



LESSON 5:
God Told Paul to Go!

GOD TOLD PAUL TO GO!

LESSON 5

The jungle, the desert, the islands, your school, your city, and your home are all places where people need to hear about Jesus. How will they hear? God tells us to go proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. This lesson will help children learn that Christians are God's agents for spreading the gospel around the globe. From the example of the Apostle Paul children will see what it looks like to be a faithful witness for Christ and be challenged to engage in God's great rescue plan.

A missionary story, memory verse, game, and other ideas are also included in this guide to help children develop a heart for missions. Whether you're leading at home or teaching at church, you can choose and use the ideas that best fit your teaching situation. Suggested printable visuals and activity pages are included at the end of this document. PPT slides are included separately.

Lesson Overview

Big Idea: Be a witness wherever you go!

Key Verse: Mark 16:15 "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."

Lesson: God Told Paul to Go!

Mission Story: Lucy Laney

Activity: Missionary Newsletter

Review Game: Missionary Pictionary

Song Suggestions: Enjoy these songs as you learn about believing and sharing the gospel. (Available for family use on YouTube*)

- "Jesus is the Good Good News" by Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEFPress.com)
- "John 3:16 (For God So Loved The World)" by The Rizers (TheRizers.com)
- "Tell Everyone" by Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEFPress.com)

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BIG IDEA!



Be a witness wherever you go!

Prepare: Big Idea Visual (*printable, PPT*)

Say: Where are some places you'll go this week? No matter where we go, Jesus wants us to be a witness for him. If you have believed in Jesus, you can be a witness for him by talking about him. You can also be a witness by doing what's right. When other people see you loving and obeying Jesus, it can help them want to know Jesus too. Your words and actions should show and tell people what Jesus is like everywhere you go. That's our Big Idea: *Be a witness wherever you go!*

Do: Have children take turns saying places people might go. In between each response, ask "What's the Big Idea?" and have everyone shout, "Be a witness wherever you go!" Reinforce this key concept throughout the entire teaching time.



KEY VERSE: MARK 16:15

***"Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."
Mark 16:15***

Prepare: Bible, Mark 16:15 Visual (*printable, PPT*)

Say: What job do you want to have when you grow up? There are thousands of different jobs you can have. But whether you're a teacher, zookeeper, scientist, homemaker, firefighter, or cowboy, there's another even more important job for you to do. Jesus told us what this super important job is.

Do: Read Mark 16:15 from the Bible and the visual.

Say: Jesus told his disciples (and you and me) to go into the world and share the gospel with all people. This isn't just a job for pastors or missionaries. Sharing the gospel is a job for every Christian. If you have believed in Jesus to save you from sin, Jesus tells you to be a witness. Jesus commands Christians to share the gospel everywhere we go. What's the Big Idea? *Be a witness wherever you go!* Some people are missionaries with the full-time job of telling people about Jesus. There are missionaries all over the world working in many different ways to share the gospel. We should help these missionaries by praying and supporting them. We should also be willing to go as missionaries if God wants us to. But we should also be telling other people about Jesus even if we aren't missionaries. No matter what job you have, if you are a Christian, Jesus has given you the mission of telling other people that God loves them and sent his Son to save them from sin. What's the Big Idea? *Be a witness wherever you go!*

Do: Pretend to travel in different ways to go tell people about Jesus as you say the verse together. You can say the verse while you ride a horse, walk on the sidewalk, drive a car, ride a motorcycle, fly a plane, and paddle a canoe.



Encourage children to regularly bring and use their Bibles as you teach. This helps them become familiar with using their Bible and emphasizes the importance of God's Word. If possible, help them find and bookmark the memory verse in their own Bibles.



LESSON: GOD TOLD PAUL TO GO!

Place ideas to use for this game could include: the ocean, nearby states or countries, landmarks, the zoo, the park, school, etc.



As you mention each city, you may want to point out its general location on a map. Galatia was located in the area that is now north central Turkey.

For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God ruthlessly and tried to destroy it. But now they only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy."
Galatians 1:8-13 ESV



You will find the truth to share in God's Word.
(Colossians 1:1-13, 23)

Corinth was located in the area that is now south central Greece.

Now I would remind you, brothers, that the gospel I preached to you, by which you are being saved... For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.
1 Corinthians 15:1-4 ESV



Tell others about who Jesus is and what he did.
(1 Corinthians 12:1-4)

Use this opportunity to emphasize the gospel as you discuss the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Prepare: Bible, Lesson Visuals (*printable*). Put each excerpt from Paul's letters and the characteristic of a witness that goes along with it in a separate envelope, and label each one according to the place that epistle was addressed to (*Galatia, Corinth 1, Rome, Corinth 2, Colossae, Philippi*), and put the envelopes in different places around the room ahead of time.

Do: Say the names of different places and have children show whether they have been to that place by standing (yes) or sitting (no).

Say: No matter where you go, if you have believed in Jesus to save you from sin, God tells you to be a witness. (*Quote Acts 1:8.*) What's the Big Idea? *Be a witness wherever you go!* Being a witness for Jesus means telling other people about him so they can believe in him too. I want to tell you about someone who had many jobs. He was a pastor, a missionary, a tentmaker, a teacher, and even wrote part of the Bible! He was also a witness for Jesus everywhere he went. His name was Paul. We can learn a lot from him about being a witness. Paul travelled to many different places to tell people about Jesus. When he wasn't able to travel, he sent letters to Christians whom he helped to learn about Jesus. We have some of these letters in the New Testament of the Bible today! We're going to pretend to be Christians in different parts of the world travelling and reading parts of the letters that Paul sent to see what we can learn about being a witness for Jesus.

Do: Pretend to ride horses to Galatia while a child retrieves the letter marked "Galatia." Sit and listen as the letter is opened and Galatians 1:11-13, 23 is read.

Say: Paul used to hate Christians and even tried to kill them, but when he believed in Jesus, his whole life changed and he became a witness for Jesus everywhere he went. But did he just make up the things he said about Jesus? No! He shared the true message from Jesus. You can also be a witness by telling other people what's true about Jesus like Paul did. How can you learn what's true about Jesus? You can learn what's true about Jesus from the Bible. It's important to pay attention to what God's Word says about Jesus so you can know you're telling other people what's true. What's the Big Idea? *Be a witness wherever you go!*

Do: Pretend to sail to Corinth while a child retrieves the letter marked "Corinth 1." Sit and listen as the letter is opened and 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 is read.

Say: Corinth was a wealthy city that was famous for being wicked. Paul knew that the most important thing these people needed was to hear about Jesus. He went to their city, shared the gospel, and many of them believed in Jesus. Paul helps us learn that being a witness means telling people who Jesus is and what he did. There are many other good things we can talk about, but this is the only good news that can save people from sin so it should be the most important thing we talk about. Do you know who Jesus is? Do you know what Jesus did to save people from sin? You can be a witness by telling people who Jesus is and what he did. What's the Big Idea? *Be a witness wherever you go!*

Rome is located near the middle of Italy and is the capital city of that country.

From Jerusalem and all the way around to Ephesus I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ, and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, but I build on someone else's foundation, just as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand." Romans 15:19b-21 ESV



But he [God] said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weakness, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10



Colossae was located in the area that is now western Turkey.

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may want to set us at liberty for the word, to declare the glory of Christ, on account of which I am in prison - that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Colossians 4:2-4



Philippi was located in the area that is now north eastern Greece.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me - practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8-9



Be sure to tell children when and where they can meet you if they want to discuss believing in Jesus. Read and explain John 3:16 as you talk with children who want to know more.

Do: Pretend to fly to Rome as a child retrieves the letter marked "Rome." Have everyone sit and listen while the letter is opened and Romans 15:19b-21 is read.

Say: Today we have airplanes, trains, and cars to help us travel quickly, but back when Paul was alive these things hadn't been invented yet. It took much longer to go places and tell people about Jesus, but still Paul travelled over 10,000 miles to tell people about Jesus. That's almost as far as going halfway around the world! Why did he do this? Paul knew there were people all over the world who had never heard about Jesus and he was willing to go wherever God sent him to share the gospel. You and I should also be willing to go wherever God sends us to be witnesses for Jesus. Are you willing to go anywhere to be a witness for Jesus? What's the Big Idea? *Be a witness wherever you go!*

Do: Pretend to walk to Corinth as a child retrieves the letter marked "Corinth 2." Sit and listen while the letter is opened and 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 is read.

Say: Paul wrote another letter to the Christians at Corinth, and in this letter he told them about some of the hard things that happened to him as a missionary. He was shipwrecked three times, beaten almost to death five times, arrested, attacked, hungry, tired, and sometimes very discouraged. But Paul told the Corinthians it was all worth it for the sake of Christ. He trusted God and shared the gospel even when it was hard. You can trust God to help you be a witness even when it's hard too. What's the Big Idea? *Be a witness wherever you go!*

Do: Pretend to ride camels to Colossae as a child retrieves the letter marked "Colossae." Have everyone sit and listen as Colossians 4:2-4 is read out loud.

Say: When Paul wrote this letter, he had been put in prison for telling people about Jesus. Instead of complaining, Paul asked the Christians in Colossae to pray that God would give him opportunities to tell people about Jesus and that he would have the right words to say. This helps us learn that we should pray for God to help us be a witness. Maybe it makes you nervous to tell other people about Jesus. You can pray and ask God to help you be a witness. You can even ask other people to pray for you like Paul did. What's the Big Idea? *Be a witness wherever you go!*

Do: Pretend to run to Philippi as a child retrieves the letter marked "Philippi." Have everyone sit and listen as Philippians 4:8-9 is read out loud.

Say: Paul was one of the first people to ever go to Philippi and tell people about Jesus. Many people believed in Jesus and their lives were changed. In this letter, Paul reminded these new Christians that it's important for a witness to think, say, and do what pleases God because this helps other people want to know Jesus too. Your words and actions should show and tell people what Jesus is like everywhere you go. What's the Big Idea? *Be a witness wherever you go!*

Respond: If you have believed in Jesus to save you from sin, Jesus tells you to be a witness everywhere you go. Let's pray and ask God to help us be good witnesses for Jesus. If you have never believed in Jesus to save you from sin, I'd love to tell you more about that after we pray.



MISSION STORY: LUCY LANEY

Prepare: Lucy Laney Visual (*printable, PPT*), globe/map

Say: Where are missionaries needed to tell people about Jesus? Missionaries are needed all around the world. Some people even serve as missionaries in their own countries to help people learn about Jesus. Today we're going to learn about a woman named Lucy Laney who was a witness for Jesus in her own country, the United States of America. She was a witness wherever she went.

Do: Point at the United States on the map and show the picture of Lucy Laney.

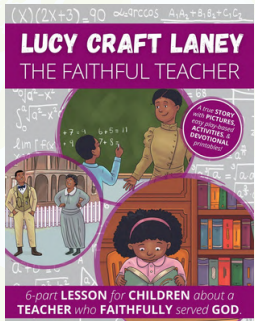
Say: Back when Lucy Laney was born, many people in the United States kept other people, especially Black people, enslaved. This was terrible, but it really happened! There was even a bad law that said anyone who taught a Black person to read or write could be put in jail. But some people disagreed with this bad law and secretly taught Lucy to read when she was only 4 years old.

One of Lucy's favorite books to read was the Bible. In the Bible she learned that God created and loves *all* people very much. She learned that God sent his Son, Jesus, to save people from sin and that *all* people are welcome in God's family. Lucy believed in Jesus to save her from sin and wanted to help other people learn about him too. When Lucy was 11 years old, slavery was outlawed in the United States and some missionaries started a school in her town for the children of people who had been enslaved. Lucy was thrilled to go to school!

When Lucy grew up, she decided to become a teacher and use her abilities to help students learn math, science, reading, and other subjects while she also taught them about God. Lucy used many different books when she taught her students, but the Bible was her favorite! She wanted her students to know God and how to love and obey him by reading and studying the Bible. She believed *all* people are created and loved by God for a special purpose and she decided to start a Christian school to help more students learn this wonderful truth.

Lucy started her new school in a church basement, but it quickly grew to more than 200 students and needed a larger place to meet! Lucy prayed and worked hard to raise money for a larger building and she didn't stop there. Her school grew to include a high school and junior college. She also began a kindergarten and a nursing school that trained Black women how to be nurses. Many of her students became doctors, lawyers, teachers, nurses, parents, and more. They did good work all over the country and around the world!

Thousands of students learned many things at Lucy Laney's school, but the most important thing they learned was that God loved them and sent his Son to save them from sin. Lucy never travelled to another country and probably wouldn't have called herself a missionary, but she was a witness everywhere she went. She gave her whole life to helping others learn about God and improving the lives of thousands of people. Have you asked God how he wants to use your life? Maybe he wants you to do missionary work too.



For more information about Lucy Laney and more ideas and pictures to help you share this story with children, download this free Christ-focused story at KidsEnjoyingJesus.com.

Encourage the children to pray for opportunities to tell other people about Jesus. Challenge them to also ask God if maybe he wants them to serve as a missionary someday.



ACTIVITY: MISSIONARY NEWSLETTER

Prepare: Read some newsletters/emails from missionaries ahead of time and take note of pictures or stories that would engage the children.

Say: Have you ever received mail from another country? The fastest way to send mail to another country is by using email. Many missionaries use the mail and email to send letters from other countries so that other Christians can see what they are doing. These letters are often called “newsletters” because they give news about that missionary. Reading missionary newsletters can help us know how we can pray for those missionaries and how we can thank God for the work he is using them to do. Let’s look at some missionary newsletters together.

Do: Show the missionary newsletters to the children. Read articles of interest and look at the pictures together. If possible, children who can read would enjoy taking turns to read several sentences from a missionary newsletter. Afterward, use questions to help the children respond to what they have learned.

- What did you learn about the missionary?
- How can you pray for this missionary?
- Did this letter say anything we can praise God for?

Respond: Pray for the missionaries together and encourage children to pray about any specific praises or requests the missionaries shared. If time permits, you could also work together to write a short email reply to a missionary to let them know you read their letter and prayed for them.

Many missionaries are now predominantly using email newsletters as their main method of communicating with supporting churches. You can sign up to receive their newsletters by giving your email address to the missionary and asking to subscribe to their emails. You can print these emails to show the children or you can look at them together on a tablet or laptop.

If possible, you could serve a snack or play music that is associated with the place where the missionary lives as you look at missionary newsletters together.



ACTIVITY PAGE

Prepare: Lesson Activity Page (*printable*), art supplies

Do: There is an activity page with discussion questions, the key verse, the Big Idea, and a picture to color for each lesson in this series. You can use this as a final activity to engage children at the end of your class, as a discussion guide for a small group time, or you could send it home with them and encourage families to complete it at home. Challenge them to use the picture to tell someone else about what they learned.

Idea: You could offer an incentive such as stickers, candy, team points, or other small prizes for everyone who brings back their completed activity page to the next class.





REVIEW GAME: MISSIONARY Pictionary

Some children do not like to draw. If desired, children could opt to do charades by acting out a method of travel until the other children guess what it is.



Prepare: whiteboard/paper, dry erase markers/pencils, review questions

Say: There are more than 200 countries in the world where people need to hear the good news that Jesus died and rose again to save people from sin. We're going to take turns drawing pictures of different ways that missionaries can travel to tell people about Jesus while we review what we've learned today.

Do: Ask a review question and let the child who answers it correctly have a turn drawing a picture of a mode of transportation a missionary might use. When someone correctly guesses what they are drawing, ask another question and play again.

Ideas: The children could draw airplanes, cars, horses, trucks, bicycles, boats, motorcycles, canoes, shoes (to represent walking), camels, trains, rickshaws, busses, and vans.

Review Questions:

1. What's the Big Idea? *(Be a witness wherever you go!)*
2. Can you say Mark 16:15? *(Have children say the verse.)*
3. What were some of the jobs Paul had? *(Missionary, pastor, tentmaker, teacher, writer of parts of the Bible.)*
4. How was Paul a witness to the people in Corinth? *(He told them the good news that Jesus could save them from sin.)*
5. What were some of the hard things Paul suffered when he was being a witness for Jesus? *(He was shipwrecked three times, beaten almost to death five times, arrested, attacked, hungry, tired, and sometimes very discouraged.)*
6. What can you pray for yourself as you prepare to be a witness? *(That God would give you the words to say, that the people you are talking to would believe in Jesus, etc.)*
7. What does it mean to believe in Jesus? *(To know that you have sinned, and to believe that Jesus died and rose again and is the only one who can save you from sin.)*
8. Tell about how Lucy Laney helped people learn about Jesus. *(Answers will vary, but may include that she started multiple schools, taught the Bible, helped people train for jobs, etc.)*



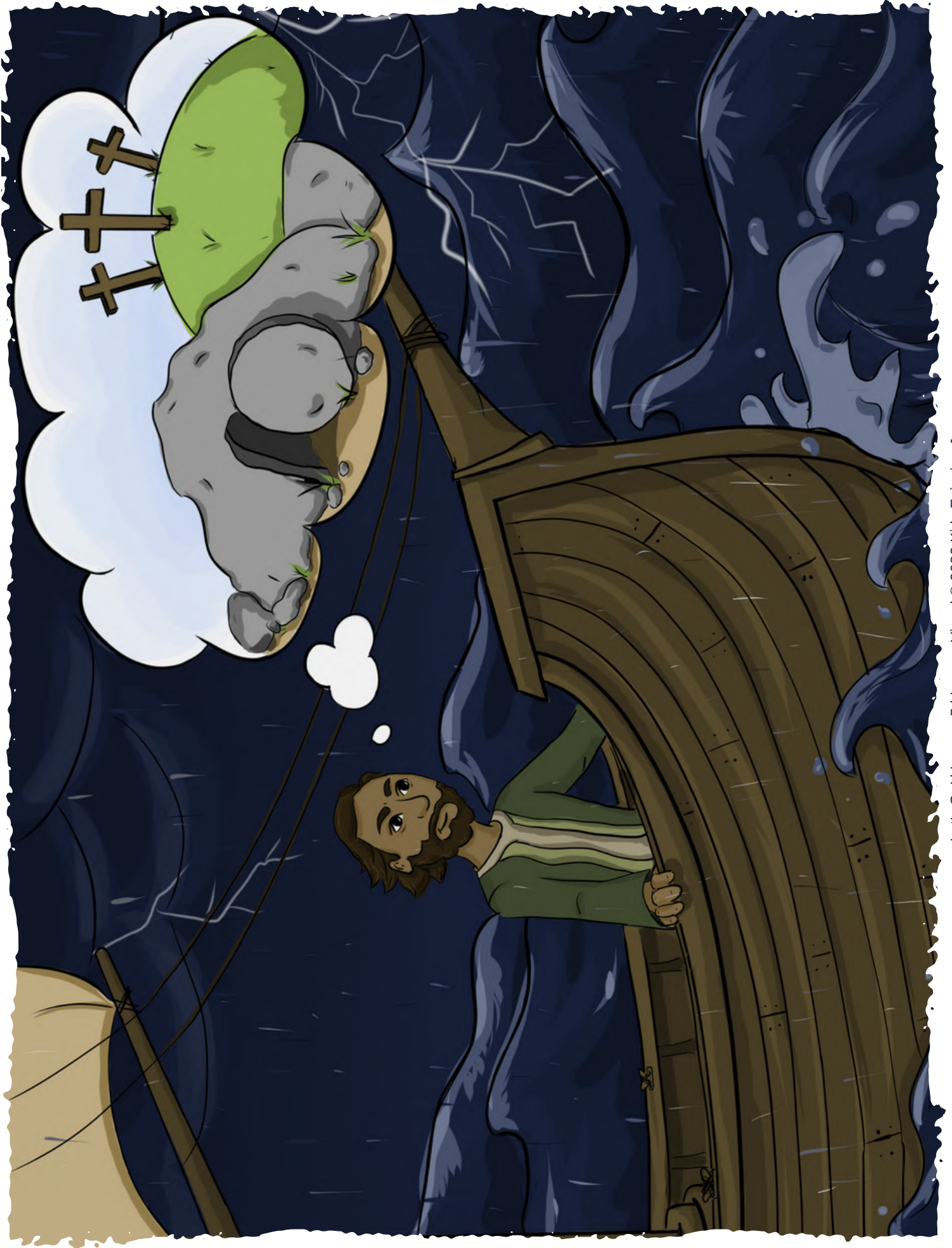
**Be a
WITNESS
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GO into

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Mark 16:15



For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. [But now] They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy."

Galatians 1:11-13,23 ESV

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you...by which you are being saved... For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 ESV

From Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."

Romans 15:19b-21 ESV

But he [God] said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

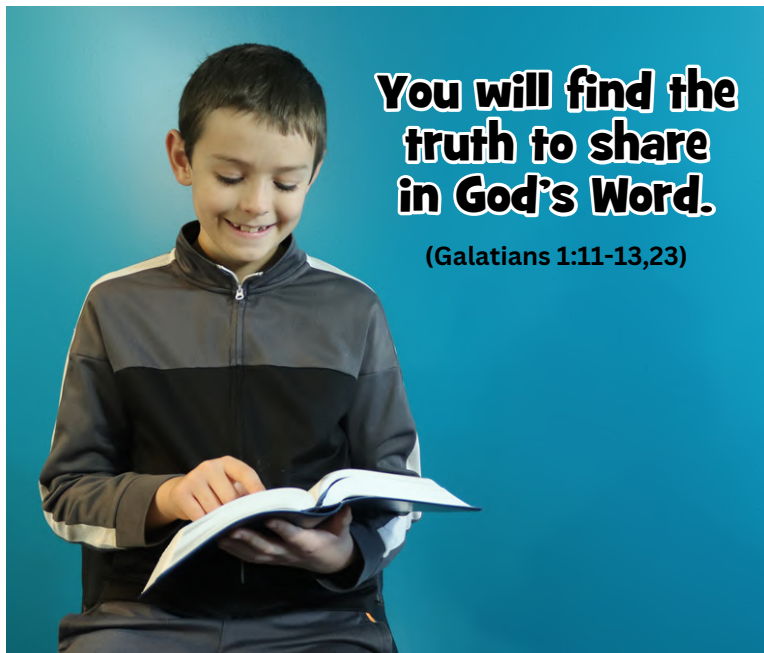
Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison – that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Colossians 4:2-4

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

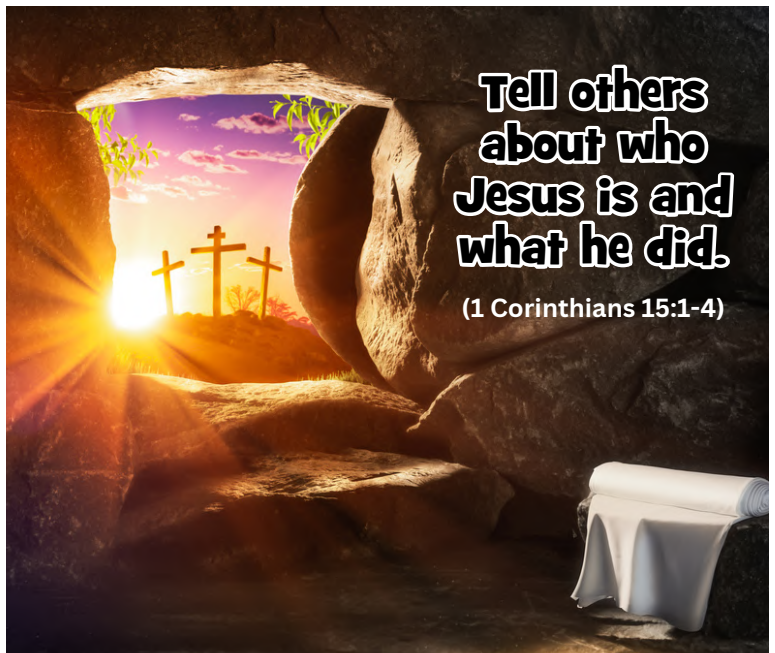
Philippians 4:8-9





**You will find the
truth to share
in God's Word.**

(Galatians 1:11-13,23)



**Tell others
about who
Jesus is and
what he did.**

(1 Corinthians 15:1-4)



**Be willing to
go wherever
God sends you.**

(Romans 15:19b-21)



**Trust God when
it's hard to
share the gospel.**

(2 Corinthians 12:9-10)



**Pray for God to help
you share the gospel.**

(Colossians 4:2-4)



**Show what Jesus
is like with what
you say and do.**

(Philippians 4:8-9)

Welcome to Christchurch Presbyterian Church

$$\begin{array}{l} 2+7=9 \\ 3+9 \\ 6+5=11 \\ 7+8= \end{array}$$



**BIG
IDEA!**

Be a witness wherever you go!

**“Go into all the world and proclaim the
gospel to the whole creation” - Mark 16:15**

**KEY
VERSE**



THINK ABOUT IT! Key Passages: Romans 15:19-21, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

What can you learn from Paul about being a witness for Jesus?

What is the good news about Jesus that Paul shared with others?

Where and how can you be a witness for Jesus right now?

What skills and talents has God given you that you could use to help people learn the good news about Jesus?

