



UNIT 33 | SESSION 2

# PAUL BECAME A MISSIONARY

ACTS 13-14

## CHRIST CONNECTION

God had a plan for Paul to share the gospel with Gentiles, no matter what troubles he faced.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

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

## MEMORY VERSE

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, 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 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



## PAUL BECAME A MISSIONARY

After Saul left Damascus, he first traveled to Jerusalem and then to Tarsus. Later, Barnabas brought Saul to Antioch. Saul, who was also known by his Roman name, Paul, was with the church in Antioch. The Holy Spirit chose Paul and another believer, Barnabas, for a special work. So they obeyed and left Antioch. God led Paul and Barnabas to tell the good news about Jesus to not only the Jews, but the Gentiles — or people who were not Jews.

Paul and Barnabas traveled to Lystra (LISS truh). Paul healed a man there who had never been able to walk. The people saw what Paul had done, and they thought Paul and Barnabas were gods! They began to worship them, but Paul and Barnabas tore their clothes and shouted, “No! We are not gods. We are men just like you! We want to tell you the good news of God.”

Then some people showed up from Antioch and Iconium (igh KOH nih uhm), cities where Paul and Barnabas had preached about Jesus. These people caused trouble so that the people in Lystra turned against Paul and Barnabas, too. They threw stones at Paul and dragged him out of the city. They thought he was dead, but the believers in Lystra gathered around Paul, and he got up.

The next day, Paul and Barnabas went to the city of Derbe (DUHR bih). They told people there about Jesus, and many people believed. Then Paul and Barnabas went back to Lystra and to Iconium. They encouraged the believers there to continue in the faith. They told the believers that they would face suffering because they believed in Jesus. Paul and Barnabas also chose leaders for the churches.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

God had a plan for Paul to share the gospel with Gentiles, no matter what troubles he faced. Many believed in Jesus. The church grew and the gospel spread so that people all over the world could be saved from their sins by trusting in Jesus.

# WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive

## OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group.

Before heading to Large Group, kids can work on the provided coloring or activity pages. You can also do the Memory Verse Activity below as a class!

## MEMORY VERSE

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**- John 3:17, ESV**

## MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

We started a new unit last week, so we have a new memory verse! Our verse, written above, is John 3:17.

Using the provided puzzles, have the kids put together the memory verse. Add some fun by hiding the pieces around the room beforehand for them to find!

Challenge kids to complete the puzzle as quickly as they can and time them. Then, have them see if they can beat their time!



# FUN DAY



Play games with kids outside the classroom

## GAME/GYM DAY

It's Game Day for our younger kids and Gym Day for our older kids!

**K12 leaders:** After Large Group, stay in the Large Group room to play, or go outside if the weather allows! Ask Taylor or a Hall Captain for balls and chalk for kids to play with outside.

**345 leaders:** After Large Group, take your class to the gym to play.

Game suggestion: Pop-Up Tag

The normal rules of tag apply, except everyone is "it". If a kid gets tagged, they must sit down until the person that tagged them gets tagged, then they are back in! If there's a tie, settle it with a round of rock, paper, scissors.

## THINGS TO REVIEW!

**Christ Connection:** God had a plan for Paul to share the gospel with Gentiles, no matter what troubles he faced.

**Memory Verse:** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. – John 3:17

**You can also review the lesson on page 3 or the questions on page 6!**

## BE INTENTIONAL!

Just because we're having fun doesn't mean we can't still talk about Jesus!

Invite kids who have questions to ask them and make inclusive space for conversations about Jesus during the day.

## A NOTE ABOUT PICK-UP

Be sure to bring your class back to your room before the morning's over! This will help parent pick-up run safely and smoothly.

# CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids while they wait to be picked up

## BIBLE STORY REVIEW

**Ask these questions during game time or back in your class at the end of the day.**

1. Why is the gospel called the “good news” if Jesus had to die?
2. Who can you share the good news of Jesus with this week?
3. Why does God call missionaries? Do you think being a missionary can be hard?
4. God had a plan for Paul’s life even when he suffered. How can this truth help you when you face hard times?

## HAVE EXTRA TIME?

Play Heads Up, Seven Up!

Choose a handful of kids to stand at the front of the room and have the rest put their heads down on the table with their hand out. The kids at the front can each pick 1 person to touch lightly on the shoulder. Once touched, kids stick their thumb up to indicate they’ve been picked. Once all the kids have the chance to pick a person, everyone can look up and the kids with their thumbs up can guess who picked them. If they are right, they get to change places with the kid who picked them!

## BEFORE YOU GO...

**Please clean up by doing the following:**

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins (**Kinder leaders: Curriculum bins go back inside the bottom cabinet**)
2. Clean all trash off the tables
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in holder
5. Turn off TVs as you leave

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**