

UNIT 33 | SESSION 2

## PAUL BECAME A MISSIONARY

ACTS 13-14

**CHRIST CONNECTION:**

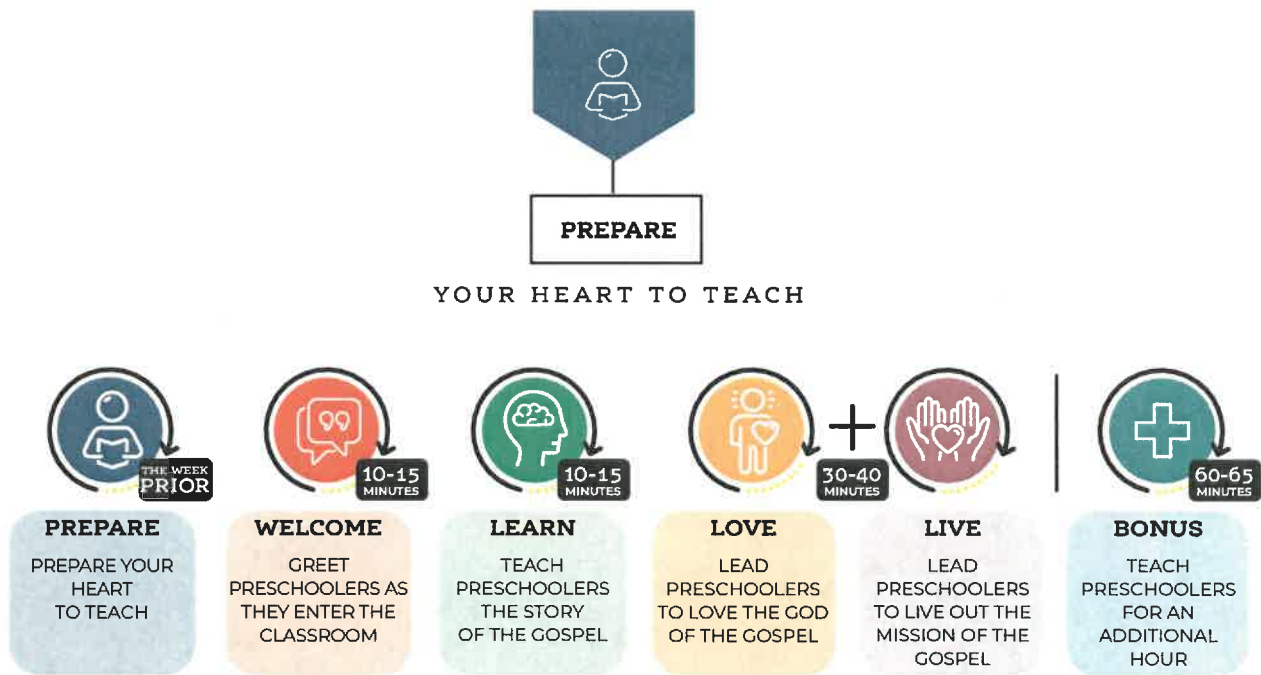
Paul shared the good news about Jesus with anyone who would listen. Many people believed in Jesus, and the church grew. God wants us to tell others about Jesus so they can be saved from their sins.

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

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

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:**

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



## LEADER Bible Study

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

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

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

While many insulted Paul, opposed him,

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

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

### TERMS TO KNOW

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



**PREPARE**

YOUR HEART TO TEACH

## GATHER Supplies

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



**WELCOME**

### Find and complete the hidden puzzle

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster



**LEARN**

### Review the Bible story

- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ sticky notes

### Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker



**LOVE**

### Complete puzzles

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

### Guess the items

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



**LIVE**

### Paint with vehicles

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

### Missions activity

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

### Snack and transition

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



**BONUS**

### Say the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker

### Create a map collage

- ☐ Bibles with maps
- ☐ old maps



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

## WELCOME

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

### FIND AND COMPLETE THE HIDDEN PUZZLE

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

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

\* Big Picture question  
\* " " answer  
\* worship songs  
\* clap your hands  
\* Fruit of the Spirit

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### **LEARN** the Bible Story

#### **1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY**

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

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



#### **2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY** video

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

#### **PAUL BECAME A MISSIONARY**

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

Paul and Barnabas went to the city of Lystra (LISS truh). A man was there who had not been able to walk his whole life. Paul healed the man! When the people saw this miracle, they thought Paul and Barnabas were gods! Paul and Barnabas shouted, “No! We are not gods. We are men just like you. We want to tell you the good news of God.”

The next day, Paul and Barnabas went to the city of Derbe (DUHR bih). They told the people about Jesus, and many of them believed. Finally, they returned to the church and told the other believers everything that God had done on their journey and how God helped them share the good news about Jesus with everyone. ”

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





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

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

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

### 4 SING A SONG

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

“God sent His Son, Jesus.

God sent His Son, Jesus.

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

*\* TO save the world song*

### 5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

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



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

### 6 PRAY

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

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





LOVE

THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

## LOVE God because of what we learned

### 1 GO FOR A WALK



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

**SAY** God led Paul and Barnabas to other cities to tell the good news about Jesus. They walked to many places. Their journey was longer than ours, but they told people the good news of Jesus, just like we did. Many people believed. Paul and Barnabas then returned to the church and told the other believers everything that God had done on their journey and how God helped them share the good news about Jesus with everyone.

### 2 COMPLETE PUZZLES

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

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

### 3 GUESS THE ITEMS

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

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

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





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

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

#### 1 PAINT WITH VEHICLES

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

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

#### 2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY



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

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

#### 3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



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

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

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





**BONUS**

TEACHING HOUR

## **BONUS** Teaching Hour Group Time

### **1 PRETEND TO TRAVEL**

Invite preschoolers to pretend to pack a bag for a trip. Encourage boys and girls to pretend to unzip a suitcase. Ask what items they would pack to take on a trip. Act out placing each item in the pretend suitcase. When the suitcase is full, encourage preschoolers to pretend to zip it back up and place it behind their backs. Tell preschoolers that in today's story Paul and Barnabas went on a trip to tell other the good news about Jesus.

### **2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY**

Open the Bible to Acts 13–14 and talk about the Bible story using the summarized points below.

#### **PAUL BECAME A MISSIONARY**

- God had a special job for Paul. Paul and Barnabas were to go to cities to tell people about Jesus. The church put their hands on Paul and Barnabas and prayed for them.
- Paul and Barnabas went to Lystra. When Paul healed a man who could not walk, the people thought that Paul and Barnabas were like gods! But Paul and Barnabas said, "We are men, just like you! We are just men who love Jesus!"
- After that, Paul and Barnabas went to many towns to teach people about Jesus. Many people believed the good news.

### **3 SING A SONG**

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

"God sent His Son, Jesus.

God sent His Son, Jesus.

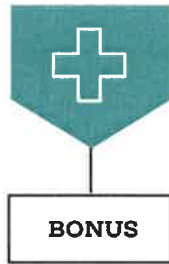
God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people."

### **4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE**

Place the key passage phrase marker at John 3:17. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Encourage preschoolers to repeat the key passage phrase with you several times. Alternate saying the phrase in a loud and then quiet voice.

### **5 PRAY**

Pray. Thank God that we can know the good news about Jesus and that we can tell others about Him.



## TEACHING HOUR

### **BONUS** Teaching Hour Activities

#### **6** PLAY A MOVEMENT GAME



Invite preschoolers to line up across one side of the classroom. Give simple directions for ways that boys and girls can move to the other side of the room. Examples may include taking five small steps, hopping three times, or taking four steps on tiptoes. Allow boys and girls to take turns calling out new ways to move across the room.

**SAY** “ You traveled in some interesting ways from one side of the classroom to the other. Paul and Barnabas traveled to many cities to tell the good news about Jesus. In one of the cities, they met a man who had not been able to walk his whole life. Paul healed the man. When the people saw this miracle, they thought Paul and Barnabas were gods. Paul and Barnabas told them they were men just like they were. Paul said they were there to tell them the good news about God. ”

#### **7** CREATE A MAP COLLAGE

Cut an old map into small, simple shapes that preschoolers can use to make a collage. Open the Bibles to the map section. Display other maps on the table for preschoolers to explore. Encourage boys and girls to look at the maps and talk about places they have been. Point out the cities of Lystra and Derbe where Paul and Barnabas traveled. After preschoolers have had time to explore the maps, encourage them to make a collage or pattern with the shapes you cut out. Older preschoolers may enjoy cutting out their own shapes.

**SAY** “ Maps help us know how to get where we are going. We can use a map to know the way. Paul and Barnabas traveled to many cities to tell others about Jesus. Lystra and Derbe were two of the cities. Where have you traveled? God wants us to tell others about Jesus as we travel as well. ”

#### **8** CREATE A PATH

Draw arrows on several sheets of construction paper. Encourage preschoolers to create a path using the arrows. Secure the papers by taping them to the floor or wall. Assist boys and girls with the placement as they navigate around classroom furniture and fixtures. Preschoolers may want to go under tables or around various obstacles in the room. Once the path is complete, take turns following the path where it leads.

**SAY** “ You created a path all around our classroom. Paul and Barnabas followed a path to the cities of Lystra and Derbe to tell the people the good news about Jesus. Many of the people believed in Jesus, and the church grew. God wants us to tell others about Jesus so they can be saved from their sins. ”

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