What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What did Paul tell the people in Philippi they should do? ”

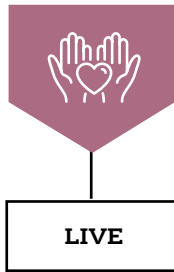
**SAY** “ **Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.** ”

### 3 MAKE PLAY DOUGH STARS

Distribute play dough and star-shaped cookie cutters to preschoolers. Invite them to make stars out of play dough. Encourage preschoolers to place their stars on the table, making as many as they can. Open a Bible to Philippians 2:14-15. Read the verse aloud.

**SAY** “ Paul wrote a message in his letter to the church in Philippi reminding them to live like Jesus. He said that if they lived like Jesus, they would shine like stars in the sky. Have you ever looked up in the sky on a clear night? What did you see? **[Allow responses.]** On a clear night, you will probably see thousands of bright stars in the sky. Just like stars give light in the night sky, God wants us to be a light to those around us. As we live our lives for Jesus, others will see the difference He makes in us. ”





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### **DELIVER THE LETTERS**



Roll several sheets of paper into scrolls, securing with tape. Invite preschoolers to stand side-to-side in a line. Share that in this activity, boys and girls will see how quickly they can deliver letters from the beginning of the line to the end of the line. Repeat the activity several times, using variations of the game such as seeing how fast they can pass one scroll down the line, how fast they can pass multiple scrolls down the line, how fast they can pass the scroll without dropping it, and so on.

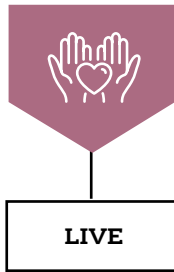
**SAY** “ In Bible times, people often wrote letters to share messages with others. They did not have things like phones, email, or texting. Paul wrote many letters to different churches to help them know more about Jesus. Today’s Bible story is found in the book of Philippians. This book is a letter Paul wrote to the church people at Philippi. As we read this letter, we can see ways we can be like Jesus. ”

#### **DECORATE A CROSS**

Print the “Cross” printable on heavyweight paper, one per child. Demonstrate how to wad tissue paper squares and glue them to the inside of the cross. Fill the entire cross with tissue paper. If your preschoolers are younger, guide them to glue flat tissue paper squares to the cross. (Note: Use glue sticks to place glue on the cross rather than the individual squares of tissue paper.)

**SAY** “ In today’s Bible story, Paul reminded us that Jesus, God’s Son, became a man. **Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.** He lived a perfect life. Even though Jesus never sinned, He chose to die on the cross for our sins. He was buried, and three days later He rose again. These beautiful crosses can remind us that Jesus came to rescue sinners. Because of the cross, we have forgiveness of sins. If we trust in Jesus, we will one day live forever with Him. ”





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### WRITE A LETTER

Lead preschoolers to think of someone they can tell about Jesus. Distribute paper and an envelope to each preschooler. Write *Jesus is alive!* on the papers or provide a written sample for older preschoolers to copy. Encourage boys and girls to decorate their papers and envelopes with crayons or washable markers. Assist preschoolers in placing their letters in the envelopes. Invite them to deliver their letters to people who need to hear the good news about Jesus.

**SAY** “ When Paul was in prison, he wrote letters to several churches. The book of Philippians in the New Testament is a letter Paul wrote to the church at Philippi. In the letter he told the people how to live like Jesus. He reminded them of who Jesus is and what He did on the cross for them. He encouraged the people to obey God and be an example to those around them. One way we can live like Jesus is by telling others about Him. This week, give the letter you made to someone who needs to hear that Jesus is alive. Who will you give your letter to? ”

### LEARN ABOUT FRIENDS



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

**SAY** “ We learned so many new things about our friends! People make friends with others so they can tell them about Jesus. I am so thankful for missionaries in Germany like Casey and Amy Jones and people who go on mission trips who make friendships with people living there and tell them about Jesus. ”

### 2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



UNIT 32 | SESSION 1

## PETER PERFORMED MIRACLES

### ACTS 9

#### **CHRIST CONNECTION:**

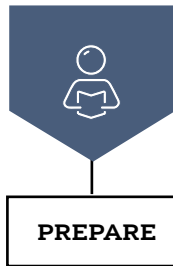
The Holy Spirit gave Peter power to do miracles. People saw what happened and believed in Jesus. These miracles remind us of Jesus. Jesus' miracles proved that He is the Son of God.

#### **BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

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

#### **KEY PASSAGE:**

1 Corinthians 12:12



## YOUR HEART TO TEACH



## LEADER Bible Study

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

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

Both instances of Peter’s miraculous acts were evidence of Christ’s power to heal despite the impossible circumstances. While Christ’s power through Peter brought physical healing to the man in Lydda, it also brought spiritual healing to the people in Lydda and Sharon as they turned to the Lord. Similarly, Dorcas’ resurrection was used by God to draw many people to faith in Christ—the One who holds power over the grave.

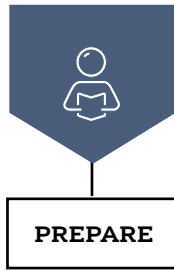
These miracles performed by Peter point to the reality of Jesus’ power and to the proof that He is still alive within His followers. The usual patterns of sickness and death were

not the final endings for Aeneas and Dorcas; rather, they were the work of the Lord’s restoration and redemption—pointing to the reality that everlasting life is ours through the power of Jesus. And through these events, we are encouraged to remember the hope we have in Christ, who is making all things new.

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

### PEOPLE TO KNOW

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



## YOUR HEART TO TEACH

### GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



#### WELCOME

##### Welcome

- “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12)” song

##### Activity Page

- “Get Up!” activity page, 1 per child

##### Enjoy dollhouse play

- dollhouse
- people figures
- dollhouse furniture
- cardboard box (optional)
- blocks (optional)

##### Transition

- countdown video (optional)



#### LEARN

##### Introduce the Bible story

- stuffed animal

##### Learn about the Bible

- bookmark
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

##### Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- “Peter Performed Miracles” video (optional)
- storytelling tips props (optional)

##### Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12)” song

##### Learn the Big Picture

##### Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

##### Missions moment

- “Send South Florida” missions video
- map of the United States (optional)



#### LOVE

##### Snack and talk

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

##### Collage with fabric

- fabric pieces, cut into 1-inch squares
- copies of the Key Passage Poster, 1 per child



#### LIVE

##### Build a staircase

- Bible story picture poster
- interlocking blocks

##### Create finger puppets

- “Finger Puppets” printable, 1 copy per child

##### Make a fish craft

- blue construction paper, 1 per child
- mini multicolored and full-size cupcake liners
- googly eyes
- blue sequins (optional)
- white binder reinforcement stickers (optional)

##### Transition

- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per child
- “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12)” song
- Big Picture Cards for Families



## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete "Get Up!" on the activity page.

**SAY** “ What is the opposite of down? Yes, it’s up! If I were to climb to the top of a ladder, would I be moving up or down? That’s right, up! When you wake up in the morning, you climb out of bed and stand up. In today’s Bible story, Peter met a man who could not walk. Peter told the man to get up out of his bed. How would the man stand up if he could not walk? Let’s find out. ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today’s Bible story.

#### VISIT FOUR CORNERS



Gather four pieces of paper. Write names of places in your community on two pages, and the cities mentioned in today’s Bible story, Lydda and Joppa, on the other two pages. Set the papers in each corner of the room. Tell children that when you close your eyes, they should choose a corner and move to it. Wait for children to move, say the name of one of the four locations, and open your eyes to discover which children chose that corner.

**SAY** “ Peter traveled to many different places. In today’s Bible story, Peter traveled to Lydda and to a city called Joppa, where he helped a woman named Dorcas. ”

#### ENJOY DOLLHOUSE PLAY

Encourage a child to arrange doll furniture and play out familiar situations with people figures. Consider building a dollhouse and furniture with blocks if these items are not available. Suggest children play out a situation when someone is sick or tired.

**SAY** “ Sometimes when I don’t feel well, I like to lie in bed and rest. We will hear a story today about a man named Aeneas who was lying in bed because he could not walk. Peter traveled to Lydda and met Aeneas. When Peter healed Aeneas, many people believed in the Lord. ”

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers’ attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to use their legs to hop, jump, or tiptoe to the Bible study area as they transition to Learn.

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Show preschoolers a stuffed animal. Talk about how a child might play with the toy. Guide the conversation, and direct children to consider that a stuffed animal might be used to comfort someone when they are going to bed.

**SAY** “Isn’t it nice to hug a stuffed animal when you are sleeping in bed? You did not stay in bed today, though. You woke up, got out of bed, and had breakfast. Then you got dressed and came to church! In today’s Bible story, we will hear about two people who could not get out of bed. I hope you listen closely to the story to learn why.”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Acts 9 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “Today’s true story from the Bible is found in the book of Acts. Acts is in the New Testament part of the Bible. It tells about the things that happened shortly after Jesus went back to heaven to be with His Father, God.”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### PETER PERFORMED MIRACLES

“Peter had become a leader in the early church. **God gave power to Peter and to Jesus’ other disciples to heal people and to tell others about Jesus.** At this time, the church had peace and was strengthened. More people joined the church.

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

**In the city of Joppa (JAHF uh), there was a follower of Jesus named Dorcas. She was always doing good works—helping people in need and making clothes for widows. Over time, Dorcas got sick and died.** The disciples in Joppa sent two men to get Peter.

**Peter came to Joppa. He went upstairs in the house where Dorcas’ body lay. Peter sent Dorcas’**



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

friends out of the room and **knelt down beside her body. Peter prayed. Then he said, “Dorcas, get up.”**

**She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up.** Peter called for **the disciples and friends**, and they **saw that Dorcas was alive! People** throughout the city **heard about this miracle, and many believed in the Lord.** ”

### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

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

### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ What amazing things God did through Peter! Aeneas was healed, and Dorcas was made alive again! The Holy Spirit gave Peter the power to do miracles, like Jesus did. When people saw those miracles, many believed in Jesus. Let’s see what you remember from the story. Why could Aeneas not get out of bed? (He could not walk.) What did Peter tell him to do? (Get up and make your bed.) What happened to Dorcas? (She had died.) What happened when Peter knelt beside her body and prayed? (Dorcas sat up; she was alive.) These miracles remind us of Jesus. Jesus’ miracles proved that He is the Son of God. ”

### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration.

**SAY** “ You have two eyes, one mouth, ten little toes, and one stomach. All the parts of you work together to make you who you are. In our key passage, Paul explained that the church works in a similar way. People in church have different jobs to do. Even in today’s story, Dorcas helped people in need. Peter traveled around and taught people about Jesus. The church needs people to do all kinds of different things. ”

Sing the key passage song, “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Sit on a blanket:** Invite preschoolers to sit on a blanket or sleeping bag as they listen to the story. Remark that Peter healed both Aeneas and Dorcas and told them to get up out of their beds.

**Play out the story with dolls:** Use baby dolls or other people figures to portray Peter, Aeneas, and Dorcas. Play out the story with the dolls as it is told.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “When we talk about the church, do you think we are talking about the place where we meet together to learn about Jesus? That is the church building. But the church is not the building—it is the people. People who love God and follow Jesus are the church. Let’s learn the answer to our big picture question. **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** Even in our story today, Aeneas lived in Lydda, Dorcas lived in Joppa, and Peter traveled from place to place. But because all three believed in Jesus, they were all part of the church.”

### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

Show the “Send South Florida” missions video. Point out the location of Florida on a world map or map of the United States.

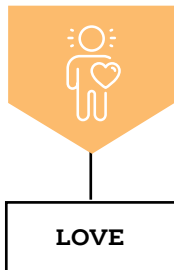
**SAY** “South Florida has many beaches and big cities. The sunny days make it a great place to visit nature areas and gardens, walk around downtown, or play golf on beautiful golf courses. South Florida is an area with people from many different countries. People in South Florida need to hear about Jesus. Missionaries and other Christians work hard to tell the people who live there about Jesus.”

Pray for the missionaries and believers who are finding ways to tell the people of South Florida about Jesus. Pray that more churches will help start new churches in the area.

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







## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### LOVE God because of what we learned

#### 1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “ Dear God, thank You that the Bible is true. It is wonderful to read the words Paul wrote in the Bible. Help us begin to understand that when we love Jesus and follow Him, we become part of something very special, the church, along with other Jesus followers. It is in His name we pray, amen. ”

#### 2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “ What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What kinds of miracles did the Holy Spirit give Peter the power to do? ”

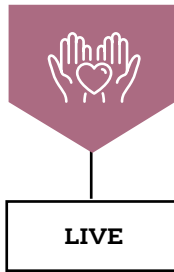
**SAY** “ What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere. ”

#### 3 COLLAGE WITH FABRIC

Cut fabric into 1-inch squares. Print copies of your preferred translation of the key passage poster, one per child. Open the Bible and read the key passage a few times. Lead preschoolers to repeat it. Demonstrate how to squeeze a dot of glue onto the paper and lead a child to attach fabric pieces.

**SAY** “ When Peter visited the house where Dorcas was, the people who were there told Peter how kind and helpful Dorcas was. They even showed Peter some of the clothes she had made. Dorcas helped people because she loved Jesus. What is something you can do to show your love for Jesus? Is there someone you can help? [Allow responses.] In today’s story, we heard that Peter loved Jesus too. The Holy Spirit gave Peter the power to do miracles. People learned about Jesus from both Dorcas and Peter. Peter’s miracles remind us of Jesus, and Jesus’ miracles proved that He is God’s Son. ”





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### **PICK UP PLAY DOUGH**



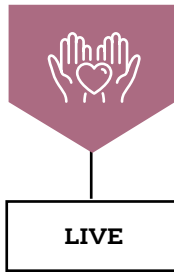
Give each child a ball of play dough. Tell preschoolers to pinch off several small pieces and set them on the table. Demonstrate how to use one piece of play dough to pick up all the smaller pieces by pressing down on each piece.

**SAY** “ When you kept adding pieces to your play dough, what happened? Did it get bigger or smaller? It got bigger! That’s what happened to the church! More and more people believed in Jesus and were added to the church. **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** Aeneas from today’s Bible story, could not walk and had to stay in bed. That is, until Peter came to visit him. Peter told Aeneas to get up and make his bed because Jesus healed him. Many people saw this miracle and they believed in Jesus. The Holy Spirit gave Peter the power to do miracles, and people were reminded that Jesus proved He is the Son of God. ”

#### **BUILD A STAIRCASE**

Offer building materials to preschoolers and challenge them to construct a staircase. Demonstrate how to connect interlocking blocks and talk about climbing up and down the stairs. Set the Bible story picture poster nearby and recall that Peter went upstairs in the house where Dorcas’ body lay.

**SAY** “ When Peter arrived in Joppa, he went to the house where Dorcas was. When the people told him that Dorcas had died, he wanted to help, so he climbed upstairs to the room where her body was. Peter sent the other people out of the room, he knelt beside Dorcas’ body, and he prayed. Then he told her to get up, and she did! She was alive! People all over the city heard about this miracle and many believed in Jesus because of it. ”



## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### CREATE FINGER PUPPETS

Before the session, print and cut out one set of the “Finger Puppets” printable per child. Offer crayons or markers and suggest preschoolers personalize the puppets to create the likeness of Peter, Aeneas, and Dorcas. Show a child how to insert two fingers through the holes and play out today’s Bible story as you retell it.

**SAY** “ When you put your fingers through the holes on your puppet, you can move them to make Peter look like he is walking. What were Aeneas’ legs doing at the beginning of our story? That’s right; they did not work. Aeneas laid in bed until Peter came to visit. The Holy Spirit gave Peter the power to do miracles, and Aeneas got up out of his bed and began to walk! Peter also climbed the stairs to visit Dorcas who had been sick and died. Peter knelt and prayed. Dorcas was alive! She got up too! Those miracles remind us of Jesus. His miracles proved that Jesus is the Son of God. When the people throughout the city heard about these miracles, many believed in Jesus and began to follow Him. ”

### MAKE A FISH CRAFT

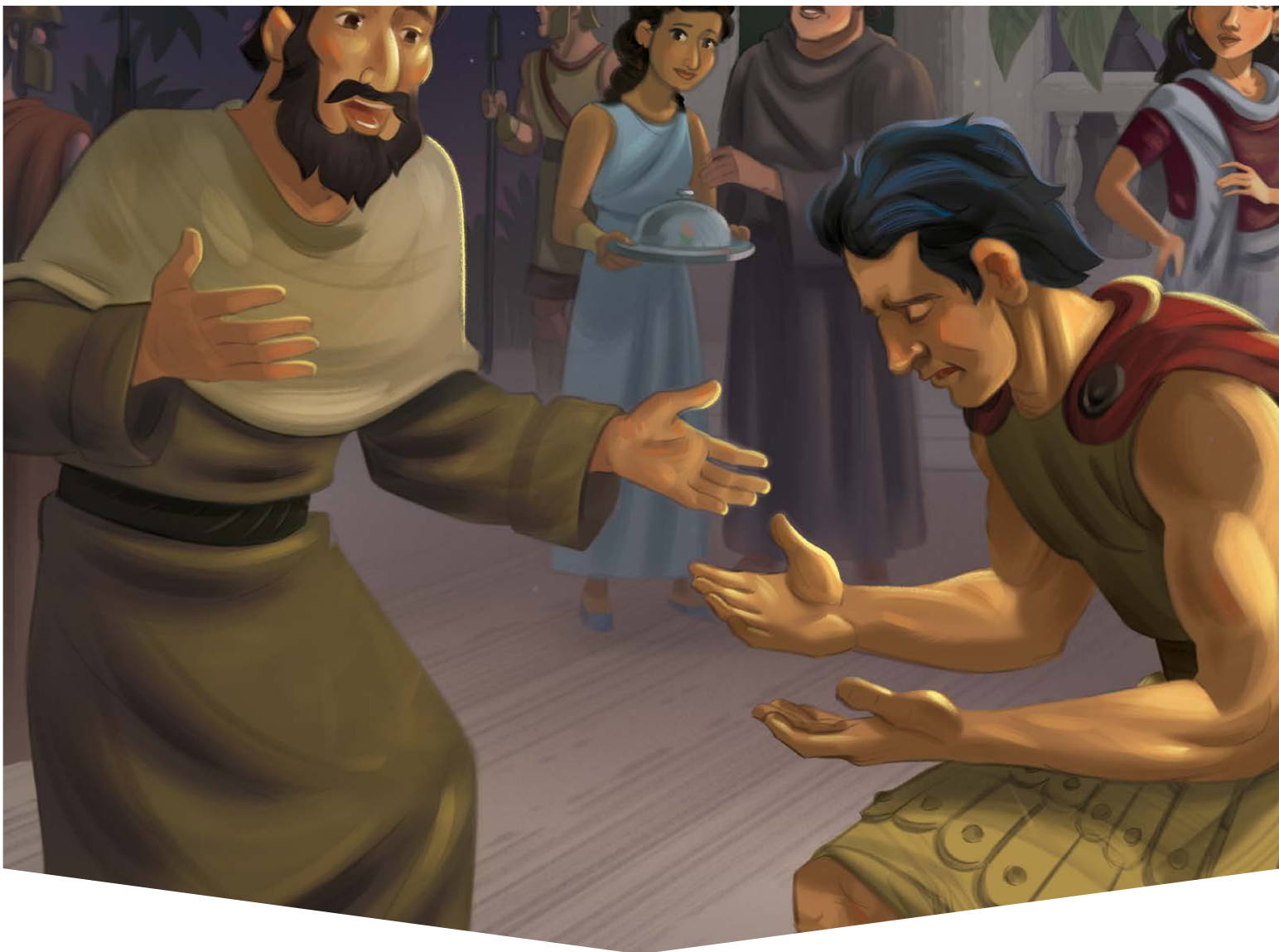


Before the session, cut several cupcake liners into fourths. These will be used as tails and fins for the fish. Distribute to each child blue construction paper, a cupcake liner, cupcake liner tails and fins, and a glue stick. Demonstrate how to flatten the cupcake liner on the paper to make the fish’s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

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

### 2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during 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. God wants believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus no matter who they are or what they do. Jesus is the Lord of all.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

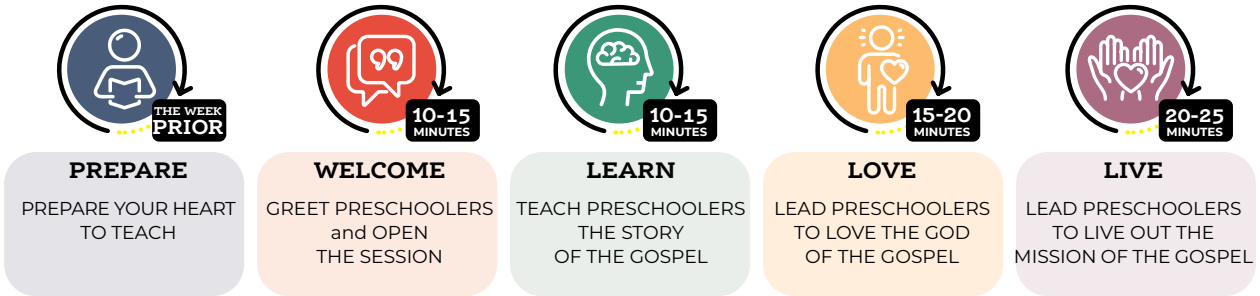
What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.

### KEY PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 12:12



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



## LEADER Bible Study

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

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

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

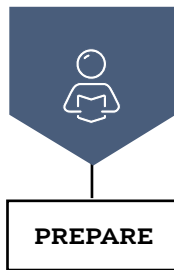
Peter’s vision seemed to be much less direct than Cornelius; yet God was patiently repetitive in instilling the greater message that the ones whom He purifies through faith are brought into the family of God—with no stipulations due to custom or culture.

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

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

### PEOPLE TO KNOW

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



## YOUR HEART TO TEACH

### GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



#### WELCOME

##### Welcome

- “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12)” song

##### Activity Page

- “Where’s Peter?” activity page, 1 per child

##### Sort animals

- toy animals (plastic or stuffed)
- plastic hoops
- tape

##### Transition

- countdown video (optional)



#### LEARN

##### Introduce the Bible story

- smart phone or electronic device

##### Learn about the Bible

- bookmark
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

##### Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- “Peter Learned That Jesus Is for All” video (optional)
- storytelling tips props (optional)

##### Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12)” song

##### Learn the Big Picture

##### Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

##### Missions moment

- Gospel City Church” missions video



#### LOVE

##### Snack and talk

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

##### Trace circles

- pool noodle, cut into 2-inch slices
- colored pencils



#### LIVE

##### Play with a sheet

- large sheet or blanket
- play parachute (optional)

##### Wash animals

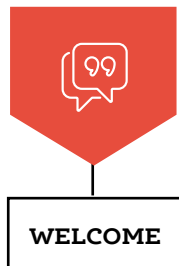
- plastic tub
- plastic animals
- water
- towels or washcloths
- small brushes (new or clean fingernail or toothbrushes)

##### Cheer someone up

- sealed microwave popcorn bags
- tape
- large index cards

##### Transition

- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per child
- “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12)” song
- Big Picture Cards for Families



## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete “Where’s Peter?” on the activity page.

**SAY** “ Did you find the picture of Peter? I see him! It looks like he’s praying, like he’s talking to God. Did you find the men who were looking for Peter? In today’s Bible story, we will hear that an angel told Cornelius to send those men into the city to find Peter. God had a special message to give to Peter. And when Peter met Cornelius, Peter had a special message for Cornelius and his family. ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today’s Bible story.

#### JOIN ME!



Invite children to sit in a circle. Choose one volunteer to begin the game. Instruct him to walk around the outside of the group, tap one friend gently on the shoulder and say, “Come join me!” Explain that the friend should join hands with the leader and continue moving around the circle. Continue playing until all children are holding hands and moving in a circle.

**SAY** “ We started with one person walking around the circle. Then one by one, the line of people grew until everyone was moving around the circle. That’s how it was in the early church. Peter learned that Jesus is not just for people like him, but Jesus is for everyone! ”

#### SORT ANIMALS

Offer a variety of toy animals to preschoolers. Encourage boys and girls to sort animals by size or color. Lay plastic hoops on the floor or create boundaries with taped shapes. Suggest a child sort animals by habitat by separating animals that live on the land from animals that fly in the sky or swim in the ocean. Talk about different kinds of animals as children play.

**SAY** “ Which animals have you seen at the zoo? Have you ever gone fishing and caught a fish? What animal is your favorite? In today’s Bible story, Peter saw a vision, a daytime dream, of all kinds of animals. God used the vision to teach Peter about the church. ”

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers’ attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to move to the Bible study area like their favorite animal as they transition to Learn.

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Before the session, install an application on a smart phone or digital device that plays animal sounds. Gather children and play an animal sound. Encourage boys and girls to identify the animal by the sound it makes. If you do not have a device, use your voice to make the different animal sounds.

**SAY** “Great job guessing the animals! Can you tell the difference between a chicken’s cluck and a duck’s quack? What about a lion’s roar? How is it different from a bear’s roar? There are so many kinds of animals. In today’s Bible story, Peter had a vision, a daytime dream, about all kinds of animals. God used the vision to teach Peter about more than animals. Peter learned that the good news of Jesus is for everyone.”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Acts 10 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “Peter was one of Jesus’ friends. After Jesus died and rose again, He returned to heaven. Peter became a leader in the early church. We can read about the things Peter said and did when we read the book of Acts. Today’s story is from Acts, chapter 10.”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### PETER LEARNED THAT JESUS IS FOR ALL

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

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

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

But Peter didn’t want to. He thought the animals were unclean. A voice said, “God has made these clean.” Peter saw the vision three times, and he tried to figure out what it meant.





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

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

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

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

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Demonstrate the sheet with animals:** Place several plastic toy animals on a handkerchief or other piece of fabric. Invite four children to hold the corners and raise, lower, and raise the handkerchief as directed in the Bible story.

**Show key words:** Write important words from the story onto index cards (*Cornelius, pray, Peter, house, Jesus*). As you tell the story, show the words on the cards to engage your early readers and visual learners.

### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

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

### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ Cornelius and Peter were from different countries. Cornelius loved God and helped people, but he had not learned about Jesus. Who did God send to Cornelius? (an angel) He sent some men to find Peter, but before they did, God taught Peter an important truth. Peter had a vision where God told him that all animals were good to eat. This helped Peter understand that Jesus is for everyone, not just for the people who were like Peter. When Cornelius' helpers found Peter, what did they ask him to do? (come with them to Cornelius' house) What did Peter tell Cornelius? (He told Cornelius about Jesus.) Cornelius, his whole family, and his friends believed in Jesus and were baptized. God showed Peter through the vision that the good news about Jesus is for everyone, no matter who they are or what they do. ”

### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Show a baby doll. Pass the doll to the child on your right and invite her to repeat the passage after you. Lead children to continue moving the doll around the circle as they take turns repeating the passage.

**SAY** “ Our bodies are made up of many parts. Look at this doll. It has a knee and a belly, a shoulder and a nose. All of the parts together make up the doll. That's how it is in today's Bible verse. Paul wrote that the church is like the body of Christ, where believers all work together so that everyone can know that Jesus is the Lord of all. ”

Sing the key passage song, “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.



LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “ People who follow Jesus are called Christians. All Christians everywhere work together to form the church. The church is not a building. **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** God wants believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus no matter who they are or what they do. When this happens, more people believe in Jesus and the church grows. ”

### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

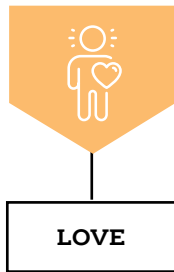
Show the “Gospel City Church” missions video.

**SAY** “ Gospel City Church meets in a movie theater in South Florida. Gospel means ‘good news.’ At Gospel City Church, kids and adults get together to worship God and learn from the Bible. The preschoolers’ classroom is in a party room, and the kids’ ministry meets in a smaller theater room. Let’s pray for the leaders and members of Gospel City Church. ”

Pray for David, his wife, Jennifer, other church leaders, and Gospel City Church as they tell the good news about Jesus in South Florida.

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





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God because of what we learned

### 1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “ God, thank you for helping Peter understand that Jesus is for everyone. Please help Christians everywhere remember that they are the church, and they have an important job to do. Help believers to work together as the church to tell everyone that Jesus is the Lord of all. Amen. ”

### 2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “ What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What truth did Peter need to learn before he talked to Cornelius? ”

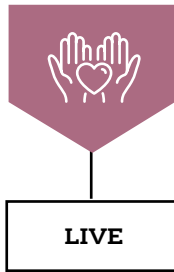
**SAY** “ What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere. ”

### 3 TRACE CIRCLES

Before the session, write the words Jesus Is for Everyone on each child’s paper. Give each child a paper. Show a child how to use a colored pencil to trace around a pool noodle slice to make circle shapes. Lead preschoolers to add facial features inside each circle with the colored pencils. Count the number of faces a child creates and remark that Jesus is for everyone. (Note: You may need to assist preschoolers by holding the pool noodle in place while they trace around it.)

**SAY** “ Tell me about the people’s faces that you drew. In our story, Peter was beginning to learn that Jesus came to save everyone, not just the Jewish people. Jesus is for everyone! He isn’t only for grown-ups. Jesus is for children too. It doesn’t matter who you are or what you do. God wants believers to tell everyone the good news about Jesus. ”





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### **FIND PETER**



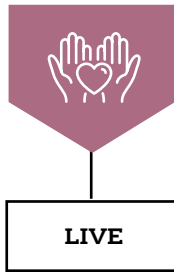
Cut a sheet of paper into four strips. Draw a stick figure to represent Peter on each strip of paper. Gather three Bibles. Mark the Bibles at 1 Corinthians 12:12 with strips of paper so that the drawing of Peter is visible. Hide the Bibles around the room. Gather the children and show the drawing of Peter on the fourth paper strip. Explain that you have placed three other pictures of Peter inside the Bibles, and they are hidden around the room. Ask children to search the room to find Peter hidden in the Bibles. Open each Bible, read the key passage, and ask children to repeat it.

**SAY** “ Nice job looking for Peter. Cornelius sent some men to find Peter because Cornelius wanted to ask Peter some questions about Jesus. After the men found Peter, he taught Cornelius about Jesus. Cornelius, his family, and his friends all believed in Jesus, and were baptized. They all became Christians, part of the body of Christ. That’s what our key passage is about. When everyone who loves Jesus works together in different ways, they make up one body of believers—the church— whose goal is to tell everyone that Jesus is the Lord of all. Once people believe in Jesus, they become Christians, and Christians make up the church. **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** ”

#### **PLAY WITH A SHEET**

Spread out a large sheet or parachute on the floor. Instruct children to stand around its perimeter, reach down and grip the edge of the sheet, and stand up. Lead children to work together to raise and lower the sheet. Suggest children move their arms to create waves in the sheet. Wad up a few pieces of paper and instruct children to keep the wads of paper bouncing across the sheet’s surface. Mention that when Peter prayed in today’s story, he saw animals being lowered in front of him on a large sheet.

**SAY** “ Peter saw all kinds of animals on a big sheet coming down from heaven. Let’s raise our sheet up high and then lower it again. God taught Peter through the vision of animals that Jesus came for everyone, no matter who they are or what they do. Peter needed to learn this important truth so that he could help Cornelius and his family become believers. Peter might have believed that Jesus was only for the people who were like him; but after the vision, God showed Peter how much He loves everyone. ”



## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### WASH ANIMALS

Add a few inches of water to a tub. Set towels nearby. Mention that the toy animals need to be cleaned and invite preschoolers to wash them. Show a child how to dip an animal in the water and scrub it with a brush. Lead children to finish the job by drying the animals with a towel.

**SAY** “ Thank you for cleaning the animals. In today’s story, Peter saw all kinds of animals in a vision. Peter was a Jew. Jewish people followed strict rules about what they can eat. They called the animals that they could eat clean, and animals that they could not eat unclean. God used a vision about animals to teach Peter that Jesus is for everyone, not just the Jewish people. No matter who you are or what you do, everyone can hear the good news about Jesus and believe that Jesus is the Lord of all. ”

### CHEER SOMEONE UP



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

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

### 2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



UNIT 32 | SESSION 3

# GENTILES BECAME PART OF THE CHURCH

## ACTS 11

### **CHRIST CONNECTION:**

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

### **BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

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

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

1 Corinthians 12:12



## YOUR HEART TO TEACH



## LEADER Bible Study

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

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

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

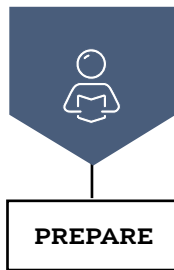
hand was working in the lives of those who were previously outside the faith.

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

Highlight God’s goodness in bringing these new followers to Himself. Encourage your preschoolers to share the gospel with those who may be different from themselves, trusting that the good news of Jesus brings us together for the good of His church and the glory of God.

### TERMS TO KNOW

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



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

## GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



WELCOME

### Welcome

- “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12)” song

### Activity Page

- “Tell the Good News” activity page, 1 per child

### Work people puzzles

- “People Puzzles” printable, 1 copy printed on heavyweight paper
- envelopes

### Transition

- countdown video (optional)



LEARN

### Learn about the Bible

- bookmark
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

### Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- “Gentiles Became Part of the Church” video (optional)
- storytelling tips props (optional)

### Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12)” song
- sticky notes

### Learn the Big Picture

#### Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

#### Missions moment

- “McCaman Family Photo” printable



LOVE

### Snack and talk

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

### Explore vehicles

- painter’s tape
- toy vehicles
- blocks



LIVE

### Watch colors spread

- clear cups, 7
- pitcher of water
- paper towels
- food color (red, blue, yellow)

### Pack and run

- backpacks or duffel bags, 2
- assorted classroom items

### Transition

- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per child
- “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12)” song
- Big Picture Cards for Families





## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete “Tell the Good News” on the activity page.

**SAY** “ Did God send Jesus to teach just some people? No, Jesus taught all people. He spent time with adults and with children. Did Jesus only show kindness to His friends? Jesus was kind to everyone. Everyone needs to hear the good news of Jesus. We will hear today that God told Peter to tell everyone about Jesus, not just the Jewish people. Jesus is for everyone! ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today's Bible story.

#### STEP FORWARD



Instruct children to stand in a line, shoulder to shoulder. Ask children to step forward if they agree with each statement you make. Between each statement, invite children to return to the starting point. Consider these statements: step forward if you are afraid of spiders, step forward if you are wearing shoes with laces, step forward if you like to eat strawberries, step forward if you know that the good news of Jesus is for you.

**SAY** “ Yes, Jesus is for you! Jesus is for everyone! Today we will discover that in the early church, the wonderful news of Jesus began to spread to all kinds of people. ”

#### WORK PEOPLE PUZZLES

Print and cut apart the “People Puzzles” printable. Place each puzzle in a separate envelope. Invite boys and girls to choose a puzzle to put together. Challenge older preschoolers by mixing all the puzzle pieces together and ask them to separate them and put the puzzle together.

**SAY** “ You put the puzzles together! There are pictures of grandparents, families, friends, and all sorts of people. In today's Bible story, we will discover that the gospel, the good news about Jesus, is for everyone. ”

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers' attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to march and chant the words “Jesus is for everyone” as they transition to Learn.

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Show children a globe as they arrive in the Bible study area. Explain that a globe is a map that is shaped like the earth, the planet we live on. Turn the globe and talk about the difference between the oceans and the land. Point out your state, country, and continent. Find Israel and point to it.

**SAY** “ This is the place where Peter began to follow Jesus over two thousand years ago. After Jesus went back to heaven, Peter began traveling to different places where he told people the good news about Jesus. Soon, the gospel began to spread. When you hear today’s story, listen to hear the names of some of the places where the gospel had spread. ”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Acts 11 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “ We have been learning about the early church by studying the book of Acts. Acts was written by a man named Luke. I’m so glad that God told Luke to write down the things that happened, aren’t you? ”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### GENTILES BECAME PART OF THE CHURCH

“ **God told Peter to tell everyone the good news about Jesus. So Peter obeyed.** He shared the gospel with people, no matter who they were or where they came from. **He shared with Jews and also with Gentiles—people who were not Jews. The Gentiles heard Peter’s message, and they believed in Jesus.** God gave His Spirit to these new believers, and they were baptized.

Before long, Jesus’ followers in Judea heard that the Gentiles had believed the good news about Jesus. They were surprised! Peter explained that the gospel is for everyone. Then Jesus’ followers praised God!

Around this time, believers were living in places like Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch of Syria. They had moved away from Jerusalem after Stephen was killed for loving Jesus. Most of them shared the gospel only with Jews, but some believers went to Antioch and told the Gentiles there about Jesus. When the Gentiles heard the good news, many of them believed.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

The church in Jerusalem heard about these new believers, so they sent Barnabas to visit them. Barnabas was a good man who loved God. Barnabas saw that God was with the believers in Antioch, and he was glad. He encouraged them to keep following God. More people heard about Jesus and trusted in Him.

Then Barnabas left Antioch to find Paul. Barnabas and Paul went to Antioch and stayed with the church there for one year. They taught large crowds of people. Jesus' followers were first called Christians in Antioch. ”

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Use motions:** Guide preschoolers to show a surprised face when the Jews hear about the Gentile believers, to put their hands behind their ears for “heard,” and to put their hands over their eyes when Barnabas is looking for Paul.

**Repeat a phrase:** Lead children to say the phrase: “Jesus is for everyone!” each time Jesus' name appears in the Bible story.

### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

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

### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ Peter obeyed God and began to tell everyone the good news about Jesus. He told both the Jews and the Gentiles about Jesus. Who are Gentiles? (people who are not Jews) When the Gentiles heard about Jesus, they believed. Who is the gospel for? (everyone) The gospel began to spread and the believers in Jerusalem praised God. Soon there were believers living outside of Jerusalem. Where were some of the places the early believers lived? (Phoenicia, Cyprus, Antioch) Peter was not the only one preaching, Barnabas and Paul taught large crowds of people too. What were the followers of Jesus first called? (Christians) The good news of Jesus continued to spread even when people tried to stop it, but this good news is for everyone. ”

### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Before the session, write each word of the key passage onto a sticky note. Randomly attach the sticky notes all over a baby doll. Place the key passage marker at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Read the words stuck all over the doll. Lead preschoolers to unscramble the words to discover the passage. Remove the sticky notes and attach them to the focal wall in the correct order. Refer to the key passage poster. Read the verse a few more times.

**SAY** “ Our bodies have many parts. There were sticky notes all over the doll—on her cheek, her ankle, and even on her elbow. All our body parts work together to make us who we are. That’s how it is with believers in Jesus. We all work together so that the good news of Jesus keeps on spreading. And when more and more people begin to follow Jesus, we celebrate with each other. ”

Sing the key passage song, “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “**What is the church?** Believers in Jesus meet together in a building that we often call a church, but when the Bible mentions the church, it is talking about the people. **The church is all Christians everywhere.** The more the gospel spreads throughout the world, the larger the church becomes. That is news worth celebrating.”

### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

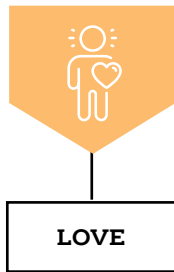
Print and display the “McCaman Family Photo” printable.

**SAY** “Pastor David McCaman and his wife, Jennifer, have served churches in Tennessee, Florida, and Thailand. While in Thailand, they had to think about different ways to teach people about Jesus in a way people would understand. God helped the McCamans get ready to be church planters in South Florida. South Florida needs more churches so more people can hear and believe the good news about Jesus.”

Close by praying for the McCamans as they lead and serve Gospel City Church.

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





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### **LOVE** God because of what we learned

#### 1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “ God, I’m so thankful that Jesus is for everyone. I pray that the gospel continues to spread more and more. Thank You for these boys and girls who are learning what it means to love You. Please continue to show them what it means to put their trust in Jesus. In His name we pray, amen. ”

#### 2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “ What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ In Antioch, what were Jesus’ followers first called? ”

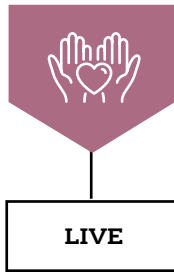
**SAY** “ **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** ”

#### 3 EXPLORE VEHICLES

Tear several strips of masking tape and offer them to preschoolers. Suggest children attach the tape to the floor to create a series of roads. Set toy vehicles and blocks near the roads and encourage children to construct a community and drive cars along the roads. Play out familiar travel experiences like trips to the grocery store or to the church building. Open a Bible to 1 Corinthians 12:12 and set it on the floor. Point out the key passage in the Bible and read the verse.

**SAY** “ I see you are driving your car through the town. Have you ever looked under a car’s hood at the engine? A car’s engine is made up of all kinds of parts—the carburetor, a fan belt, spark plugs. All of a car’s parts work together to make it run. The church is like that. Each believer has a job to do, and we all work together to spread the good news about Jesus because the gospel is for everyone. Some believers preach, some sing, and some teach preschoolers. Everyone can do something to help spread the gospel. ”





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### **SING A CHEER**



Cut paper into several strips. Gather the ends together and bind with a stapler or tape to create a cheerleader-style pom-pom. Lead children to cheer to the tune of “London Bridge”:

Jesus is for everyone, everyone, everyone.  
Jesus is for everyone; the good news is for you!

Suggest children wave their pom-poms and sing:

Peter, Paul, and Barnabas, Barnabas, Barnabas.  
Peter, Paul, and Barnabas taught Jews and Gentiles.

Lead children to jump up and down as they cheer another verse:

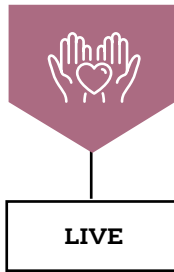
God wants us to celebrate, celebrate, celebrate.  
God wants us to celebrate when someone believes.

**SAY** “ The believers in Jerusalem were surprised that Peter taught the Gentiles about Jesus. They thought that Jesus had come for the Jews only. Peter explained to them that the good news of Jesus is for everyone. Many Gentiles believed in Jesus, and the believers celebrated. The gospel spread. More and more people became Christians and were added to the church. **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** ”

#### **WATCH COLORS SPREAD**

Arrange five clear cups in a row. Fill the first, third, and fifth cups with water. Add blue food color to the first cup, yellow food color to the water in the third cup, and red to the fifth cup. Roll up four half sheets of paper towel tightly and fold them in half. Place one end of the paper towel in a cup of colored water and the other in the empty cup beside it. Watch as the capillary action moves the water into the empty cups and the water changes color. (Note: It may take the water several minutes to begin moving, consider setting up the experiment at the beginning of the session to allow the water time to move through the paper towels.)

**SAY** “ Look how the colors have spread. Three cups were empty, but they aren’t any longer. The colored water spread through the paper towel and moved into the new cup. That reminds me of the way the good news of Jesus spread in the early church. People like Peter, Stephen, Barnabas, and Paul spoke boldly about Jesus. Stephen was hurt for loving Jesus, but even when people tried to stop it, they could not because the good news about Jesus is for everyone. ”



## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### PACK AND RUN

Form two teams and instruct teams to get in a single-file line. Give the first child in each line a backpack or duffel bag. On the opposite side of the room, arrange two piles of several classroom items. Instruct children that when you give the signal, the first child in each line should run across the room, pack the items into the bag, zip the bag closed, return to her team, and give the bag to the next child in line. The next child will quickly move across the room, unzip the bag, empty it, and return it to the next child in line. Continue the fun until everyone has played.

**SAY** “What fast travelers you are! You had a job to do, and you did it! Have you ever had to pack a bag to go on a trip? Where have you traveled? [Allow responses.] Has anyone ever traveled to Phoenicia, Cyprus, or Antioch? We heard in today’s Bible story that Barnabas traveled to Antioch. When he was there, Barnabas met the new believers and encouraged them. He and Paul stayed in Antioch for a year where they taught large crowds of people. Many people believed, and the church grew. **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** The gospel continued to spread because the good news about Jesus is for everyone.”

### LISTEN AND MOVE



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

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

### 2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



UNIT 32 | SESSION 4

## PETER WAS RESCUED FROM PRISON

ACTS 12

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

God heard the prayers of the people. He had a plan for Peter, and He helped him escape from prison. Peter knew he might die because he believed in Jesus, but he wanted to share the good news about Jesus no matter what.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

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

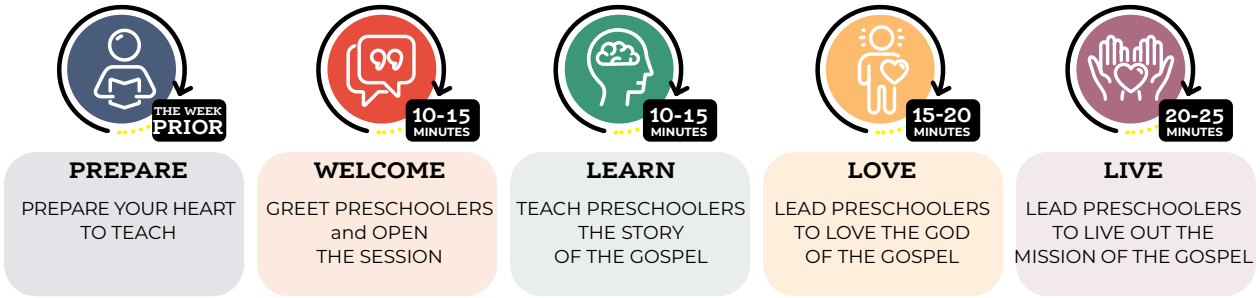
### KEY PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 12:12





YOUR HEART TO TEACH



## LEADER Bible Study

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

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

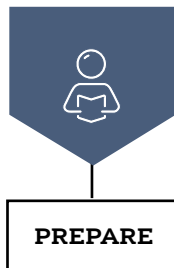
God’s plans for the good of His church, even during persecution, include the fervent prayers of the saints. The intercession of these faithful believers revealed that their only hope was in the Lord, and it was their prayers that were used by God to rescue Peter from prison. As God answered their prayers,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

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

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

### TERMS TO KNOW

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



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

## GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



WELCOME

### Welcome

- “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12)” song

### Activity Page

- “Gates and Doors” activity page, 1 per child

### Explore locks

- assorted locks with keys (padlocks, luggage locks)
- colored dot stickers
- 2 bowls

### Transition

- countdown video (optional)



LEARN

### Learn about the Bible

- bookmark
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

### Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- “Peter Was Rescued from Prison” video (optional)
- storytelling tips props (optional)

### Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12)” song
- paper cut into 1-inch strips
- stapler or tape

### Learn the Big Picture

#### Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

#### Missions moment

- “McCaman Family Photo” printable



LOVE

### Snack and talk

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

### Design a wreath

- “People Around the World” printable, 1 per child
- plastic tablecloth
- paper plates
- yarn
- tape



LIVE

### Pray together

- plastic interlocking blocks
- masking tape
- permanent marker

### Welcome a guest

- plastic dishes
- toy food
- cleaning supplies (wet wipes, spray water bottle, rags, feather duster)
- artificial flowers
- non-breakable vase

### Play a matching game

- “Faces from Many Nations” printable

### Transition

- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per child
- “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12)” song
- Big Picture Cards for Families



## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete “Gates and Doors” on the activity page.

**SAY** “ Is there a gate where you live? Does the front door of your house look like any of these doors? In today’s Bible story, the king was angry with Peter for telling people about Jesus, so he put Peter in prison. But God sent an angel to do something amazing! The gate swung open, and the angel led Peter out of prison. ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today’s Bible story.

#### MAKE UP A KNOCK



Gather preschoolers near a wall, table, or other solid surface. Make up a rhythmic knock and tap it on the wall. Challenge children to repeat it after you. Invite children to take turns creating different knocks and leading their friends to copy it.

**SAY** “ Has anyone ever knocked on your door? In today’s Bible story, Rhoda heard someone knock on the door of the house. When she answered the door, she was surprised to find Peter standing there. The people in the house had been praying for Peter because he had been put in prison for telling people about Jesus. ”

#### EXPLORE LOCKS

Before the session, gather several locks with keys. Place the locks in one bowl and the keys in another. Consider attaching colored dot stickers to corresponding locks and keys to help younger preschoolers find matching locks and keys. Show a child how to insert a key into a lock and twist to open it. Assist children as they open and close locks.

**SAY** “ Peter was locked in prison and there were soldiers standing guard so he could not escape. But God had other plans. Peter’s friends were praying for him. How do you think God answered their prayers? God sent an angel to rescue Peter from prison! ”

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers’ attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to walk quickly as they transition to Learn.

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Welcome boys and girls to the group time area by telling a few knock-knock jokes. Review the call and response so preschoolers understand their role as you tell the following jokes. Knock, knock. (Who's there?) Lettuce. (Lettuce who?) Lettuce in, it's cold outside! Knock, knock. (Who's there?) Annie. (Annie who?) Annie body here? Knock, knock. (Who's there?) Orange. (Orange who?) Orange you going to let me in the house?

**SAY** “ Knock-knock jokes are fun. Were you surprised by the jokes’ answers? In today’s Bible story, Rhoda heard a knock at the door. When she answered the door, she got a big surprise. Please listen closely to today’s Bible story to learn who was knocking at the door, and why Rhoda was surprised. ”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Acts 12 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “ Has it been exciting to hear amazing stories from the book of Acts? In the past few weeks, we have learned about the early church and how the good news of Jesus began to spread. We can trust that these things really happened because the Bible is true. ”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### PETER WAS RESCUED FROM PRISON

“ King Herod was mean to believers in the church. He hurt some of them, and he put Peter in prison. The king told groups of soldiers to stand guard at the prison so Peter could not escape. While Peter was in prison, other believers in the church prayed and asked God to help him.

That night, Peter was sleeping in the prison. There was a guard on his left and a guard on his right. He was tied up with chains. All of a sudden, an angel appeared and a bright light shone in the prison.

The angel woke up Peter. “Quick, get up!” the angel said. The chains fell off of Peter’s wrists. He put on his shoes and his coat, and he followed the angel.

The angel led Peter out of the prison. He walked past the guards. The gate opened for them, and



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

they walked out onto the street. **Then the angel left. Peter looked around. The Lord had rescued him!**

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

**"Peter is here!" she said. "He is at the door!"**

**No one believed her. "You're crazy!" they said. But Peter kept knocking, so they opened the door and welcomed him in. Peter told them how the Lord had rescued him from prison. ”**

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Play a game on the floor:** Attach sticky notes to the floor to create a game path. Move along the path to track Peter's progress from prison to the house.

**Play out the story with children:** Invite volunteers to act out the parts of King Herod, soldiers, Peter, the angel, Rhoda, and the friends.

### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ God heard the prayers of the people. He had a plan for Peter, and He helped him escape from prison. Peter knew he might die because he believed in Jesus, but he wanted to share the good news about Jesus no matter what. ”

### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ When today's story began, where did King Herod send Peter to punish him for believing in Jesus? (prison) Peter wanted to share the good news about Jesus, even though it was dangerous. Who did God send to the prison to help Peter escape? (an angel) What had Peter's friends been doing while he was in prison? (They were praying.) Rhoda answered the door when Peter knocked on it. She was surprised to see Peter standing there. What did she do next? (Rhoda ran back inside to tell the others without letting Peter in.) Peter kept knocking, and the friends welcomed him inside. God heard the friends' prayers for Peter, and God helped Peter escape from prison. ”

### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Before the session, cut paper into 1-inch strips. Write each word of the key passage onto a strip of paper. Place the key passage marker at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Choose the strip that has the passage's first word written on it. Form a loop with it and secure it with a stapler or tape. Invite children to help you as you add subsequent paper strips to form a paper chain. Say the verse several times as the chain is assembled.

**SAY** “ Our key passage tells us that the believers in Jesus are like a body. Each part of a body has a job to do, and all the parts work together as one so that the good news about Jesus can be shared no matter what. ”

Sing the key passage song, “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “**What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** Was Peter part of the church? Yes! What about Rhoda and the other believers? They were too! You likely have friends and family members here today who are also part of the church. Sometimes people gather in a church building, but the building is not the church. The people are the church.”

### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

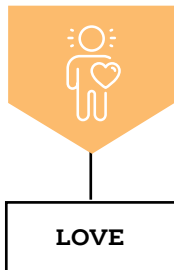
Print and display the “McCaman Family Photo” printable.

**SAY** “The McCamans know people can be different in many ways, but they know Jesus loves every person the same. Pastor David wants all people in South Florida to know that they are loved by Gospel City Church and by God.”

Lead a prayer or ask a volunteer to pray for the McCaman family as they share the love of Jesus with the people living in South Florida.

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





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God because of what we learned

### 1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “ Dear God, thank You for answering prayers. When Peter was in prison, You answered the prayers of the believers. Thank You for making a way for him to escape from prison so he could keep telling people about Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for answering us when we pray. In Jesus name, amen. ”

### 2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “ What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What happened after the angel visited Peter in prison? ”

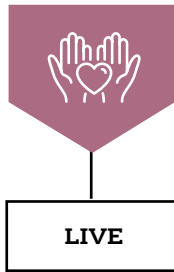
**SAY** “ **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** ”

### 3 DESIGN A WREATH

Print one copy of the “People Around the World” printable for each child. Cut out the earth and people figures. Older preschoolers may enjoy cutting out their own figures. Cover the table with a plastic tablecloth. Help a child glue the earth picture to the center of a paper plate. Offer markers or other drawing supplies to a child. Suggest she personalize the people figures before gluing them all around the outer edge of the plate. Cut a strip of yarn, form a loop, and tape it to the back of a child’s wreath to create a hanger. (Note: Refer to the example in the bottom corner of the printable.)

**SAY** “ Tell me about all the different people you decorated. God made people to live all over our world, and many of those people believe in Jesus. People who love and follow Jesus are called Christians. Christians all over the world make up the church. **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** You are learning what it means to be a Christian and part of the church. But some people around the world have never heard about Jesus. Let’s pray together that they will hear the good news about Jesus and choose to follow Him. [Lead a prayer.] ”





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### **QUICK! GET UP!**



Play a movement game where you will say a story-related command and the children will strike a pose as directed. Suggested commands and poses include:

- “Get up!” (Hop up and stand tall.)
- “Stand guard.” (Hands on hips.)
- “Open the gate.” (Pretend to turn a latch and swing a gate open.)
- “Look around.” (Make binoculars with hands over eyes.)
- “Knock on the door.” (Pretend to knock.)

Lead preschoolers to practice as you call out poses. Retell segments of the Bible story as you begin. Start slowly but increase your speed and mix up the order of the commands.

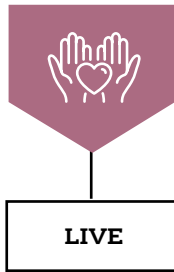
**SAY** “Do you remember who told Peter to get up quickly? Yes, it was the angel God sent to rescue Peter. Peter’s friends had been praying, and God answered their prayers. Peter knew he might die because he believed in Jesus, but Peter wanted to share the good news about Jesus with people no matter what.”

#### **PRAY TOGETHER**

Distribute two or three plastic interlocking blocks to each child. Ask the child to tell you the names of two or three people she wants to pray for. Write those names on individual strips of masking tape. Tell the preschooler to stick the pieces of tape on her blocks. Lead the children to take turns stacking the blocks, creating one large tower. Read the names written on the blocks and lead a prayer for the people named. Invite preschoolers to pray for the people on their blocks if they would like to.

**SAY** “Praying is talking to God. We prayed for our friends and family—and God heard our prayers! God answers prayers in different ways. While Peter’s friends were praying for him, God answered their prayer by sending an angel to rescue Peter from prison. Peter was asleep when the angel appeared, but he quickly woke up when a bright light appeared. Peter’s chains fell off and he walked right through the gate. Do you think Peter was afraid while he was in prison? Maybe he was. But Peter believed in Jesus no matter what, and he wanted to keep on sharing the good news about Jesus.”





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### WELCOME A GUEST

Suggest boys and girls work together to prepare for a guest. Set out play cleaning supplies (wet wipes, empty spray bottles, rags, feather duster) so children can tidy up the room. Offer toy dishes and plastic food. Encourage children to “cook” a meal for a friend. Help a child arrange artificial flowers in a non-breakable vase to use as a centerpiece.

**SAY** “ Peter’s friends were in a house, and they were praying for him. God heard their prayer and answered it by sending an angel to rescue Peter from prison. When Peter knocked on the door, Rhoda heard his voice and opened the door. She was so excited that she ran back inside without letting Peter in! The friends welcomed Peter into the home. He told them how the Lord had rescued him. Believers pray for each other, celebrate together, and tell others about Jesus. Each believer is an important part of the church. **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** ”

### PLAY A MATCHING GAME



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

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

### 2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



UNIT 32 | SESSION 5

## WE ARE PART OF ONE CHURCH

1 CORINTHIANS 12

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

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

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

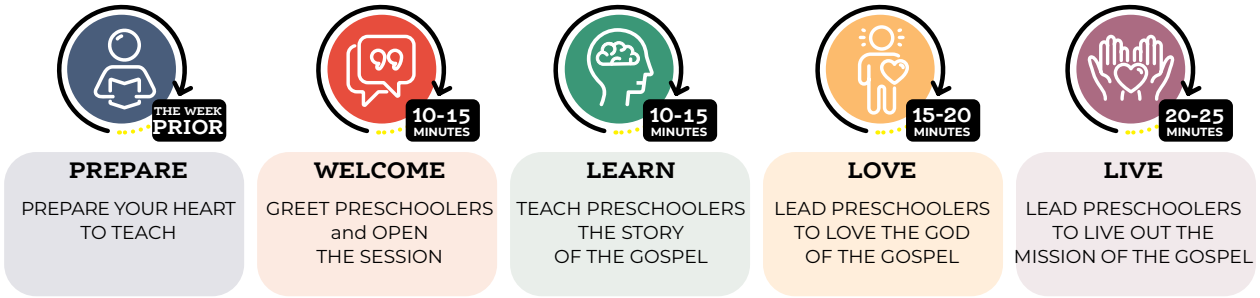
What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.

### KEY PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 12:12



YOUR HEART TO TEACH



## LEADER Bible Study

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

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

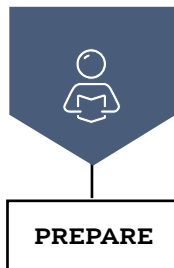
It can often be difficult to determine how we can serve within the church. We might even feel like the service we have to offer is unimportant. Yet, Paul wrote to encourage the Corinthian church to remember that all roles within the body of Christ are indispensable. As we seek to serve within the church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

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

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

### DOCTRINE TO KNOW

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



YOUR HEART TO TEACH

## GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



WELCOME

### Welcome

- “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12)” song

### Activity Page

- “One Body—Many Parts” activity page, 1 per child

### Work puzzles

- puzzles depicting Jesus
- gift bag

### Transition

- countdown video (optional)



LEARN

### Introduce the Bible story

- ballpoint pen with a spring mechanism

### Learn about the Bible

- bookmark
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

### Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- “We Are Part of One Church” video (optional)
- storytelling tips props (optional)

### Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12)” song

### Learn the Big Picture

#### Question

- Big Picture Question Poster



LOVE

### Snack and talk

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

### Mix it up

- poster board



LIVE

### Illustrate the church

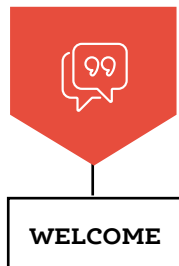
- butcher paper

### Make and eat a sunshine snack

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

### Transition

- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per child
- “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12)” song
- Big Picture Cards for Families



## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete “One Body—Many Parts” on the activity page.

**SAY** “ A shoe goes on a person’s foot. We don’t wear shoes on our ears—that’s just silly! Do we see things with our ears? Of course not! God made ears for listening and eyes for seeing. Our bodies have many parts, and each part has a job to do. That’s how it is with people who follow Jesus. God gives each person a job, and when believers all work together, we are like a body whose parts all work together as one. ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today’s Bible story.

#### SAY IT; TOUCH IT



Instruct children to listen to your instructions. Lead them to touch specific parts of their own bodies as you say them. Call out parts of the body such as head, knees, shoulders, belly, or elbow. Continue naming body parts and varying the speed at which they are called.

**SAY** “ Eyes, hip, ankle, little toe ... there are so many parts that make up our bodies. They all have a job to do, and the parts work together to make us who we are. In today’s Bible story, Paul wrote that in the same way, Christians should work together as one church. ”

#### WORK PUZZLES

Choose several puzzles that depict Jesus. Create your own puzzles by cutting apart previous Bible story picture posters. Remove one piece from each puzzle and place in a gift bag. Invite children to assemble puzzles. Point out the empty space in the puzzles. Reveal the gift bag and lead a child to search the pieces for the missing one and complete the puzzle.

**SAY** “ How did it feel when you discovered that a piece was missing? You worked so hard, but that one last piece was not there, and the puzzle was not complete. We will hear today that God wants all believers to come together, like this puzzle, because of the gospel. ”

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers’ attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to clap their hands as they transition to Learn.

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Before the session, disassemble a retractable ballpoint pen. Remove the spring and reassemble it. Ask a volunteer to push the button to engage the pen. Lead children to experience a small amount of frustration with the pen. Finally, reveal the spring. Disassemble the pen and insert the spring. Put it together again and notice the difference in the clicking mechanism.

**SAY** “ The pen has ink. It has the button to push. It looks like a fine pen, but the spring was missing. Every part of this pen is important, but without one tiny little part, it did not work properly. When you listen to today’s Bible story, think about how every person of the body of Christ, or the church, is important. ”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at 1 Corinthians 12 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “ The book of 1 Corinthians was written by a man named Paul. God told Paul to write a letter to the believers in a city called Corinth. The book of 1 Corinthians is that letter. When we hear today’s Bible story, we will hear parts of the letter that Paul wrote to them. ”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### WE ARE PART OF ONE CHURCH

“ **Paul wrote a letter to the church in Corinth**, which he had helped start. The church was having problems. **Some of the believers did not get along. Paul wanted this to stop.** “Is Jesus divided?” Paul asked. No, He isn’t. Jesus does not want His people to be divided either. Believers are like one body—all brothers and sisters in God’s family.

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

**A body has many parts. Paul wrote, “A foot shouldn’t say, ‘I am not a hand, so I don’t belong to the body.’ A foot is just as much a part of the body as a hand. An ear shouldn’t say, ‘I am not an eye, so I don’t belong to the body.’ An ear is just as much a part of the body as an eye.**



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

**“Imagine if the whole body were an eye. How would it hear? Imagine if the whole body were an ear. How would it smell? God has arranged each part of the body just as He wanted. If they were all the same part, how would it be a body?”**

“In the same way, an eye can’t say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you!’ and the head can’t say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you!’ Even if a part is weaker than another, it is still an important part of the body.”

**Paul said that the church—like the body—should be unified.** “If one member suffers, all the members suffer, too; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice, too,” **Paul wrote.**

**“We are the body of Christ, and individual members of it. Not everyone is the same, but every part of the body of Christ is important.” ”**

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Write like Paul:** Sit behind a small desk or table as you tell the story. Pretend to write the words Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians.

**Touch your foot:** Lead children to touch the parts of their own bodies as the body parts are mentioned throughout the story.

### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

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

### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ Paul hoped that the words he wrote to the believers would help them learn to get along. Who did Paul write His letter to? (the believers in the church at Corinth) Paul said believers in Jesus are like one body where all the parts work together. What did Paul call all the brothers and sisters in God’s family? (the body of Christ) What example did Paul give to help the believers understand? (the human body) All the parts of our body work together, and they are all important. Each believer is an important part of the church. Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers can come together as one church. ”

### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Invite a volunteer to say the key passage from memory. Ask the first volunteer, along with a second volunteer to repeat the verse together. Continue adding an additional child or two to the group that is saying the verse. Finally, the entire group will be reciting the verse in unison.

**SAY** “ The church is made up of believers everywhere who work together because of the gospel. Paul compared the church to the human body. There are many parts of your body, and they all work together to form one complete person—you! ”

Sing the key passage song, “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “ Paul wrote that all Christians everywhere work together like the human body. Can you think of another name people often use when talking about all Christians everywhere? We say that all Christians everywhere make up the church. **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** Believers in Jesus come together as one church because of the gospel. ”

### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

Talk about how the McCamans helped start new churches and served churches in Tennessee, Florida, and Thailand, before God led them to start a church in Boynton Beach, Florida. Point to each location on a globe or world map as you say it.

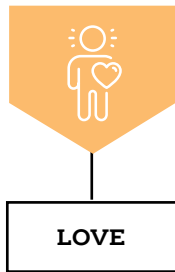
**SAY** “ The McCaman family has lived in many different places. They see how God was preparing them to start a new church in South Florida. In Tennessee, they served in a church that supports missions. In Thailand, they had to find ways to tell the good news about Jesus to people who did not know much about God. When they returned to the United States, they helped start a church in Tennessee. The McCamans know people can be different in many ways, but they know Jesus loves every person the same. Pastor David wants all people in South Florida to know that they are loved by Gospel City Church and by God. ”

Lead a prayer, asking God to give the McCaman family opportunities to share the gospel and invite more people to come to their church in South Florida.

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







## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### **LOVE** God because of what we learned

#### 1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “ God, thank You that Paul explained the church, the body of Christ, in a way that we can understand. Please help us remember that every member of the body of Christ is a special and important part of the church. Thank You that Jesus saves sinners. In His name we pray, amen. ”

#### 2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “ What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What example did Paul use to help us understand what the body of Christ is like? ”

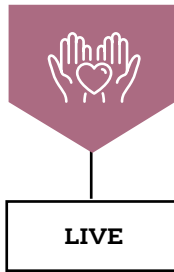
**SAY** “ **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** ”

#### 3 MIX IT UP

Write the key passage in large letters on poster board. Cut the verse poster into several pieces to create a puzzle and lay it on the floor. Ask a child to try to work the puzzle using only one foot. Invite another child to work the puzzle with her elbow. Give several children a chance to work the puzzle with their elbows, knees, or feet. Finally, ask a child to use her hands to complete the puzzle. Read the key passage.

**SAY** “ Are our feet made for working puzzles? No! Our foot’s job is to walk, not work puzzles. It looked to me like the best way to work the puzzle was with our hands. God arranged each part of our body the way He wanted. Each part has a job to do. One body has many parts, and that’s what the body of Christ is like. Each of you are a wonderful part of the body of Christ. God has amazing things planned for you to do for Him. Believers can come together as one church because of Jesus and what He has done. ”





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### **ENJOY A FINGERPLAY**



Make up hand motions and lead children to join you in this fun fingerplay:

Hands are for holding. (Hold a friend's hand.)

Ears are for hearing. (Tug on earlobes.)

Arms are for hugging. (Hug yourself.)

Eyes are for seeing. (Point to eyes.)

Mouths are for eating and smiling and talking. (Point to mouth.)

Feet are for jumping and running and walking. (Jump, run, and walk in place.)

When one part is injured, everything hurts. (Pretend to be in pain or cry.)

One body—many parts. It's just like the church! (Raise arms above head.)

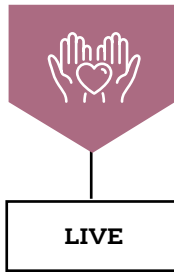
**SAY** “ There are so many parts to our bodies. Have you ever gotten a splinter in your finger or stubbed your little toe? When one part of our bodies is hurting, it feels like everything hurts. Paul wrote that the church is like that. **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** Paul wanted the believers at Corinth to be united and not divided, so he wrote a message for them. Paul encouraged the Christians to work together as one body because of the gospel of Jesus. ”

#### **MOLD A BODY**



Give each child a ball of play dough and inform preschoolers that they will be working together to create a body. Assign a body part to each preschooler such as a head, neck, torso, arms (2), hands (2), legs (2), and feet (2). Mention that each child should only form one part of the body. For instance, one child will form a leg, another will construct a head, and so on. Lead children to work together to mold a body where everyone contributes. Consider forming two or three groups of preschoolers depending upon your setting.

**SAY** “ Nice job, everyone! You formed an arm, and someone else molded the head, but when you put all the pieces together, it made a body! The church, all Christians everywhere, work the same way. Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers that we are the body of Christ. Not everyone is the same, but everyone is an important part of the church. Believers should come together because of the gospel. Jesus saves sinners, and because of Jesus, believers can come together as one church. ”



## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### ILLUSTRATE THE CHURCH

Unroll a sheet of butcher paper on the floor. Invite a child to lay on the paper. Trace the outline of his body and cut it out. Lay the body shape on a table or other flat surface. Write the key passage on the shape and set a Bible beside it marked at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Offer markers to preschoolers and encourage them to draw pictures of individual people all over the paper. Call attention to the Bible and open it. Read the passage and ask children to repeat it.

**SAY** “ Are you drawing pictures of people who are believers in Jesus? Tell me about your drawing. Did anyone draw our church leaders? Many different people belong to Jesus. And God wants each member of the body of Christ to come together because of the gospel. God made some believers who preach the gospel to many people, and He made others to take care of babies and tell them that Jesus loves them. These jobs are not the same, but every job is important. Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers with different jobs can come together as one church. ”

### MAKE AND EAT A SUNSHINE SNACK



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

**SAY** “ South Florida has many beaches where people like to go to enjoy the sunshine. What would you like to do at the beach? David and Jennifer McCaman started Gospel City Church in South Florida. Let’s pray together for the McCaman family, that they can be a light and share the love of Jesus wherever they go. ”

### 2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



UNIT 33 | SESSION 1

## PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

ACTS 9

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

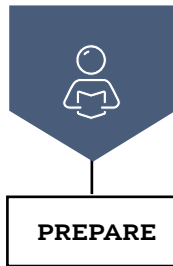
Paul was an enemy of Jesus and His followers, but then God changed him. Jesus came to earth to save sinners like Paul. (1 Timothy 1:15). When we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

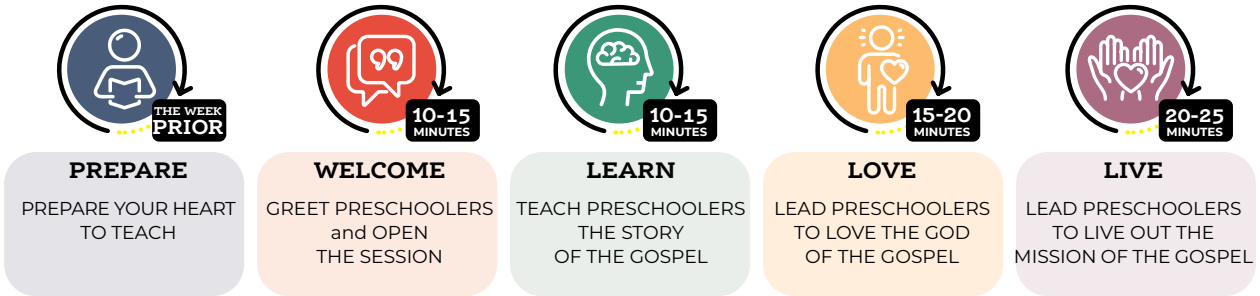
Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins.

### KEY PASSAGE:

John 3:17



## YOUR HEART TO TEACH



## LEADER Bible Study

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

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

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

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

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

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

### TERMS TO KNOW

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



## YOUR HEART TO TEACH

### GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



#### WELCOME

##### Welcome

- “To Save the World (John 3:17)” song

##### Activity Page

- “Color the Light” activity page, 1 per child

##### Turn socks inside out

- clean socks
- device that plays music
- “To Save the World (John 3:17)” song (optional)

##### Transition

- countdown video (optional)



#### LEARN

##### Introduce the Bible story

- blindfold

##### Learn about the Bible

- bookmark
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

##### Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- “Paul Became a Christian” video (optional)
- storytelling tips props (optional)

##### Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “To Save the World (John 3:17)” song

##### Learn the Big Picture

##### Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

##### Missions moment

- “The Life of Betsey Stockton” missions video



#### LOVE

##### Snack and talk

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

##### Make a suncatcher

- different colored tissue paper cut into 1-inch squares
- clear contact plastic
- yarn
- single hole punch



#### LIVE

##### Make shadows

- “Shadow Puppets” printable
- flashlights

##### Find the correct toy

- camera phone or camera with view screen
- box
- towel or small blanket

##### Read together

- pillows
- blankets
- books
- Bibles and Bible storybooks

##### Transition

- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per child
- “To Save the World (John 3:17)” song
- Big Picture Cards for Families



## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete “Color the Light” on the activity page.

**SAY** “ Look at all the things that make light. In today’s Bible story, while Paul was walking to Damascus, a very bright light from heaven flashed around him. Paul fell to the ground and Jesus spoke to him. Paul believed in Jesus and told many people about Him. ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today’s Bible story.

#### PLAY A STATUE GAME



Talk briefly about statues to ensure that all children understand what they are. Call out an animal or object. Children will form their bodies into that statue and freeze. Compliment children on their efforts. Call out “change.” Choose another statue pose for children to make. Consider allowing a child to be the caller for the game. Repeat several times.

**SAY** “ You did a great job changing from one type of statue to another. In our Bible story today, we will learn about Paul. God changed Paul from an enemy of Jesus to a friend. ”

#### TURN SOCKS INSIDE OUT

Demonstrate how to turn a sock inside out. Form two teams. Place two piles of clean socks on one side of the room and line the children up on the other side of the room. One child at a time will go to the sock pile, turn one sock inside out, and return before the next child goes. For a calmer option, seat children in a circle. Place all the socks in the center. One child at a time will take a sock and turn it inside out. Play a song such as “To Save the World (John 3:17)” and challenge the group to finish the socks before the song ends.

**SAY** “ Thanks for helping me flip my socks the right way. In today’s story God changed Paul from the inside out. That means God changed the way Paul thought, felt, and acted. ”

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers’ attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to place their hands above their eyes like the sun is too bright as they transition to Learn.

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Set up a little maze of chairs. Invite an interested child to put on a blind fold. Ask, “Do you think you can walk around all the chairs without touching them?” If the child is interested, let her try. Ask, “Do you think you could do it if I held your hand and led you?” Lead the child through the maze.

**SAY** “Have you ever tried to do something without using your eyes? That can be very hard. In today’s story, we will hear about Paul losing his sight and the man God sent to help him.”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Acts 9 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “Today we are going to hear another true story from the Bible. Today’s story is from the book of Acts. Acts teaches us about how the first churches that believed in Jesus began. God used the man in our Bible story, Paul, to start many churches.”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### PAUL BECAME A CHRISTIAN

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

**Paul decided to go to the city of Damascus to arrest believers there. He was traveling along the road when all of a sudden, a very bright light came down from heaven. It flashed around Paul, and he fell to the ground. Then Paul heard a voice saying, “Why are you against Me?”**

**“Who are You, Lord?” Paul asked.**

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

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

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

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

For the next few days, Paul stayed in the city with other people who believed in Jesus. He **went to the synagogues to tell people about Jesus. “Jesus is the Son of God!” Paul said. The people were amazed. They knew Paul had been an enemy of Jesus, but now he loved Jesus!**

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

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Use a flashlight:** Place the Bible story picture poster where all children can see it. Shine a light on the poster when you talk about the light flashing around Paul. Dim the lights when you talk about Paul being blind. Turn the lights back on when Paul’s sight is restored.

**Open and close eyes:** Prompt preschoolers to close their eyes when mentioning how Paul could not see because of the bright light and open their eyes when talking about how Ananias put his hands on Paul, and he was able to see again.

### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

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

### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ Paul did not believe Jesus is God’s son. He tried to stop people from telling about Jesus by putting them in jail. How do you think that made the followers of Jesus feel? [Allow responses.] Many of the followers were afraid of Paul. Paul heard there were some followers of Jesus in a town called Damascus, so he gathered a few men to help him find them. What happened to Paul as he traveled to Damascus? (A light shown around Paul, and he heard Jesus talking.) Jesus told Paul to go to the city and wait. But Paul could not see; his eyes stopped working. God sent a man named Ananias to help Paul. Ananias touched Paul’s eyes and he could see again. Paul believed that Jesus is God’s son. Paul started telling people to follow Jesus. Everyone was very surprised. God changed the way Paul thought, felt, and acted. Paul was different. Jesus saved Paul from his sin. Did you know that when we trust Jesus, He changes the way we think, feel and act too? ”

### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at John 3:17. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration.

**SAY** “ God sent Jesus into the world to save sinners like Paul and us. Paul did lots of wrong things, but God loved Paul and forgave him. He gave him an important job, telling people around the world about Jesus. ”

Sing the key passage song, “To Save the World (John 3:17).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “ We have a brand-new big picture question. Our big picture question is, **Who can be saved?** The answer is, **Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins.** Paul did many wrong things. He even hurt some of the followers of Jesus. But when Paul trusted in Jesus his sins were forgiven. Anyone, even someone like Paul, can be forgiven of their sins. ”

### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

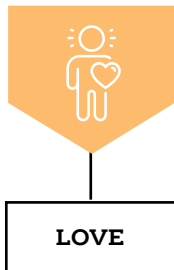
Show the “The Life of Betsey Stockton” missions video.

**SAY** “ Betsey Stockton was born in Princeton, New Jersey. She attended evening classes at the college. She learned about God and His Son, Jesus, in a special service at the college. She believed what she heard, and she wanted to tell other people about Jesus. ”

Pray, thanking God for people who want to tell people in other places around the world about Jesus. Thank God for people who help make it possible for others to go.

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





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God because of what we learned

### 1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “ Thank you, God, that anyone who trusts in Jesus can be saved. Please help these children to trust in Jesus. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen. ”

### 2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “ What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ Who spoke to Paul when a bright light flashed around him? ”

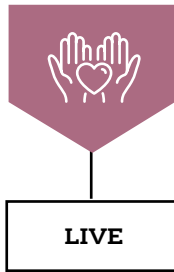
**SAY** “ Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins. ”

### 3 MAKE A SUNCATCHER

Before the session, cut a heart-shaped frame out of construction paper for each child. Cut a piece of clear contact plastic just a little larger than the heart, two for each child. Remove the backing from one piece of contact plastic and place it sticky side up on the table. Help a child place his heart frame onto the plastic. Encourage the child to fill the heart frame with different colored tissue paper squares. Place another sheet of contact plastic on the back and trim around the edges, leaving a little bit of a border. Punch a hole at the top and add a loop of yarn to make a hanger.

**SAY** “ This is a suncatcher. You can hang it in a window at your house. When the sun shines through it, the different colors will glow and look beautiful. Paul saw a bright light and Jesus spoke to him. Jesus loved Paul and forgave him of his sin. Paul told many people about Jesus. ”





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### **GUESS WHO IS SPEAKING**



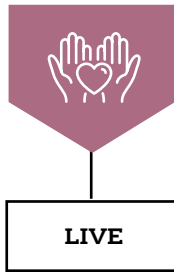
Guide children to line up shoulder to shoulder. Select one child to stand with his back to the group. Select another child to say, “Jesus is God’s Son.” The child may try to disguise his voice. Lead the child facing away to turn around and try to guess which person was speaking. Repeat as time allows.

**SAY** “ While Paul was traveling along the road, a bright light suddenly appeared. Jesus’ spoke to Paul and said, ‘Why are you against Me?’ Paul did not believe that Jesus is God’s Son. He was looking for people who believed in Jesus and wanted to put them in jail. But when Jesus spoke, Paul changed and believed that Jesus is God’s son. He no longer wanted to hurt people who believed in Jesus. Instead, Paul wanted to tell everyone the good news that Jesus is God’s Son. ”

#### **MAKE SHADOWS**

Show children how to fold their hands into different shapes to make shadow puppets on the wall. Use the “Shadow Puppets” printable for inspiration. Dim the lights and provide flashlights. Suggest children take turns holding the flashlight and making the different shadow shapes.

**SAY** “ When you put your hands in the light, it makes a shadow on the wall. You can change your hands to make lots of different shapes. Which shapes did you enjoy making? A bright light shown on Paul. Paul heard a loud voice, and Jesus spoke to him. Jesus saved Paul from his sin. **Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins.** Paul changed and he believed in Jesus. When we trust in Jesus, He changes us from the inside out. ”



## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### FIND THE CORRECT TOY

Prior to the session, select five toys from the room and take a photo of each toy. Place all the toys in a box. Cover the box with a towel. Show a child a picture of one of the toys. Challenge a child to reach inside the box without looking and find the matching toy. After each toy is found, place it back in the box and give it a shake. Repeat until all children have a turn.

**SAY** “ Was it hard to find the right toy without using your eyes? A bright light flashed around Paul, and Jesus spoke to him with a loud voice. Paul could not see anymore. God sent Ananias to help Paul. When Ananias put his hands on Paul, Paul could see again! Paul got up and was baptized. God told Paul to tell people about Jesus and he obeyed. ”

### READ TOGETHER



Set up a few cozy book nook areas in the room. Tell preschoolers to find a partner and go to a cozy area to read. Tell the preschoolers to take turns “reading” the book to each other, turning the pages, looking at the pictures, and telling what they see. After a few minutes, encourage preschoolers to trade books with other pairs to read and learn from other books. Thank God for people like Betsey Stockton who help other people learn and know more about Jesus.

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

### 2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



UNIT 33 | SESSION 2

## PAUL BECAME A MISSIONARY

ACTS 13–14

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

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

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins.

### KEY PASSAGE:

John 3:17



## YOUR HEART TO TEACH



## LEADER Bible Study

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

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

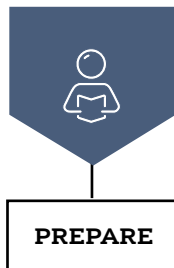
As we read of Paul's journeys, we find that he continually sought to abide in Christ through the spiritual disciplines of fasting, prayer, and sharing the gospel. We also see that he did not back down from difficult situations; not even false prophets and sorcerers could derail him from proclaiming God's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

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

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

### TERMS TO KNOW

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



## YOUR HEART TO TEACH

### GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



#### WELCOME

##### Welcome

- “To Save the World (John 3:17)” song

##### Activity Page

- “Trace the Lines” activity page, 1 per child

##### Carry a Bible

- small blanket or hand towel

##### Transition

- countdown video (optional)



#### LEARN

##### Introduce the Bible story

- small suitcase
- map

##### Learn about the Bible

- bookmark
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

##### Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- “Paul Became a Missionary” video (optional)
- storytelling tips props (optional)

##### Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “To Save the World (John 3:17)” song

##### Learn the Big Picture

###### Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

###### Missions moment

- “Betsey Stockton Photo” printable



#### LOVE

##### Snack and talk

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

##### Letter Match

- gallon-size ziplock bags
- permanent marker
- craft foam pieces
- measuring cups and spoons
- clear hair gel
- tape



#### LIVE

##### Travel and sing

- tape
- rhythm instruments
- “To Save the World (John 3:17)” song

##### Trace with cars

- toy cars
- tape

##### Do a lei relay

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

##### Transition

- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per child
- “To Save the World (John 3:17)” song
- Big Picture Cards for Families





## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete “Trace the Lines” on the activity page.

**SAY** “ Have you ever traveled in a car? What about a boat or a plane? Where did you go? [Allow responses.] In today’s Bible story, we will learn how Paul and his friend Barnabas traveled to many places to tell people about Jesus. Where would you want to go to tell people about Jesus? ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today’s Bible story.

#### PLAY A GAME



Lead children to sit in a circle. Say statements such as “Stand up if you have ever been to the library”; “Clap three times if you have ever been to school”; “Jump three times if you have ever been to the park.” Continue to call out simple commands and places. Play as long as time allows.

**SAY** “ You have been to so many places. Today we are going to hear a story about a man named Paul who traveled to many places to tell people about Jesus. ”

#### CARRY A BIBLE

Spread a small blanket or hand towel on the floor. Place a Bible in the middle of the blanket. Lead children to stand around the blanket and grasp the edges. Challenge children to work together to carefully carry the Bible across the room. Add an additional blanket and Bible if you have a large class. Expand the activity and challenge the children to walk in a circle while still holding the sides of the blanket.

**SAY** “ You did a great job working together to carry the Bible across the room. Today we will learn how Paul and Barnabas worked together to take God’s word to many places. Paul shared the good news about Jesus with anyone who would listen. ”

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers’ attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to say, “chugga, chugga, choo, choo,” and move like a train as they transition to Learn.

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Place a Bible and a map in a small suitcase. Show the suitcase. Ask preschoolers to guess what is inside. Invite a couple of children to open the suitcase and see if any of their guesses were correct.

**SAY** “ This suitcase reminds me of the trip that Paul and Barnabas took. This Bible and map remind me that they took the message of Jesus to many places. Maps help people know where to go when they are traveling. Listen to the Bible story to find out what happened on their journey. ”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Acts 13-14 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “ The people and places we read about in the Bible are real. All the words in the Bible are true. Today’s story is from the book of Acts. Acts is in the New Testament part of the Bible. ”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### PAUL BECAME A MISSIONARY

“ **Paul and his friend Barnabas helped start the first churches.** The Holy Spirit told Paul and Barnabas that they had an important job to do. The church put their hands on Paul and Barnabas and prayed for them, and they left their city to go do the work God wanted them to do. **God led Paul and Barnabas to other cities to tell the good news about Jesus to both Jews and Gentiles—people who were not Jews.**

**Paul and Barnabas went to the city of Lystra (LISS truh). A man was there who had not been able to walk his whole life. Paul healed the man! When the people saw this miracle, they thought Paul and Barnabas were gods! Paul and Barnabas shouted, “No! We are not gods. We are men just like you. We want to tell you the good news of God.”**

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

**The next day, Paul and Barnabas went to the city of Derbe (DUHR bih). They told the people about Jesus, and many of them believed. Finally, they returned to the church and told the other**



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

believers everything that God had done on their journey and how God helped them share the good news about Jesus with everyone. ”

### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

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

### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ The Holy Spirit gave Paul and Barnabas a very important job. Can you remember what it was? (to tell people about Jesus in other cities and towns) Paul and Barnabas’ friends prayed for them and sent them on their way. When they got to the town of Lystra something amazing happened. Can you remember what it was? (Paul healed a man who had never been able to walk.) Can you imagine how excited the man must have been? They thought Paul and Barnabas were gods. Paul told them that they were just men, and the power to heal had come from God. Paul and Barnabas tried to tell them the good news of God, but most of them did not listen. People came and said mean things about Paul and Barnabas. Did Paul stop talking about Jesus? (No. They went to another city to tell people about Jesus.) Did you know that God wants you to tell people about Jesus? God wants people to know that anyone who trusts in Jesus can have their sins forgiven. ”

### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at John 3:17. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Divide the verse into four or five phrases. Write each phrase on a different colored piece of paper. Make two sets. Group the children into teams. Give each team a phrase. Spread out the other set in order on the floor in front of you. Lead children to say their phrase when you point to their color paper. Repeat several times. Challenge the children to say the whole verse together.

**SAY** “ Paul knew that God sent Jesus to save sinners. Paul traveled around, telling people about Jesus. The Holy Spirit wants us to tell others about Jesus so they can be saved from their sins. ”

Sing the key passage song, “To Save the World (John 3:17).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Chant and clap:** Each time you say, “Paul and Barnabas”, pause and lead children to clap on each syllable of “Paul and Barnabas” as you say their name together again.

**Travel around the room:** Invite children to sit on the floor and listen to the Bible story. When you say that Paul traveled to Lystra, lead the children to stand up and move to another place to continue the story. Repeat when you say Paul traveled to Derbe.



LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “Our big picture question asks, **Who can be saved?** Before a bright light flashed around Paul and Jesus spoke to him, Paul thought that only Jews like him could be saved, but God showed Paul that **anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins.**”

### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

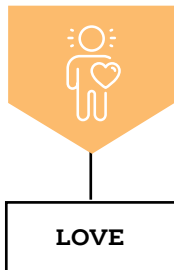
Print a copy of the “Betsey Stockton Photo” printable to show preschoolers as you talk about the work of Betsey Stockton. Tell preschoolers that Betsey Stockton was the first unmarried American woman to travel overseas as a missionary and the first African American woman to arrive in Hawaii.

**SAY** “Betsey received permission to create a school for the farmers, craftspeople, and fishers in Hawaii. Betsey learned the Hawaiian native language so she could teach the kids to read and write. Being able to read and write would help them understand the Bible and believe what they heard about Jesus. Betsey also trained the teachers, who would keep teaching the kids after she left Hawaii.”

Pray, thanking God for people who tell and teach about Jesus.

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





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### **LOVE** God because of what we learned

#### 1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “ Thank You, God, that anyone who trusts in Jesus can be saved. Please help us to tell people about You so that they can be saved. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen. ”

#### 2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “ What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ Who traveled with Paul to tell people about Jesus? ”

**SAY** “ Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins. ”

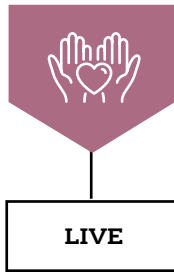
#### 3 LETTER MATCH



Write the letters J-E-S-U-S on a gallon-size ziplock bag. Draw a circle around each letter. Use a permanent marker to write the letters J-E-S-U-S on individual pieces of craft foam. Add 1 tablespoon water, ¼ cup clear hair gel, and the foam pieces to the inside of the bag. Secure the opening with tape. Demonstrate how to move the foam pieces in the bag into the matching letter circle. (Note: If you have a large group, you may want to make multiple bags.)

**SAY** “ J-E-S-U-S, do you know whose name that spells? It spells Jesus’ name! What is something you know about Jesus? [Allow responses.] We know that God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a cross to forgive our sins. This is good news! Paul shared the good news about Jesus with anyone who would listen. Many people believed in Jesus, and the church grew. ”





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### **CREATE A SWIRLING PATH**



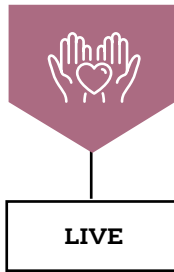
Give each child a sheet of paper and a marker. Instruct children to turn their paper landscape and draw a path that starts in the center edge of one of the short sides and ends in the center edge of the other side. The path can have twists, turns, and swirls in the middle; just make sure it starts in the middle edge of one side and ends in the middle edge of the other side. Make an example to help kids understand. Lead the children to line up their papers on the floor (putting short sides together) to make one large path. Allow children to help you put down tape to keep the path in place. Challenge children to follow along the path with their finger or a toy car.

**SAY** “ Look at the long and swirling path you made. That looks like it would be fun to travel along. Paul and Barnabas traveled to many different places to tell people about Jesus. Did you know that you can tell people about Jesus? What would you tell someone about Jesus? ”

#### **TRAVEL AND SING**

Before the session, write Lystra and Derbe on separate pieces of paper and then tape the papers on opposite sides of the room. Gather children in a central area of the classroom and distribute rhythm instruments to each child. Lead preschoolers to march around the room while chanting “J-E-S-U-S” and playing their rhythm instruments. Bring preschoolers to the Lystra sign. Read the sign and review the portion of the Bible story that occurred in Lystra. Lead children in a song such as “Jesus Loves Me.” Continue marching around the room and stop at the Derbe sign. Read the sign and review that portion of the Bible story. Invite children to join you in singing “God Is So Good.” Lead children back to the center of the room and play the song “To Save the World (John 3:17)” and encourage preschoolers to sing and play their instruments.

**SAY** “ We traveled around the room and sang songs about Jesus. Paul and Barnabas traveled to the towns of Lystra and Derbe, telling the people there the good news about Jesus. Paul and Barnabas shared the good news about Jesus with anyone who would listen. Many people believed in Jesus, and the church grew. The Holy Spirit helps all of Jesus’ followers tell others about Jesus so they can believe and be saved from their sins. ”



## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### TRACE WITH CARS

Tape a large piece of paper to the floor. Write JESUS in very large letters, making sure to leave a large blank border around the edges of the paper. Tape washable markers of various colors to the bumper of toy cars so that when you push a car, it makes a line behind it. Invite children to trace the word JESUS with the cars. (Note: Make sure the tip of the marker is level with the bottom of the car so that when the cars are pushed along the paper, a mark will be made.)

**SAY** “ Look at all the different colors on each letter. Each of you traced the name JESUS. Each of us can tell people about Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us to tell others about Jesus so they can be saved from their sins. **Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins.** ”

### DO A LEI RELAY



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

**SAY** “ This flower necklace is called a lei. Leis are often given to visitors in Hawaii and used in special celebrations. Betsey Stockton served as a missionary and teacher in Hawaii about 200 years ago. ”

### 2 TRANSITION

Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



UNIT 33 | SESSION 3

## JESUS CAN FORGIVE ANYONE

2 CORINTHIANS 5

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus can forgive anyone. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family. He calls us to tell others about Him so they might believe in Jesus and follow Him.

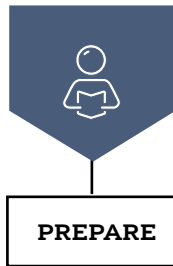
### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins.

### KEY PASSAGE:

John 3:17





## YOUR HEART TO TEACH



## LEADER Bible Study

One theme Paul wrote about in the book of 2 Corinthians is the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ. He shared of his own need for reconciliation with God and how he—like us—had been tasked with taking part in the Lord’s ministry of reconciliation. Being a part of God’s family means bringing others into His kingdom, too.

How can anyone be forgiven of their sins? What does it look like to live as one forgiven by God?

Like Paul, we are all in need of the Lord’s forgiveness because we have all sinned against Him. Paul reminded the Corinthian church that forgiveness of sins has been made possible through Christ’s perfect sacrifice. It is faith in Jesus alone that reconciles us to God, and it is faith in Jesus by which our sins are not counted against us. Through Jesus’ willing sacrifice on our behalf, He was made sin so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. Thus, forgiveness is given to anyone who turns to Christ as Savior and Lord.

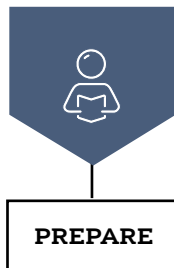
Paul continued to encourage the Corinthians to live as forgiven people who are compelled by the love of Christ to share the gospel with others. No longer should we live for ourselves, seeking after the ways of the world. Rather, we live as new creations,

set on making much of Jesus and declaring how only He can reconcile us to God. The hearts of forgiven people saved by grace have a deep desire for others to know the love of Jesus and be saved.

As you prepare for this session, consider the forgiveness you’ve received from God. How has repentance played a role in your life as a believer? What is your testimony of being brought from death to life, and how can you share it with the preschoolers in your class? Ask God to make the reality of His power to save and forgive real in the hearts and minds of your class today.

### DOCTRINE TO KNOW

**Christ as Reconciliation:** Through Christ’s death, God provides the means whereby the broken relationship between God and humanity is restored and renewed.



## YOUR HEART TO TEACH

### GATHER Supplies

Keep these items on hand for each session: Allergy Alert, Bibles, construction paper, copy paper, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, glue sticks, glue, blocks, baby dolls, play dough, world map or globe, snack food, paper cups, and napkins.



#### WELCOME

##### Welcome

- “To Save the World (John 3:17)” song

##### Activity Page

- “Finish the Pattern” activity page, 1 per child

##### Find a match

- adhesive name tags

##### Transition

- countdown video (optional)



#### LEARN

##### Introduce the Bible story

- large envelope

##### Learn about the Bible

- bookmark
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline

##### Tell the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- “Jesus Can Forgive Anyone” video (optional)
- storytelling tips props (optional)

##### Practice the key passage

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “To Save the World (John 3:17)” song

##### Learn the Big Picture

##### Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

##### Missions moment

- “Betsey Stockton Photo” printable



#### LOVE

##### Snack and talk

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

##### Make a cross

- painter’s tape
- cardstock



#### LIVE

##### Stand in the square

- painter’s tape

##### Play dress up

- dress-up clothes and accessories
- mirror (optional)
- Key Passage Poster (optional)
- Big Picture Question Poster (optional)

##### Construct an edible lei

- plastic lacing cord cut into 18-inch pieces, 1 per child
- butter ring cookies
- fruit-flavored O-shaped cereal
- paper plates

##### Transition

- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per child
- “To Save the World (John 3:17)” song
- Big Picture Cards for Families



## WELCOME Preschoolers

Post an allergy alert, if needed. Set out supplies to engage preschoolers as they arrive. Play music as you welcome preschoolers. Greet children by name at eye level. Follow your church's security procedures.

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead preschoolers to complete "Finish the Pattern" on the activity page.

**SAY** “ Look at this picture. [Point to one of the sad/angry children.] How is this child feeling? When we do wrong things, it can make us feel a lot of different emotions like anger or sadness. Did you know that Jesus forgives people when they do wrong things? That makes me feel happy! ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

Use one or both of the following options to engage curiosity about today's Bible story.

#### MAKE FACES



Call out situations and invite children to show how they would feel by making a face. For example, "If someone took my cookie, I would feel ... "; "When I go to the park, I feel ... "; "This morning when I came to church I felt ... " Suggest children look at one another's faces and try to guess the emotion they are showing.

**SAY** “ People experience lots of emotions: happiness, sadness, anger, fear, and many more. In today's story, we will hear that when we trust Jesus He changes us. He can even change our emotions. That makes me feel happy. How does it make you feel? ”

#### FIND A MATCH

Draw a red circle on two adhesive name tags. Repeat with other shape/color pairs until you have enough name tags for the children in your class. If you have an odd number of children, make a set of three name tags with the same shape and color on it. Place a name tag on each child. Instruct children to find the person with the matching shape. When all matches are found, lead children to say, "Jesus forgives" to their partner. Lead children to find someone with a different shape and repeat.

**SAY** “ You found a friend and said, 'Jesus forgives.' In today's Bible story, we will hear the good news that Jesus can forgive anyone. ”

### 3 TRANSITION TO LEARN

Gain preschoolers' attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to do their favorite dance move as they transition to Learn.

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Before the session, write on a piece of paper Jesus can forgive anyone. Place the paper into a large envelope and label the envelope with the name of your class (example: Mrs. Smith's class or Kindergarten #2).

**SAY** “ Look! Someone wrote us a letter. Let's see what it says. [Open the letter and read it aloud.] Jesus can forgive anyone. Did you know that? In today's Bible story, Paul wrote a letter to a church. The letter had a very important message in it. Listen to the story to hear what Paul wanted the people to know. ”

### 2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at 2 Corinthians 5 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** “ Paul wrote letters to many churches. Paul wanted people to know how to follow Jesus. Paul's letters are part of the Bible because the Holy Spirit told Paul what to write. Our story today is from 2 Corinthians. This another letter that Paul wrote to the people in the city of Corinth. ”

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

### 3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

#### JESUS CAN FORGIVE ANYONE

“ Paul wrote letters to the church at Corinth. In his second letter, Paul encouraged Jesus' followers in the church. **He reminded them 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 used to be an enemy of God, but Jesus saved him! Apart from Jesus, all sinners are enemies of God. **Paul wanted to share the good news that Jesus came into the world to rescue sinners.**

**Paul wrote, “We want to obey God and tell people about Jesus because Jesus loves us. We love Him too!”** Paul wanted others to hear the gospel so they might hear and believe in Jesus.

Jesus changes everything. Paul's life was not easy, but he was glad that his life was honoring to God. Paul wrote, “When we follow Jesus, we are changed. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!”

Then Paul wrote, “Everything is from God, who has made us right through Jesus.” **Something amazing happened when Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. Jesus gave up His life**



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

to rescue sinners, and God was pleased with Jesus' sacrifice.

**God gives us the mission of bringing others to Him through Jesus. Paul wrote, "We are ambassadors for Christ. God can use us to reach other people." We can tell others, "Be made right with God. He made Jesus—who never sinned—to be sin for us, so that in Jesus we could be right with God."** ”

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Hold paper hearts:** Give each child a paper heart. Lead children to hold up the heart each time they hear "Jesus."

**Say thank you:** Lead children to say, "Thank you, Jesus," each time you say "rescue sinners" or "Jesus died" as you tell the Bible story.

### 4 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ Jesus can forgive anyone. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family. He calls us to tell others about Him so they might believe in Jesus and follow Him. ”

### 5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ We sin when we disobey God's rules. Paul wrote a letter to the church in Corinth because he wanted to make sure they understood that because of Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family forever. Paul knew that God can forgive anyone. Who did Paul say was an enemy of God? (Paul said he had been an enemy of God.) Paul tried to hurt the people who believed in Jesus, but Jesus still forgave Paul. Paul's life changed when Jesus forgave him. He started telling everyone about Jesus. Paul said that when we follow Jesus, something would happen. Can you remember what he said? (When we follow Jesus, we are changed for the better. God changes the way we think, act, and feel.) Paul said we have an important job to do too. Do you remember what that job is? Paul said we are to tell other people that by trusting in Jesus they can be forgiven too. ”

### 6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at John 3:17. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Lead the children to pretend to say the key passage to someone that is far away (loudly), to a tiny baby (softly), to someone riding by on a bike (quickly), and to someone who has trouble hearing (slowly).

**SAY** “ God wants everyone to know He sent Jesus to save people from their sins. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family. He calls us to tell others about Him so they might believe in Jesus and follow Him. ”

Sing the key passage song, "To Save the World (John 3:17)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 7 LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

**SAY** “ Paul started many churches. Some of the churches had important questions like, **Who can be saved?** Paul wrote letters to the churches because he wanted them to know that **anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins.** ”

### 8 MISSIONS MOMENT

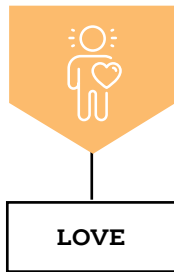
Print and display a copy of the “Betsey Stockton Photo” printable.

**SAY** “ Betsey Stockton was the first unmarried American woman to travel overseas as a missionary. Betsey traveled with a group of missionaries to Hawaii. When they returned home, they lived and worked in New York. Later, Betsey taught in an infant school in Philadelphia, and started a school in Canada. Soon Betsey returned to New Jersey, where she started and taught in a school for the African American community for the rest of her life. She also helped start the first African American Presbyterian Church. ”

Pray, thanking God for Betsey’s life and how she helped children and adults know about God’s love for them.

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





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God because of what we learned

### 1 PRAY

Invite preschoolers to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him.

**SAY** “ Thank You, God, that Jesus can forgive each of these children. Grow their hearts and minds to know and love You. Thank You, that Jesus forgives anyone who trusts in Him. In Jesus’ name I pray, amen. ”

### 2 SNACK AND TALK



Post an allergy alert. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show the Bible story picture poster as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

**SAY** “ What was your favorite part of today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What did you learn about God in today’s Bible story? ”

**SAY** “ What is the mission God has given us? ”

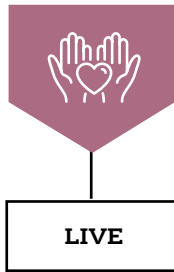
**SAY** “ Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins. ”

### 3 MAKE A CROSS PICTURE

Help each child use painter’s tape to tape a cross shape on a piece of cardstock. Provide markers or crayons and encourage the children to color the whole page including over the tape cross. When they finish, help children carefully remove the tape to reveal the cross.

**SAY** “ Why is the cross important? Jesus died on the cross and rose again so that people could be forgiven. Jesus wants everyone to know that they can be forgiven. Show a friend or family member your cross picture and tell them that Jesus can forgive anyone, including them. Who will you show your cross picture to? ”





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** for God out of love

- 1 Choose the activities that best fit your group, space, available resources, and time constraints. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; or set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.

#### REACH FAR



Cut a heart shape from paper and write JESUS on it. Line up the children so they are standing arm's length apart. Challenge them to pass the heart down the line without moving any closer to the child next to them. Suggest the children move a little farther apart and try it again.

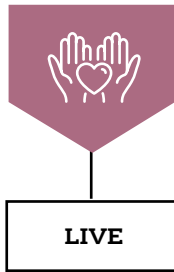
**SAY** “ Our heart has the name JESUS written on it. You had to reach really far to pass the heart down the line. God wants us to pass on His message of Jesus’ love and forgiveness to everyone, even if it’s hard. We can do this by being kind to others and telling them the good news that Jesus loves them and wants to save them by forgiving their sins. ”

#### STAND IN THE SQUARE

Tape a large square on the floor. Invite the children to stand around the square. Say something such as, “Jesus can forgive boys wearing blue shirts. If you have a blue shirt, stand inside the square.” Repeat with other descriptions until all of the children are in the square. Ask, “Who can Jesus forgive?” Lead children to respond, “Everyone!” Play again if time allows.

**SAY** “ **Who can be saved? Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins.** Jesus can forgive everyone no matter where they live, what they look like, or what wrong things they have done. I am so thankful Jesus can save and forgive anyone. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family. He calls us to tell others about Him so they might believe in Jesus and follow Him. ”





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### PLAY DRESS UP

Invite children to try on different kinds of dress-up clothes over their clothing. After preschoolers have put on their dress-up clothes, set a timer for one minute. Use this time to review the key passage or the big picture question and answer. After the timer goes off, tell the children to remove the dress-up clothes and pick a different outfit to try on. Restart the timer and repeat for as long as time allows. Consider providing a mirror so children can see what they look like.

**SAY** “ Each time you heard the timer, you changed into different dress up clothes. Paul wrote, ‘When we follow Jesus, we are changed. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!’ Jesus changes everything and can forgive anyone. Anyone who trust in Jesus is forgiven of their sins. God forgives our sin and invites us into His family. He calls us to tell others about Him so they might believe in Jesus and follow Him. ”

### CONSTRUCT AN EDIBLE LEI

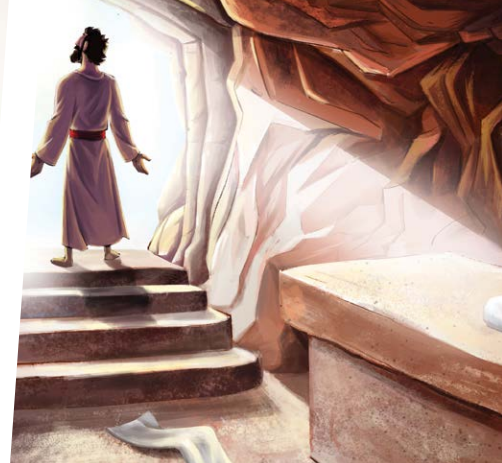


Display the allergy alert poster for parents to see. Cut plastic lacing cord into 18-inch strands. Cover one end of the cord with tape and tie the other end into a knot to create a stopper. Distribute a plate with a few butter ring cookies and some fruit-flavored O-shaped cereal to each preschooler. Tell preschoolers they can make an edible lei by stringing some cereal between cookies on the yarn. Allow preschoolers to secure the ends of their leis and to eat the items of their edible lei. Close in prayer, thanking God for missionaries who tell people about Jesus.

**SAY** “ Your leis look delicious! Betsey Stockton and Charles and Harriet Stewart were part of a missionary team that traveled to Hawaii. Betsey taught children in a school until they had to go back home due to Harriet’s health. They returned home and Betsey continued to teach children in school and share about God and His Son, Jesus. ”

### 2 TRANSITION

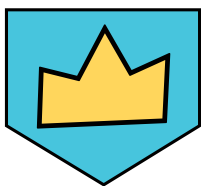
Invite preschoolers to complete their coloring pages. Consider leading preschoolers to sing the key passage song or involving them in a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Give parents the completed activity page. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during 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.



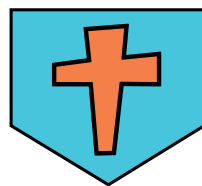
### God is King.

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 preschoolers **LEARN** the gospel story of Scripture, **LOVE** the Author and Subject of that gospel story, and then **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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