



3rd – 5th

May 17-18, 2014

DATE

Paul and his missionary journeys

LESSON TITLE

Acts 13-14; Acts 15:36-21:17

WHERE TO FIND IT

God wants the whole world to know him

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

Read Acts 13-14 and 15:36-21:17 ahead of time and ask the Holy Spirit to prepare you to talk to kids about Paul and how he spread the good news of Jesus' Rescue! Bonus: you'll also be better prepared to field questions.

check-in/out

Remind kids to take their "hands and feet" paper home and share it with their family and friends!

large group heads up

Today we are learning about Paul's missionary journeys and how he shared the story of God's love with people all around the world. We're learning that God wants us to share Him with other people too, and we don't have to be afraid to do it, because He is always with us. We will be learning what it means to be "the hands and feet" of Jesus.



connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

WALKING MULTIPLICITY TAG

- Give kids these instructions step by step (don't explain the whole thing!):
- Tell kids to find a partner and choose one person to be "it"
- When you start counting 1-5, the kid who's **not** "it" will have a 5-second head start to get away from their partner.
- On count 5, the kid who's "it" tries to tag their partner in one minute (make it very clear that only fast walking is allowed, no running; runners are automatically considered tagged).
- (Time kids, using the **stopwatch**): Once the kid has tagged their partner, they should link arms, sit down and wait for the minute to be up.
- Now each pair of kids must find another pair of kids, making a group of 4. Repeat but in pairs: One pair runs away for 5 seconds and the other (who is "it"), on the count of 5, tries to tag them. The pairs must keep their arms linked! Once the "it" pair has tagged the other pair, all 4 kids link arms and sit down.
- If time allows, you can repeat the exercise once more, telling the groups of 4 to find another group of 4. One group runs away, and the other group tries to tag, all the while with their arms linked!

Then ask kids about the best/worst parts of their weeks. Before you head into Large Group, remind them about your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) understand why God wants us to spread the good news of his rescue and (2) identify ways they can spread it!

Why? God wants everyone to know and love Him, and that includes people who are different from us, and people who live in far away places. The world needs His love, and we are the ones who can spread it!

Tips: We want kids to feel comfortable and unafraid of sharing God with their friends; encourage them to share God's love through simple actions and words.

small group

REVIEW AND DIG DEEPER

***Pass around the beanbag to each speaker if that's helpful for generating discussion.**

1. Paul did a lot of traveling to share God's story with people. Why did he need to share God's story with others?
2. Why did Paul have to go so far? Couldn't he have just stayed at home and told people there?
3. Do you think God wants YOU to tell people about Him? What is a specific way you could do that?
4. What can be hard about sharing Jesus with others? *(Remind kids that we can always ask the Holy Spirit for help with anything! Even if we don't know the words to speak, we can ask the Holy Spirit to give us words.)*
 - a. **Quick exercise:** Have one kid share about a favorite video game/movie, etc.
 - i. **Ask:** was that hard? Why not?
 - ii. Do you think we can share Jesus just like we share our favorite band, etc? (Yes!) Why?
5. Can you imagine what it would be like if we ALL shared God's story and God's love with everyone around us? What do you think would happen? How would the world be different?

ACTIVITY

Read Matthew 5:14-16: **"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be unhidden. Neither do people light a lamp and light it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."** What does it mean to be the light of the world?

God asks us to act like him (make our hands act like his/our feet act like his/use our mouth to tell others about him). Let's come up with ways we can do that this week.

- Give kids a piece of **construction paper**.
- Have kids trace both hands and both feet (in shoes).
- Inside the hands and feet, write ways we can show love this week (pray for somebody, pray *with* somebody, invite a person over who doesn't have many friends, invite a person to church).

*While kids are making their hands and feet projects, you can choose to share a personal story about how you were afraid of telling people about God, and how He helped you overcome that. Otherwise, ask some of the kids to share the actions they have listed on their papers.

****Then pray together, asking God to give us the courage to GO and tell others about him!**

Extra time? Have kids lay their hands and feet in a path across the room (as a whole group or in small groups). Then walk around the room and look at all the different ways to tell others about God. Give kids a task, like: deciding which way to show God's love is the craziest, most fun, scariest, etc.

special notes

We really want to encourage kids to feel comfortable in sharing God's story and God's love with their friends and family; emphasize that God is always with us no matter what, and that we should share the amazing love that he has given us.

presenter tips

You can preview today's videos by clicking these links:

Paul's travels:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hy4K1pP408Y>

Go Forth: <http://vimeo.com/77298866>

script

Hey everybody! Welcome to Kid's Club. I'm so excited to see you here! That game we played earlier was pretty fun, wasn't it? I wonder what would have happened if we had kept playing longer...would someone like to tell me what you think would happen? (Let kids respond.) Yep, the groups of people would have kept growing, and growing, and growing... until there was one giant group of us all with linked arms!

Can you guys think of anything else that we're supposed to tell more...and more...and MORE people about? (Let kids respond.) That's right, JESUS! Remember, Jesus gave us the special job of showing people how to follow him, baptizing them, and teaching people how to obey him.

Now, in the game we just played, if the person or people who were "it" hadn't chased after the other person or group, would they have ever linked arms with more people? (Let kids say: No!) No! They had to chase after them, just like God tells us to GO and make disciples.

PAUL SHARED JESUS

Today, we are going to hear about a guy named Paul and how he went on missionary journeys *all over the world* to share the story of Jesus' rescue! Just like we ran after others and linked our arms and our teams kept getting bigger and bigger, Paul went to people and shared the story of Jesus. And what do you think happened when Paul shared Jesus? (Let kids respond.) That's right, more and more people chose to follow Jesus and be part of God's family!

In the Bible, the book of Acts describes all the journeys Paul took to share the good news of Jesus' rescue. Let's watch a video that shows all the places he went. As you watch, imagine what it would be like to go on a journey like Paul. How would YOU have felt if you were him?

Video: What's in the Bible? Acts of the Apostles: Paul's Journeys

Whoa! That is a lot of traveling! So what do you think it was like for Paul to do all that traveling?



script continued

(Let several kids respond: they may refer to the mode of travel, length, reason for traveling, etc. Let them respond based on whatever struck them.) That's right! Paul must have thought it was *pretty* important to share Jesus' story for him to go to all those different cities and countries.

SHARING JESUS IS IMPORTANT

Now why is it SO important to share Jesus anyway? (Let kids respond.) That's right! Jesus wants the whole WORLD to know him. And he told us it's OUR job to tell people how to follow him. He actually told us a few times. One of the times is in Matthew, when Jesus said:

SLIDE: Matthew 5:14-16: You are the light of the world. A city on a hill can't be hidden. Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand. Then it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine in front of others. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will praise your Father who is in heaven.

(Turn on the **flashlight** and ask kids what they normally do with it, like look for things in the dark, etc. Then cover the flashlight with the **bowl**.) This is what it's like when we keep God's story and love to ourselves! Or when we decide not to talk about God or not to act like Jesus. It's like turning on a flashlight, and then covering it up with a bowl, which makes no sense at all!

SHARING JESUS REQUIRES ACTION

OK, so we know that we have to GO and talk to others and be with others to spread the good news of Jesus. We also know that *Jesus* tells us to do it. But here's the HARD part: HOW do we share the good news of Jesus? How do we let our light shine like that verse says? To help us understand, let's play a little game. Everybody, stand up! (Let kids stand.)

We are going to try a mental exercise. You see this object? (*Point to anything in the room that's visible to the whole group.*) I want you to concentrate on it as hard as you possibly can. I want you to use all your brainpower, all your mental energy, everything you can to grab it without touching it! Ready...go! (*Demonstrate along with kids, pretend to try to move it with your brainpower, reaching towards it and trying to control it as hard as you can!*)

Arrgh!!! I think you all knew that wouldn't work. You can have a seat. (Let kids sit.) The reason we did that is to remind ourselves that we have to GO and DO some things. We can't just *want* to grab an object, we can't just *want* somebody to know Jesus. We have to GO and show them Jesus! God wants us to use our hands, feet, and mouths to show his love to the world!

WE CAN TAKE ACTION

Let's watch a quick video that was created to inspire us to love like Jesus and make our hands do what Jesus' hands would have done...and our feet go where Jesus' feet would have gone.

When we sit and do nothing, we probably don't really care about it. I mean, nobody jumped up and grabbed (*refer to the object you tried to mentally move*) because you probably didn't really want to grab it, right? If the first person could have grabbed \$20, you might have tried a little harder, not just pretended to try to move it with your mind.



script continued

Well, not caring is called “apathy.” The people in this video GO and DO and even burn up a poster of the word “apathy” to show that they’re done sitting back and doing nothing. As you watch, see if you can picture yourself doing anything in the video:

Video: Go Forth

Did anybody see something you can picture yourself doing? (Let kids share.) That’s awesome. Some of us might not be able to travel 2800 miles like Paul did...we may need to just walk next door and help out a neighbor. Or even sit down with our brother and sister and ask them if they know about Jesus.

GOD’S SPIRIT WILL HELP US SHARE JESUS

Now, everybody close your eyes. Think of one thing that’s hard or scary about sharing Jesus with people or doing what the people did in this video. Maybe it’s scary to not be sure we have the right words or scary to think about showing Jesus’ love to somebody you don’t even like. What do you guys think? What’s hard about sharing Jesus? (Let 2-3 kids share.)

I totally agree, it CAN be hard sometimes. Do you guys think Paul was ever scared sometimes when he went to a far off place around people he didn’t know? (Let kids say: yes.) Yeah, probably. He definitely faced some dangerous situations. The Bible even tells us he got into THREE shipwrecks where he could have died.

But you know what? God tells us in the Bible that he is never far from us. Every minute, of every day, He is with us and we don’t have to be afraid. Remember, Jesus has promised to never leave us. He sent the Holy Spirit to fill us with things like love, joy and peace. The Holy Spirit will even help us know the words to say to tell someone about Jesus. Because Paul knew God was with him, he was able to GO and use his mouth, hands and feet to be the light of Jesus. And we can too!

WORSHIP

It’s pretty amazing that God gave US the job of telling the world about him. Let’s spend a moment just telling God we love him.

Music Video: Wake

Song: I’m Not Alone (with hand motions)

PRAY

Ask a kid to come pray, asking God to give us the strength and courage to share his love with other people this week.



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PREP needs



connect time supplies

Stopwatch

small group supplies

Per kid

- 1 piece of colored construction paper

Per group

- markers
- 1 Bible (p. 1056)
- 1 beanbag

large group supplies

Flashlight

Opaque bowl that is larger than flashlight

Adventure Bible (p. 1056)

a/v needs

1. Video: What's in the Bible? Acts of the Apostles: Paul's Journeys:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hy4K1pP408Y>
2. Slide: Matthew 5:14-16: You are the light of the world. A city on a hill can't be hidden. Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand. Then it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine in front of others. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will praise your Father who is in heaven.
3. Video: Go Forth:
<http://vimeo.com/77298866>
4. Music Video: Wake
5. Song: I'm Not Alone (with hand motions)

connect questions

Tell me about Paul.

How can we share Jesus with others?

parent page

We are talking about Paul and the missionary journeys he went on to share the story and love of Jesus. We brainstormed specific actions we could take in our own lives to share Jesus with others as well. Ask your kid what actions they came up with—and how you could do them as well. You can also read about Paul together in Acts 13-14 and 15:36-21:17 in the Bible.