

A G E L E S S

Touching all Generations with God's Good News

CHILDREN'S Lesson - The Gift of the Gospel

**MISSION
GEORGIA**

Season of Prayer and Offering
for State Missions

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BIBLE VERSES

Make copies of these verses for each child to take home, share with their parents, and use to make Bible verse memory games. These verses are also to be used in one of the activities for the session.

- ***For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. — John 3:16***
- ***For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift. — Ephesians 2:8***
- ***For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. — Romans 6:23***
- ***This grace was given to me—the least of all the saints! —to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of the Messiah. — Ephesians 3:8***
- ***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come. — 2 Corinthians 5:17***
- ***to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. — Ephesians 3:21***



Printable take home resource on Page 8



TEACHER PREPARATION

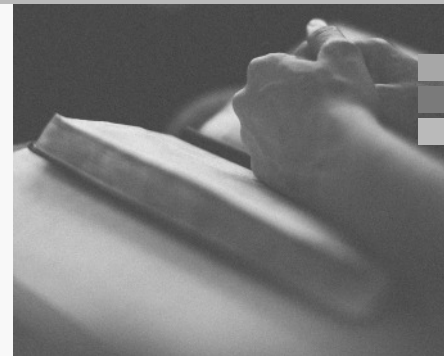
1. Read the story of Paul listed in the following Scripture passages:
Ephesians 3:7–11;23 and Acts 9:1–19.

As you read, note the following events in the life of Paul:

- While visiting the believers in Ephesus, Paul told them that he had become a follower of Jesus Christ and will be sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the Gentiles (Eph. 3:7–11).
- Paul had not always been a follower of Jesus Christ. As a Jew, Paul persecuted the followers of Christ because he believed that this was the right thing to do (Acts 9:1–2).
- Having received permission from the Jewish high priest to travel to Damascus to take captive the followers of Christ, Paul had an encounter with God through a blinding light and he heard a voice from heaven (Acts 9: 3–5).
- Paul then received specific instructions from Jesus. Unable to see, Paul's companions took him to Damascus where he stayed for three days and was without food or drink (Acts 9:6–9).
- Ananias, a disciple of Jesus, was instructed to go to Paul and share with him the Gospel—the message of Jesus Christ
- Ananias obeyed God and went to find Paul. When Paul heard the Word from the Lord, the Holy Spirit convicted him of his sins and need for a Savior. Paul became a follower of Christ and a changed man (Acts 9: 17–19).
- After accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, Paul lived a life of obedience to the commands of Jesus. He gave up his old ways of living a his old ways of living, became a preacher and went on three missionary journeys throughout the known world (1 Pet. 4:10–11).

Children need to know that the initial step in becoming a Christian is obedience, which is the beginning of a life of obedience, out of which flow blessings from God. Out of an obedient and grateful heart come the opportunities to give back to God all that we are and all that we possess (1 Pet. 4:10–11).

1. Pray and ask God to prepare your heart and mind as you study the Scripture passages and make plans for teaching the session. As you share the story and



Teaching Aim

- To learn what it means to become a follower of Jesus Christ.
- To learn how the apostle Paul became a follower of Jesus Christ.
- To learn how to become a follower of Christ and understand the plan of salvation.

Teaching Plan

Greet the Children

5 minutes

Small Group Activities

20–30 minutes

Put Away Materials

5 minutes

Large Group

20–30 minutes

Closing Prayer

5 minutes

Scripture passages, which explain how to become a Christian, be mindful of those children who have not made a decision to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and those who are hearing the plan of salvation for the first time. Children, as a rule, want to please adults. They will often answer questions like they think the teacher wants them to answer. Remember that the Holy Spirit will convict a child of his sins and will draw him to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. As you work with the children in the small group activities and in the large group, tell the children that if anyone has not made the decision to ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior and would like to do so, that you will speak privately to the child at the end of class. Be prepared to lead the child to Christ by using the Scriptures in the lesson and others which you have used before.

2. Remember to use your Bible when teaching the story in the large group.
3. Enlist one teacher for every three to six children expected to attend. A minimum of two teachers should work in a room with children.
4. Gather the supplies for each small group activity and for the large group.
5. Prepare the activities and be in the room before the first child arrives.

Greeting the Children

As each child arrives, greet him/her with a smile. Allow each child to choose one of the prepared activities. If a child completes one activity before the allotted time, the child may be encouraged to move to a second activity.

Small Group activities

(One to five children and, if possible, one teacher in each small group activity)

Activity #1: The Most Precious Gift

The Bible tells us that the most precious gift given to us was Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Explain to the children that Jesus came to earth for the purpose of providing a way for our sins to be forgiven and for us to be able to have eternal life in heaven. (Depending on the age and experiences of the children, this spiritual truth may be difficult for some to understand. Be prepared for many questions!)

NOTES

Materials For activity #1

- Bibles
- Multicolor Construction Paper
- Water-Based Markers
- Copies of the Session Bible Verses
- Scissors
- Small Gift Boxes or Bags
- Wrapping Paper
- Ribbon

Read the Bible verses to the children and emphasize the word “gift” found in each verse. Explain to them that the apostle Paul accepted God’s gift and became a follower of Jesus. He recognized that he had been wrong in what he was doing; he changed and began telling others about Jesus Christ, the most precious gift.

Provide each child with construction paper, markers, and scissors. Explain to the children that the selected Bible verses speak about the gift of Jesus Christ to the world. Each child will then select a verse and copy it onto the construction paper. After writing the verse and using the colored markers to decorate the paper, the children will then fold the paper and place it in a gift box or bag to be wrapped to give to the person of their choice. Explain to the children that just as Paul received and shared the gift of the Gospel, Jesus Christ, we should look for opportunities to share this gift with others.

Activity #2: A New Creation!

Explain to the children that the apostle Paul went through a dramatic change when he met Jesus on the road to Damascus. In preparation for the large group, the children will be making props or visuals to be used by the teacher. On each piece of felt/poster board, have a child write one of the words in large letters. Read the Scripture from Acts, which uses the words to be copied, and explain to the children why each word is important in the story about Paul’s life and experiences. Older children can use the Bible dictionary to look up and read about each of the words.

Jew: name given to God’s chosen people

Pharisee: religious leader of the Jewish people

Roman Citizen: person from a country that was ruling over the Jewish people at that time (Paul was a citizen of Rome as well as a Jew and a Pharisee)

Christ Follower: persons who chose to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior

Blind: could not see with their eyes

Damascus: city where a lot of Jewish people lived

Ananias: a follower of Jesus Christ

Holy Spirit: part of the Trinity/God, who convicts people of their sin and need for a Savior, Jesus Christ

NOTES

Materials For activity #2

- Bibles
- Bible Dictionary
- Felt Strips or Large Poster Board
- Water-Based Markers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Lists of Words
(emboldened to the left)

As the children are working on the props, explain to them the meaning of the words being written. Paul was one of the most intelligent and gifted men of his day. Because he was a Roman citizen, he had certain privileges that the Jewish people did not have. Because he was of the Jewish faith and population, he was a follower of the God of the Old Testament. Because he was a Pharisee, he was an educated man and a religious leader of the Jewish people. When Paul became a follower of Jesus Christ, he lost the respect of the Jewish religious leaders and the Jewish people.

After completing the activity, collect the felt/poster strips to be used in the large group.

Activity #3: Following Jesus

Explain to the children that the Apostle Paul chose to follow Jesus Christ as His Lord and Savior. From the Bible, read to them John 3:16 and explain to them the meaning of the verse and how to become a follower of Jesus.

Ask each child to place his foot on one of the brown paper bags and trace around his shoe. With the scissors, the child will then cut out his shoe print. Encourage the children to make several shoe prints to make a Bible verse memory game. Show the child how to write words from the Bible verse on several different shoe prints. Some children will want to put two or three words on one shoe print, and some will want to put one word on a shoe print. After writing each word in the verse on a shoe print, show the children how to arrange the words / shoe prints in the correct order. As they read through the verse they can take away several words and then try to remember the missing words as they read through the verse. They may want to exchange their Bible memory games with each other. After putting the words in the correct order several times, children may want to try and say the verse without looking at the words. Remind them of the meaning of the verse. Encourage them to play the game at home and work on memorizing the verse.

Putting away Materials

Ask the teacher in each small group to guide the children in putting away all the materials.

NOTES

Materials For activity #3

- Bible opened to John 3:16
- Small Brown Paper Lunch Bags
- Water-Based Markers
- Scissors

Because of his new belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, Paul changed from being a Jewish leader who persecuted Christians, to a follower of Jesus Christ. He then began to preach and teach the people of the world about Jesus, God's gift to the world.

Some of the children in the large group may want to know more about following Jesus as Lord and Savior. Explain to the group that if anyone has a specific question about becoming a follower of Jesus, that you would be happy to talk with him further—after class. Read aloud John 3:16 and explain the meaning of the verse to the children. If time allows, encourage the children to share with each other the work done in the small groups.

Close the session by singing together the song *"Jesus Loves Me."*

Group Prayer

Close the session with prayer.

NOTES



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BIBLE VERSE MEMORY GAME

"From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise."

2 Timothy 3:15

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