



PAUL'S LIFE AND MINISTRY

Date: 07.13.25 | Paul Becomes a Missionary
Scripture: Acts 15:36-16:40

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

PRESCHOOL:

- God sent Jesus because He loves and cares about us.
- Missionaries are people who tell other people about God and Jesus.

YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

- God loves and values people around the world.
- God works through people to do His work in their communities and world.
- Missionaries are Christians called by God to tell another group of people the good news about Jesus.

OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

- God loves and values people around the world.
- God proved His unconditional love for people through the sacrifice of Jesus the Christ.
- God allows people to join Him in His work throughout the world.
- All Christians are called to be on mission with God.
- People can pray for all people serving on mission.
- God creates opportunities for people to connect with others in all walks of life.
- Missionaries are Christians called by God to tell another group of people the good news about Jesus. Missionaries are sometimes in danger because they boldly tell others about Jesus.



MEMORY VERSE

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the
power of God for salvation to everyone who
believes. - Romans 1:16a

[Check out this Seeds Kids song](#), Not Ashamed: Romans 1:16-17 to help memorize this verse.



PAUL'S LIFE AND MINISTRY



BUSY BIN

As the kids arrive, they will stop by the table to choose a snack and a drink. Each child will also pick up a Paul and Silas activity mat to work on as their friends arrive.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

Before Sunday School, gather four pieces of paper and write one of the following towns on each one: Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens, and Corinth. Tape each paper to different walls of the room. Instruct the kids to stand in the middle of the room. Choose one kid to be the “caller” and direct him to close his eyes—prompt kids to stand at any of the town signs. Count down from three. Then tell the “caller” to keep his eyes closed and call out one of the towns while his eyes remain closed. The kids who are in that town are out. Lead the remaining children back to the middle and repeat the game until only one or two children remain.

Say: Each of these towns is a location Paul and Silas visited on their second missionary journey. We'll learn how Paul and Silas preached the good news to all who would listen. We'll also learn how they endured suffering for sharing the gospel.



PAUL'S LIFE AND MINISTRY

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Paul's second missionary journey began around AD 48–49 and concluded in AD 51. His focus was on proclaiming the gospel and strengthening new believers in the Greek provinces of Macedonia and Achaia, visiting key cities such as Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, and Corinth. Before setting out, Paul proposed that Barnabas accompany him again. However, a sharp disagreement arose between them over whether to take Mark, leading to their separation. Barnabas took Mark and went to Cyprus, while Paul chose Silas and traveled through Syria and Cilicia to strengthen the churches ([Acts 15:36-41](#)). In God's providence, this disagreement resulted in two strong missionary teams instead of one. Paul later spoke positively of both Barnabas ([1 Cor. 9:6](#)) and Mark ([2 Tim. 4:11](#)), and both men continued to have significant ministries.

Silas was a fitting choice as Paul's companion. As a Jew, he had access to the synagogues ([Acts 16:9](#)), and as a Roman citizen ([Acts 16:37](#)), he shared the same legal protections as Paul. He was also a respected leader from the Jerusalem church, supporting the message that salvation for Gentiles was by grace through faith alone. Paul retraced the route of his first journey in reverse order. In Lystra, he met Timothy, a young believer with a strong reputation among the local Christians ([Acts 16:1-5](#)). Timothy's mother was Jewish and his father Greek. Although the Jerusalem Council had determined that Gentile believers did not need to be circumcised ([Acts 15](#)), Paul had Timothy circumcised—not as a requirement for salvation, but to prevent offense among Jews whom they would minister to ([Gen. 17:9-14](#); [1 Cor. 9:19-21](#)). Since Timothy's mother was Jewish, Jewish law considered him Jewish as well, and circumcision served as a sign of the Abrahamic covenant. This practical step allowed Timothy full access to synagogues during their travels and avoided unnecessary barriers to the gospel. Timothy likely came to faith during Paul's earlier visit to Lystra ([Acts 14:8-23](#); [2 Tim. 1:5](#)), and he would later become one of Paul's closest and most trusted companions ([1 Tim. 1:2](#); [1 Cor. 4:17](#); [Phil. 2:19](#)).

As Paul, Silas, and Timothy continued through Phrygia and Galatia, they were prevented by the Holy Spirit from preaching in certain regions. Instead, they were led to Troas ([Acts 16:6-10](#)), a major port city on the coast of Asia Minor. There, Paul received a vision of a man from Macedonia pleading for help. Understanding this as divine direction, the team prepared to sail to Macedonia. The shift to the first-person plural "we" in Acts 16:10 indicates that Luke, the author of Acts, joined them at this point. This was a pivotal moment, as the gospel would now expand into Europe.



PAUL'S LIFE AND MINISTRY

Philippi, a Roman colony, was the first Macedonian city where Paul preached ([Acts 16:11-40](#)). Because the city lacked a synagogue, Paul began his ministry at a place of prayer outside the city where women gathered. One of them, Lydia, a seller of purple goods and likely a wealthy woman, responded to the message of the gospel. The Lord opened her heart to believe ([Acts 16:14](#)), and she and her household were baptized. Her home eventually became the meeting place for the new Christian community in Philippi ([Acts 16:40](#)). This conversion shows that it is ultimately God, not the skill of the preacher, who brings people to faith.

While in Philippi, Paul cast out a spirit from a slave girl who had brought her owners profit through fortune-telling ([Acts 16:16-24](#)). Her owners, angered by the loss of income, dragged Paul and Silas before the magistrates. Without a fair trial, they were publicly stripped, beaten with rods, and imprisoned. Paul later referred to this incident as being “shamefully treated at Philippi” ([1 Thess. 2:2](#)). Throughout the book of Acts, financial motives often clash with the gospel ([Acts 8:18-24](#); [13:8-12](#); [19:24](#)), and here again, greed leads to persecution. Fortune-telling was forbidden in the Old Testament ([Deut. 18:10](#); [1 Sam. 28:8](#); [2 Kings 17:17](#)), and Paul, following the example and authority of Jesus ([Matt. 8:16](#); [12:28](#)), rebuked the spirit directly and commanded it to leave.

While in prison, Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns to God, and the other prisoners listened ([Acts 16:25-34](#)). Around midnight, a great earthquake shook the prison, opening the doors and loosening their chains. The jailer, assuming the prisoners had escaped, prepared to kill himself, but Paul stopped him. Deeply shaken, the jailer asked, “What must I do to be saved?”—likely referring to spiritual salvation after hearing Paul and Silas’s prayers and songs. Paul and Silas told him to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and he and his household believed, were baptized, and rejoiced with newfound faith ([Acts 16:31-34](#); [John 3:16](#); [Rom. 1:16](#); [10:10-11](#); [Matt. 5:12](#)).

The next morning, the magistrates sent word to release Paul and Silas quietly ([Acts 16:35-40](#)). However, Paul refused to leave without a public acknowledgment of the injustice, citing their Roman citizenship. This strategic move protected the credibility of the gospel and the new believers in Philippi. By demanding a public release, Paul ensured that the church would not be seen as a threat to Roman law or as harboring lawbreakers. Once the magistrates came personally and released them, Paul and Silas visited Lydia’s house to encourage the believers before leaving the city.

Throughout this journey, we see God’s sovereign hand directing Paul’s steps, opening hearts, and expanding the church. The message of salvation by grace through faith remained central, and cultural barriers were navigated wisely for the sake of the gospel. Suffering was



PAUL'S LIFE AND MINISTRY

not viewed as a setback, but rather as an opportunity to witness to God's power and joy in all circumstances. Despite opposition, the church continued to grow, grounded in sound teaching and strengthened by the work of the Holy Spirit ([Acts 16:5](#)).



PAUL'S LIFE AND MINISTRY

LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY

Remind your group that we are studying the New Testament. The book of Acts is about God sending the Holy Spirit to permanently dwell within Jesus' disciples and other believers after He ascended back to heaven. With the help of the Holy Spirit, those who followed Christ told many people about Jesus, helped others, and started the first churches. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the message of Jesus began to spread all over the world.



TELL THE STORY - Acts 15:36-16:40

Last week, we learned how the Jewish believers met together to decide if Gentiles were saved by faith alone or if they needed to do more. Early church leaders agreed that all people are saved through faith in Jesus. We cannot earn our salvation by following the law or obeying God. Paul was at the meeting, and he shared how God was saving the Gentiles. After the meeting, Paul traveled to many cities to share the gospel.

Paul had been called as a missionary to share the good news with Jews and Gentiles. God also chose other men to help Paul on this mission. Silas and Timothy also desired to obey God and share the good news about Jesus with others. Today, we will learn about Paul's second missionary journey and how he started churches in new towns.

The good news about Jesus was spreading. Paul and his friends Silas and Timothy traveled together, sharing the gospel wherever God led them. At the city of Philippi, they went to the river to pray. Some women were present, and Paul began speaking with them. A woman named Lydia, who sold purple cloth, was listening. Lydia was a worshiper of the one true God, and God helped her believe what Paul was saying. Lydia and everyone in her house were baptized.

Another day, a servant girl met Paul and Silas. She had a spirit in her that allowed her to predict the future. The girl followed Paul and Silas, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God!" Paul finally turned and said to the spirit in her, "I command you in the name of Jesus to come out of her!" And the spirit came out right away.

Now the girl's owners were upset because she could no longer tell the future and make money for them. They grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them to the authorities. The officials put Paul and Silas in jail.



PAUL'S LIFE AND MINISTRY

About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God. Suddenly, an earthquake shook the jail. The doors flew open, and all the prisoners' chains came loose. The jailer woke up and thought the prisoners had escaped, so he took out his sword and was about to kill himself. "Don't hurt yourself!" Paul said. "We are all here!"

The jailer was surprised that the prisoners were still there. This led him to believe in the power of God. The jailer took Paul and Silas outside. "Men, what must I do to be saved?" he asked. They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved." The jailer and his entire household believed and were baptized. Later that day, Paul and Silas were set free.



RETELL THE STORY



SHARE THE GOSPEL

The message of the gospel is simple, yet life-transforming: "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." This was the message preached by Paul, Silas, and the early followers of Jesus — a message that still carries power today.

In Acts 16, we see this truth played out in the lives of two very different people: Lydia and the Philippian jailer. Lydia was a successful businesswoman, surrounded by wealth, yet she recognized that material success could not give her the eternal hope she longed for. When she heard the gospel, she opened her heart and believed in it. The jailer, on the other hand, was moments away from ending his life when he encountered the power of God through Paul and Silas. In the darkness of that prison, he found true freedom — not through escape, but through faith in Jesus.

These stories show us that the gospel is for everyone — the wealthy and the broken, the curious and the desperate. Salvation is not earned by good deeds or religious performance; it is a gift received by faith in Jesus Christ, who died and rose again so we could be made right with God.

Paul and Silas didn't keep this truth to themselves. They were so convinced of the freedom



PAUL'S LIFE AND MINISTRY

they had found in Christ that they risked everything to share it with others. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, they went where God called them, preached the gospel boldly, and made disciples in every place they traveled.

Jesus has given all believers the same mission: “Go and make disciples of all nations.” You don’t need a seminary degree or a platform — you need a willing heart and the power of the Holy Spirit. God has placed people in your life who need to hear that hope and salvation are found in Jesus. You may be the one He uses to bring them the message of eternal life.

- **Pray** for someone you know who doesn’t yet believe in Jesus.
- **Prepare** by reading Scripture and letting the Holy Spirit guide your words.
- **Proclaim** the good news with boldness, love, and trust that God will work in their heart.
- **Partner** with other believers to live out the mission in your neighborhood, workplace, or school.

The same Holy Spirit that filled Paul and Silas is with you today. Don’t underestimate the impact you can have when you say “yes” to God’s call.

Let’s be a people who, like Paul, carry the message of freedom — and watch as hearts, lives, and entire communities are changed by the power of the gospel.



PAUL'S LIFE AND MINISTRY

QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

The Holy Spirit led Paul to visit many new towns and reach more people with the message of Jesus. Everywhere he went, he proclaimed the good news. Many people listened to Paul's words and believed in Jesus. **Did everyone believe in Jesus? (Acts 17:32-34)** While many were saved, not everyone who heard the gospel believed in it. Some even mocked it. Paul didn't let this stop him from sharing. We can remember that it's not our responsibility to save people, but to be faithful to obey the mission God has given us by sharing the gospel. Our mission is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul and Silas ended up in jail when, through Jesus' power, they healed the servant girl of an evil spirit. Paul and Silas praised God, even while they were in jail. God was with Paul and Silas and freed them through a powerful earthquake. The jailer recognized God's power and asked how he could be saved. **What did Paul tell the jailer he must do to be saved? (Acts 16:31-34)** Paul said he must believe in the Lord Jesus, and he will be saved. This is true for every person. God saves us from our sins when we put our faith in Jesus.

Are we responsible for how people respond to the gospel? Why not? Only God can save. God calls believers to share their faith with others, just as Paul did, but we aren't responsible for the outcome. Continue sharing the good news, trusting God to save.

Paul and Silas didn't run out of prison after the earthquake. How could this have helped the jailer believe in Jesus? The jailer recognized Paul and Silas' faith in Jesus when they chose to stay in jail, and how only the power of God could have given them such courage.

Paul shared the gospel with all kinds of people, many of whom were different from him. Why? All people are sinners who need salvation. No matter where someone is from or what they have done, only the gospel brings the good news that saves.

What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?



PAUL'S LIFE AND MINISTRY

What does the story teach me about myself?

Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?

Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?

How does this story help me live on mission?



PAUL'S LIFE AND MINISTRY

PRAYER PROMPTS

God, we thank You that the gospel is for everyone. Thank You for making the way for anyone to be saved through faith in Jesus. We love You! Amen.

IF TIME ALLOWS:

Practice naming the 4 Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Remind the kids that these books are in the NT and tell of Jesus' time on earth. Practice finding these books in the Bible.

Practice naming some of the disciples. During Wednesday night Bible study childcare, the kids learned a hokey song to remember all of the disciples. Play it a couple of times with your group and have them try to sing along.

You can find the song [here](#).

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

For July and August, our Creek Kids will be collecting money in the funnel for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. We will have a family mission opportunity in August, where our families can both register and attend a bed build with Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Additionally, they can shop and purchase needed items from a wishlist for this organization. More information about this special project will come soon.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Continue to use the Memory Verse Handout for fun ideas for practicing the memory verse for this unit.

[Check out this Seeds Kids song](#), Not Ashamed: Romans 1:16-17 to help memorize this verse.



PAUL'S LIFE AND MINISTRY

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - God is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.



PAUL'S LIFE AND MINISTRY

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.



PAUL'S LIFE AND MINISTRY



Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?



PAUL'S LIFE AND MINISTRY



Application Questions

LOOK OUTWARD



- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD



- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?