



## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE 3RD & 4TH GRADE

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*Suggested for the week of*

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**BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE**  
**3rd & 4th Grade Leader Guide**  
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*Bible Studies for Life®: 3rd & 4th Grade Leader Guide* provides Bible study and teaching suggestions for workers who teach third and fourth graders (8- and 9-year-olds) in Sunday School. The Bible stories printed in this magazine are based on Scripture and are written in words children can understand.

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**LIFE POINT**

Christians have a responsibility to help everyone hear about Jesus.

# PAUL PREACHED IN ATHENS

**LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING**

All Christians are called to be on mission with God.

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE**

Acts 17:16-34

**UNIT VERSE**

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."  
*Mark 16:15 (CSB)*

**WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE**

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."  
*Mark 16:15 (CSB)*

**SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF**

June 15

**LEADER BIBLE STUDY****CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY FOR PERSONAL STUDY AND PREPARATION**

*(For age-appropriate language, use the Bible story on the following pages.)*

Have you ever shared the gospel with someone truly stubborn? Talking about Jesus with a person deeply entrenched in sin, especially sin they enjoy, can be daunting. Imagine a whole crowd of people with that attitude. That was Paul's predicament when he arrived in Athens.

Paul's experience reminds us of the calling on our lives to tell people about Jesus regardless of any barriers. Paul was stunned by the idolatry he witnessed in the city. He saw people far from God and worshiping idols of their own creation. Compelled by his own experience with Jesus and his understanding of God's will to be made known among all peoples, Paul spoke boldly about the truth of the gospel. While most mocked him, some people believed and joined the family of God that day.

Much like Paul, William Carey, one of the early pioneers of the modern missionary movement, felt a burden for people who were not a part of his culture, socioeconomic level, or race. He knew that God called him to go to India to share the gospel with the people of that country. When Carey shared his calling with local pastors, they strongly opposed his mission as unnecessary. Undeterred by the opposition from his friends and fellow pastors, Carey went to India to share the love of Jesus with the Indian people. On the missions field, he learned the local language and interacted with people from each level of the caste system. Because of his willingness to go to India, the people of India have a Bible in their language, and the Christian presence that Carey established is still there today and still changing people's lives forever for the glory of God!

Both Paul and William Carey remind us that the gospel transcends any barriers. The mission of Paul and William Carey is the same mission we have today. God calls us to share the good news of Jesus with all people so that they might come to faith in Christ and worship the one true God.

What barriers are holding you back from sharing the gospel with the people around you? Are there people at work, school, or in your community with whom God has given you a burden to share the gospel? How could you be bolder in sharing your faith across social, racial, generational, and socioeconomic barriers?

As you pray this week, ask God to give you a deeper passion for reaching people. Ask Him for the courage to share about Jesus across any barrier.



## PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- » Point out the Paul's Letters books on the "Books of the Bible Chart."
- » Explain that these books are letters that Paul wrote to churches that he visited. Many of the letters were sent to multiple churches, so many people could be encouraged. Some were for specific churches, addressing specific concerns or issues.
- » Practice reciting Paul's Letters in order. Explain that these are great books to learn about how we should behave as believers in Christ.
- » Remind kids that the Bible is real and a true book. This unit is the study of Paul, his travels, and how people responded to his message.
- » Direct kids to read Acts 17:16 then locate the city mentioned on "Paul's Missionary Journey." State that Paul had a great desire to share with others how to live a life following Jesus.

- » Pack Item:  
3: "Paul's Missionary Journey"—Display the map on a focal wall.
- » Printables: "Books of the Bible Chart"—Display the chart on a focal wall.
- » Bibles
- » masking tape

**Teaching Tip:** Display "Paul's Missionary Journey" throughout the unit.



## MISSIONS EMPHASIS

- » Show the "Medical Missions" video or tell the missions story.
- » Say: "Medical volunteers and people from churches in the United States often go to Thailand to help Dr. Derbyshire as he works with patients in mobile clinics. The Thai people have many health issues and are malnourished because they rely on rice as their main food source. The clinics give Dr. Derbyshire and his teams a way to help people with their physical needs and an opportunity to tell them about Jesus."
- » Lead kids to go to each "Medical Missions Photo" and pray for the work of the medical teams, and pray that the people who visit the clinics will want to know more about Jesus.

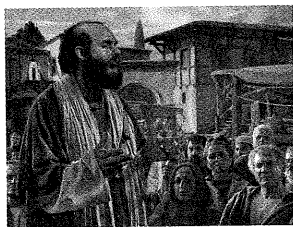
- » Videos
- » Printables:  
"Unit 1 Missions: Asia Pacific Rim"  
"Medical Missions Photos"—Display the photos around the room.
- » masking tape



## INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

- » Inquire of kids about the best news they have ever received.
- » Allow volunteers to share what happened that was so memorable.
- » Encourage kids to participate and guide each person to tell a story.
- » Celebrate each story then share an age-appropriate story of your own. Tell kids about the time you became a Christian. What was that like?
- » Mention that Christians should tell others about God and Jesus. When we share about the amazing thing that happened to us when we became a Christian, we can help others hear about Jesus.
- » State that Christians have a responsibility to help everyone hear about Jesus. In today's Bible story, Paul made sure to tell others about Jesus.

- » Option: "Paul Preached in Athens" coloring page (Printables)



## STUDY THE BIBLE

### 1. BIBLE STORY

- » Lead kids to sing "We Will Go."
- » Point out the "Unit 1 Banner" and remind kids that they are learning how we need to tell about Jesus by studying Paul, one of the greatest missionaries ever. Explain that today's story reminds us that Christians have the responsibility to help everyone hear about Jesus.
- » Pray that God will give Christians the desire to tell about Jesus.
- » Guide kids to turn in their Bibles to Acts 17 where the story is found.
- » Open your Bible to Acts 17 and tell the Bible story.

#### BIBLE STORY: PAUL PREACHED IN ATHENS

Paul was concerned about the city of Athens. It was full of idols that the people had made. Paul was sad to see people worshipping false gods. Paul went to the synagogue and talked with the Jews about Jesus. Every day in the marketplace, Paul would tell the good news about Jesus and the resurrection to anyone who was there.

Some philosophers (men who liked to think, reason, and argue) heard Paul teach. They did not know what Paul was talking about. "He seems to be preaching about foreign gods."

Other men wanted to hear more, so they invited Paul to speak at the Areopagus, a place where people came to discuss important ideas. The men said, "What you say sounds strange to us. We want to know what it means."

Paul spoke respectfully. "People of Athens," he began. "I see you are a very religious people. I even saw an altar you have for an unknown god. I can tell you about Him. The God who made the world is Lord of heaven and earth. He does not live in places people make. He does not need anything from us because He is the One who gives life and everything else. He created the people of every nation and wants them to know Him as God. We live and move and exist through Him. We are His, and He is not made of gold or silver or stone, like a man makes."

Paul continued, "God is alive, and He commands all people everywhere to repent and turn away from disobeying Him."

Paul also explained that God sent Jesus. When Paul told how Jesus rose from the dead, some people made fun of Paul. Others wanted to hear more. Because Paul taught the good news of Jesus, some men and women in Athens became followers of Jesus.

—BASED ON ACTS 17:16-34

#### » Pack Items:

- 1: "Unit 1 Banner"
- 2: "Unit 1 Verse"

#### » Teaching Picture 3

#### » Music

#### » Videos

#### » black permanent markers

#### » Unit Verse paper cutout hands from the last session—Count the hands. According to the number of hands, divide the words of the Unit Verse into the same number of words/phrases. Kids will write the words/phrases on the hands. **Option:** "Unit Verse Hands" (Printables)

#### » dry erase marker

#### » marker board or poster board—Write the Unit Verse on the board to assign words/phrases for kids to write on the paper hands.

**Teaching Tip:** Save the kids' Unit Verse paper cutout hands for use during the unit.

## 2. REVIEW

- » Show the Teaching Picture and enlist volunteers to briefly retell the story in their own words.
- » Lead the group to say the Unit Verse, Mark 16:15, together. Inquire as to how this verse connects to today's Bible story.
- » Emphasize that God tells all Christians to help people hear the gospel. Paul told the people in Athens about the only true God.
- » Read the Review Questions to the kids and allow them to answer.
- » **Option:** Show the "Notebook Bible Story" video.

## 3. LIFE ACTION

- » Remind kids that today's Bible story told about people who worshiped false gods. These were statues of gods that were not alive and did not know them. The Greek gods were not real.
- » Explain that our God is the one true God. Our God is not made from wood or metal, our God is real and alive. Paul wanted everyone to know there is a God who is real and alive, who wants to have a relationship with the people He made.
- » Point out that Jesus died on the cross and rose again so that people can know God.
- » Pray, thanking God that He made a way for us to know Him through Jesus, His Son. Ask God to help us understand our responsibility to help everyone hear about Jesus.
- » Show "The Adventures of Dab and Derek" video.

## 4. UNIT VERSE

- » Lead kids to recite the "Unit 1 Verse" aloud then encourage volunteers to say it from memory.
- » Distribute the cutout hands the kids made in previous sessions.
- » Explain that the kids will write the Unit Verse on the hands.
- » Assign the words/phrases for kids to write.
- » Distribute black permanent markers for kids to write on top of the flags they drew on the hands in the last session.
- » When completed, the hands will form the verse when placed in the correct order.
- » Review the part of the verse that says "preach the gospel." Teach that this means we are to tell others about Jesus.
- » Collect the hands to use again in the next session.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

- » When Paul was in Athens, what troubling things did he see? (*false idols that the people had made and worshiped*)
- » What did the philosophers of Athens think of Paul? (*Some people thought he was teaching about foreign gods. Others wanted to know more.*)
- » What did Paul tell the men at the Areopagus? (*He recognized them as religious and told them about God.*)
- » What were some things that Paul told the people about God? (*God is Lord of heaven and earth. He created the people of every nation and wants them to know Him as God.*)
- » What happened after Paul spoke at the Areopagus? (*Some men and women in Athens became followers of Jesus.*)





## LIVE IT OUT

### CHOICE 1

- › Kids Activity Pages
- › pencils

### CHOICE 1

#### BUILD THE FAMILY

- › Ask kids: "How does the family of God grow?"
- › Teach kids that church and the people of the church are the family of God. Because God wants everyone to know Him and for His family to grow, it is important for us to tell others the good news about Jesus.
- › Invite kids to play a game to illustrate this.
- › Kids will spread out throughout the room and one person will start the game by walking around with his hands straight ahead of him. He will choose another player, come from behind, and place his hands on her shoulders. She will now be the leader.
- › Next, the new leader will hold her hands straight in front of her, with the first player still behind her. They will find another player. She will come from behind, place her hands on the third player's shoulders, and the third player is now the leader.
- › At this point, there is a train of three players, holding onto the shoulders of the person in front, with the last player added in front and leading. Continue until all players are part of the train.
- › State that all Christians have a responsibility to help everyone hear about Jesus. Through this, we can build the family of God.
- › Encourage kids to complete "Bible Story Puzzle" on their Kids Activity Pages and allow volunteers to share answers.

### CHOICE 2

- › Pack Item:  
5: "World Continents"—  
Make copies (1 per  
person).
- › Kids Activity Pages
- › colored pencils
- › permanent markers
- › scissors
- › clear packing tape
- › hole punch
- › string or twine

### CHOICE 2

#### LUGGAGE TAGS

- › Review the Unit Verse, Mark 16:15, and allow kids to tell what the verse means in their own words.
- › Point out that we can share about Jesus in our communities, and we can share about Jesus in faraway places. When we share away from home, we will need to take supplies with us as we travel. These supplies will be packed into bags.
- › Invite kids to make luggage tags to remind them what we are called to do—tell about Jesus!
- › Distribute a copy of "World Continents" to each person and set out the supplies.
- › Encourage kids to think about which continent they want to pray for by keeping one of them as a luggage tag.
- › Lead kids to choose and cut out the continent.
- › Once cut out, direct kids to write their names and parents' phone numbers on the backs of the tags in case the luggage gets lost.
- › Help kids cover the fronts of each tag in clear packing tape with a little overhang, then turn it over and cover the back as well, pressing the edges together to form sturdy protection to the tag.

**LIFE POINT**

*Christians have a responsibility to help everyone hear about Jesus.*

- » Trim off the extra tape around the edges.
- » Punch a hole in the top and loop some twine through and tie. The tags are ready to travel!
- » Encourage kids to complete "Missionary Me" on their Kids Activity Pages and allow volunteers to share the pictures they drew.

**CHOICE 3****SHARE THE GOSPEL**

- » Give each person a copy of "The Gospel" worksheet.
- » Explain that this worksheet explains the gospel. The word *gospel* means "good news." Sharing the good news is telling others about Jesus. When someone becomes a Christian, he should tell others about God and Jesus.
- » Set out the supplies.
- » Allow kids to cut out the symbols and glue them in the correct boxes. The crown/God Rules, the X/We Sinned, the cross/God Provided, the gift/Jesus Gives, and the raised hands/We Respond.
- » Choose a few of the verses on the worksheet to look up as a group. Allow kids to use their Bibles to look up and read aloud the verses.
- » Encourage kids to share their worksheets with their families.
- » Lead kids to complete "Missionary Me" on their Kids Activity Pages and guide volunteers to share the pictures they drew.

**WRAP UP**

- » Pray, asking God to help kids with the responsibility of telling other about Jesus.
- » Remind kids to take home their One Conversation pages and review them with their families.

**CHOICE 3**

- » Pack Item:  
6: "The Gospel"—Make copies (1 per person).
- » Kids Activity Pages
- » colored pencils
- » scissors
- » glue