



# 3

## Paul's Third Journey

### Key Theme

- Jesus will build His church.

### Key Passages

- Acts 19:8–11, 19:20, 20:17, 20:28–31

### Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify where Paul taught in Ephesus and how the people reacted.
- Describe what Paul told the leaders from the church in Ephesus.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by working on the Memory Verse Review Sheet and reciting the verse to a friend.



### Activity 1: Paul's Third Journey Class Notes

Students will fill out Paul's Third Journey Class Notes as you study the lesson.



### Studying God's Word

On his third missionary journey Paul stayed in Ephesus the longest—about three years. There he spoke boldly to both Jews and Greeks, teaching them the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many people believed, and the message reached all of Asia. Later, Paul met with the leaders of the church of Ephesus to encourage them and warn them about false teachers that would come in among the flock.



### Activity 2: Wolves Not Welcome

Students will act out a skit about an elder who tries to teach false doctrine in a church. Two students, who are unshaken by his lies, have the opportunity to question him.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### COME ON IN

- ☐ Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- ☐ Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



### PAUL'S THIRD JOURNEY CLASS NOTES

- ☐ Print one Paul's Third Journey Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- ☐ Paul's Third Journey Class Notes for each student
- ☐ Paul's Third Journey Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils



### STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- ☐ Study the Prepare to Share section.
- ☐ Go Before the Throne.

- ☐ Student Take Home Sheets
- ☐ Romans 1:16 Memory Verse Poster



### WOLVES NOT WELCOME

- ☐ Print four Wolves Not Welcome Scripts from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- ☐ Four Wolves Not Welcome Scripts



## Memory Verse

**1 Corinthians 1:18** For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

➤ **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

There is no denying the fact that Paul was a busy man on a mission for the Lord Most High! When he and Silas had completed their second missionary journey, Paul returned to Antioch. But he did not remain long in Antioch before the Lord called him to continue his missionary work. This third missionary journey would be a bit different than the previous two. This journey would include a few new areas of ministry including an extended stay in the city of Ephesus, but Paul would also go back to many of the cities he had already visited. He was intent on strengthening and encouraging the churches and believers in these cities.

Paul and his traveling companions began this journey by going over to the regions of Galatia and Phrygia (Acts 18:23). They likely revisited the cities of Tarsus, Derbe, Iconium, and Antioch of Pisidia before heading to Ephesus (Acts 19:1). Most of Paul's time on this third journey was spent in the city of Ephesus (about three years!). Then from Ephesus the party traveled back to Macedonia and Greece (Acts 20:1–2), likely revisiting the churches in Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Corinth, and Athens. They then returned to Troas (Acts 20:6) and continued on to Assos, Mitylene, Samos, and Miletus (Acts 20:14–15). But this trip was not over yet! They continued on to Cos, Rhodes, and from there to Patara. There they boarded another ship and sailed to Tyre (Acts 21:3) and then traveled to Ptolemais (Acts 21:7). The group then came to Caesarea (Acts 21:8), and from there the journey ended in Jerusalem, where a mob rose up to kill Paul, and he was arrested (Acts 21:31, 21:33).

The key stop on this third missionary journey was the city of Ephesus, where Paul spent nearly three years! He first preached in the synagogue in that city and spoke boldly for Jesus for three months. He reasoned with and persuaded the Jews concerning the things of the kingdom of God. But many of the Jews were hardened to the things Paul spoke about—just as they had been in previous cities. They did not believe God's message of salvation, and they spoke evil about the Christians—the people of the Way. Because of this, Paul no longer taught in the synagogue but went with those who wanted to hear the truth to the School of Tyrannus in Ephesus. This was a lecture hall, and it is believed that Paul used the hall during the afternoon break from school—between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Paul con-

tinued to teach and proclaim Jesus Christ to that city for two years (Acts 19:8–10).

During Paul's time in Ephesus, the Bible tells us that he was given the power to perform signs and wonders in the name of Jesus Christ, working unusual miracles among the sick and demon possessed (Acts 19:11–12). These miracles served to confirm that Paul was speaking for God. The truth of his message, his passion, and his commitment, coupled with the miracles God allowed him to perform, brought much honor and glory to God. The Bible tells us that Paul's teaching ministry attracted people from all over that province of Asia so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks (Acts 19:10). And as Paul persevered in his obedience and loyalty to Jesus Christ, the Word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed (Acts 19:20).

It is no surprise that Paul made very close connections while he was in Ephesus for three years. And after leaving that city, he later met with the Ephesian elders—the leaders of the church—in the nearby city of Miletus (Acts 20:17). This last meeting with his dear friends summarizes Paul's heart and ministry for the Lord and the gospel. It is one of the most moving passages we have about Paul and his personal life. He verified that he held nothing back, but proclaimed the truth to those who would listen. He testified to Jews, and also to Greeks, the importance of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:20–21). He was aware that more trials, chains, and tribulations awaited him. But he assured the Ephesian elders that trials could not move him. Even his very life he did not count dear. His heart's desire was to finish the race the Lord had presented to him with joy and to continue to testify to the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:23–24). Paul warned the Ephesians of false teachers (Acts 20:29); he commended them to God and to the word of His grace (Acts 20:32); and he prayed and wept freely with them as he said good-bye—knowing he would not see them again on earth (Acts 20:36–38).

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

This third missionary journey of Paul occurred sometime around AD 54–58. On this journey, Paul traveled about 2,700 miles by land and by sea, over a period of about four years. This is about the same distance as traveling from Los Angeles, California, to Washington, DC. All of this travel was done by foot or by boat! Paul visited many of the cities where he and his companions

had started churches a few years before, and he went into new areas to preach the gospel as well.

The seven churches of Asia, addressed in Revelation chapters 2 and 3, are all located in the general area of Paul's work during his stay in Ephesus. This very well may have been the beginning of many of these congregations.

- Ephesus . . . . . Revelation 2:1–7
- Smyrna . . . . . Revelation 2:8–11
- Pergamum . . . . . Revelation 2:12–17
- Thyatira . . . . . Revelation 2:18–29
- Sardis . . . . . Revelation 3:1–6
- Philadelphia . . . . . Revelation 3:7–13
- Laodicea . . . . . Revelation 3:14–22



Paul chose the city of Ephesus as his ministry headquarters for this journey. Ephesus lies south of modern Smyrna in Western Turkey, and in Paul's day it was the capital of the Roman province of Asia. Ephesus was one of the three greatest cities of the eastern Mediterranean with a population of perhaps 250,000. Ephesus was an important port with good access to the interior of Asia Minor.

Ephesus was also the center for the worship of Artemis, or Diana—the Asian goddess of fertility. Her temple was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Most of the descriptions of the original Temple of Artemis come from the historian Pliny. Pliny describes the temple as 377 feet long and 180 feet wide made almost entirely of marble. The temple consisted of 127 Ionic columns, each 60 feet in height; many of which were decoratively carved. Unfortunately, all that remains of this wonder of the world is a single column and some rubble on the ground.

The Temple of Artemis was surrounded by priests and priestesses, musicians, dancers, and acrobats.

The temple had its own mounted police, and the city became rich from the silver statues and votive offerings offered to Diana.

The ritual of the temple services consisted of sacrifices and of ceremonial prostitution. Huge processions honored her statues. Celebrations were held with music, dancing, singing, dramatic presentations, and chanting of allegiance.

The temple served as both a marketplace and a religious institution, and was frequently visited by merchants, tourists, artisans, and dignitaries who paid homage to the goddess by sharing their profits with her. Often vendors could be found selling miniature statues of Artemis to worshippers or to those who had just come to see the temple.

And it was these statue vendors, Demetrius in particular, who got upset with Paul as he proclaimed the gospel throughout Asia (Acts 19:23–27). If believed, Paul's preaching about Jesus Christ would put an end to idol worship. This would seriously affect their livelihood. It was these vendors who caused confusion that bordered on a riot as they stirred up the people who rushed into the theater after apprehending Paul's travel companions (Acts 19:28–29). This Great Theater in Ephesus was the second most impressive structure in Ephesus. It had 66 rows of stone seats and could hold up to 25,000 spectators. Thankfully for Paul and his companions, the city clerk quieted the crowd and dispersed the people before anyone was hurt (Acts 19:35–41).

As we read the details of these ancient cities recorded in Scripture and compare them with historical and archaeological information that confirms the Bible's authenticity, we are filled with confidence that we can trust God's Word from the beginning to the end. It is a rich book of true history, but much more than that, it provides to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue to be His (2 Peter 1:3).



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Jesus, I praise you for the truth you have given us in your Word. I pray you will continue to grow me and my students in the grace and knowledge of you and your Word, so we will not be fooled by men who try to twist and change your holy, infallible truths. Holy Spirit, bring to mind the Word you inspired as we battle the false images and media lies of our day. Use this lesson to change my students' hearts and minds, as I remind them of the authority of your Word and the truth of the gospel.



## COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

*This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.*



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



## REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



## Paul's Third Journey Class Notes

### MATERIALS

- ☐ Paul's Third Journey Class Notes for each student
- ☐ Paul's Third Journey Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.*

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. We'll finish them together.

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will see what happened on Paul's third missionary journey.



## Studying God's Word

### READ THE WORD

*Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map.* There is no denying it. Paul was a busy man. He was on a mission for the Lord, and it seemed as though nothing could stop him! He had been persecuted, put in jail, run out of town, stoned, left for dead, worshipped as a god, and so much more! But he kept on!

*Refer to the Romans 1:16 Memory Verse Poster from Quarter 3.* Paul was NOT ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

➤ Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map to follow Paul's travels as you teach the lesson.



► If necessary have students read the verse from the poster first, then let others recite it from memory.

? Who can recite Romans 1:16 for us? That was our memory verse last time.  
*Assign someone to recite or read the verse.*

Paul preached the gospel. He knew that it was the power of God for salvation to everyone who would believe.

? Refer to *Paul's Missionary Journeys Map* and *Lesson 1 Lesson Theme Poster*. How did the people in all these cities react to Paul and the gospel? *Allow discussion.*

Some people believed and others did not! Trouble followed Paul wherever he went because of those people who did not believe in Jesus! They wanted to stop him no matter what it took!

? What happened in the city of Philippi when Paul met Lydia and the women on the Sabbath day? This was on his second missionary journey. *Allow discussion.*

God arranged for Paul to meet Lydia and the women. Lydia heard Paul preach about Jesus, and God opened her heart to the truth. She believed! She was saved by God's grace through Jesus Christ!

*Refer to Lesson 2 Lesson Theme Poster.* And remember the jailer in Philippi? God used what looked like a terrible thing to cause something very wonderful to happen there.

? What am I talking about? What terrible thing happened to Paul and Silas in Philippi? *Allow discussion. They were arrested, beaten, and thrown in prison.*

? Yes! They were in prison in chains! But what wonderful thing did God do through that horrible situation? *Allow discussion.*

Paul and Silas told the jailer about the Lord, and he and his household believed! They were saved by God's grace through Jesus Christ!

*Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map.* So after two long missionary trips, Paul returned to Antioch. But he wouldn't be home for long. God soon sent him on the third journey! On that journey, Paul returned to many of the cities he had already visited. He wanted to help the churches that were started there and encourage them to be strong in their faith for Jesus.

Let's take a look at where this third journey took Paul and his traveling companions. Again, it was a long journey. They began this journey by going over to the regions of *Galatia* and *Phrygia*. They likely revisited the cities of *Tarsus*, *Derbe*, *Iconium*, and *Antioch* before heading to *Ephesus*.

This is where Paul spent most of his time on this journey. We'll talk more about *Ephesus* later. But from *Ephesus* they traveled back to *Macedonia* and *Greece*. They likely revisited the believers and churches in *Philippi*, *Thessalonica*, *Berea*, *Corinth*, and *Athens*. They then returned to *Troas* and continued on to *Assos*, *Mitylene*, *Samos*, and *Miletus*.

Paul's trip was not over yet! They continued on to *Cos*, *Rhodes*, and from there to *Patara*. There they boarded a ship and sailed to *Tyre* and

► You can have students find each city on the map as you discuss Paul's second journey, or point out where each city is as you discuss it.

traveled to *Ptolemais*. The group then came to *Caesarea* and from there the journey ended in *Jerusalem*. Through all these travels, Paul wanted everyone to hear about Jesus Christ, the Messiah. That is why he traveled so far and so often. God was using Paul to build Jesus's church!

*Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map.* That was quite a journey overall! But like I said Paul spent most of his time on this journey in the city of Ephesus. In fact, the Bible says he spent nearly three years in Ephesus. When he got there Paul immediately wanted to begin preaching and teaching about Jesus! That is what we are going to read about today.

Turn in your Bibles to Acts 19:8–11. This tells us about Paul's stay in the city of Ephesus. Let's read. *Acts 19:8–11. Choose students to read the verses.*

Acts 19:8–11

## EXAMINE THE WORD

Very good! Now let's answer a few questions about what happened in Ephesus. Use your Bible to find the answers.

### Observe the Text

- ? First, look at verse 8. Where did Paul go to preach in the city of Ephesus?  
*Acts 19:8. To the synagogue.*

Yes. The synagogue was where the Jews would normally gather and listen to preaching and teaching. Since Paul was a Jew, he could go into the synagogue and teach. But as we have learned, many Jews did not believe what Paul told them about Jesus and they wanted him to stop—even to the point of stoning him, throwing him in jail, and running him out of town!

- ? How long was Paul able to preach in the synagogue in Ephesus? Look in Acts 19:8. *Acts 19:8. Three months.*

- ? Why did Paul stay only three months? Look in Acts 19:9. That verse tells what some of the Jews thought of Paul's teaching. What did they think?  
*Acts 19:9. They were hardened and did not believe.*

- ? What did these Jews who did not believe Paul do to stop him? *Acts 19:9. They spoke evil of the Way.*

"The Way" is another name for those who believed in Jesus—the Christians. Believers at that time were known to be a part of the Way. The Jews rose up and started talking badly about the Christians.

- ? When all of this evil talk started, what did Paul do? Paul began to teach somewhere else. Where did he move his teaching to? Look in Acts 19:9 for the answer. *Acts 19:9. The School of Tyrannus.*

That's right. Paul stopped teaching in the synagogue. He went to a lecture hall in the city called the School of Tyrannus to teach.

- ? How long did Paul teach at the School of Tyrannus? *Acts 19:10. Two years.*

? So, who heard Paul's teaching about Jesus Christ during these two years?  
Look at the end of Acts 19:10. *Acts 19:10. All who dwelt in Asia heard the Word, both Jews and Greeks.*

? Take a look at your class notes. Let's do a quick review. Paul spent a lot of time in the city of Ephesus. How long did he stay there? Will someone read #1? *Assign a reader. Three.*

? And what about #2? Who can read that and answer it for us? *Assign a reader. Believe.*

? Paul was run out of the synagogue in Ephesus! So he went to the School of Tyrannus. Who heard him there? Will someone read #3 on the class notes? *Assign a reader. Greeks.*

Once again, Jesus was building His church! Jews AND Greeks were hearing the truth and believing. God was using Paul to spread His Word throughout Asia.

## Acts 19:20

? Now drop down to Acts 19:20. Will someone read that for us? Assign a reader. *Acts 19:20.*

? What was happening in and around Ephesus because Paul was teaching the Word of the Lord? *Acts 19:20. The Word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.*

### Discover the Truth

God is always working! When Paul came to Ephesus he went right to the synagogue to begin teaching. Paul was a Jew and he wanted to tell the Jews about Jesus, the Messiah. However, many of them would not believe. They began to speak evil of the Christians. So, Paul left the synagogue and went to another place in the city to teach—the School of Tyrannus. He taught at this lecture hall for two years! At the School of Tyrannus Paul was able to teach many different people. And God blessed his work. The Bible says that all who dwelt in Asia heard the Word of God—both Jews and Greeks. The Word of the Lord was growing mightily! People were believing! Jesus was building His church.

? Now let's complete #4 on our class notes. Who can read it to the class and give us the answer? *Assign a reader. All.*

Paul was obedient to God's call on his life. And more and more people were hearing the truth about Jesus.



### READ THE WORD

*Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map.* After almost three years with the people in Ephesus, God called Paul to move on. It was probably hard for him to say goodbye. There were a lot of believers there, and I'm sure they loved Paul and were sad to see him go.



Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. But Paul did leave Ephesus. And he didn't know if he would ever see his friends there again! But he continued to visit many cities and churches—like Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Corinth, and Athens! Paul wanted to help the new believers. He wanted to be sure they were standing strong for Jesus!

➤ Refer to and point out the cities Paul visited after he left Ephesus on the map.

- ? Paul's journey finally brought him to the city of Miletus. *Refer to map.* Can you see how close it is to the city of Ephesus? When Paul got here he did something. Let's read and see what happened here in Miletus. Turn to Acts 20:17. Will someone read that? *Acts 20:17. Choose a student to read the verse.*

Acts 20:17

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? What did Paul do from the city of Miletus? *Acts 20:17. He called for the elders of the church of Ephesus.*

- ? Do you know what the word "elders" means? *Allow discussion.*

Elders refers to leaders in the church. The Bible tells us that every church should have elders—godly leaders—men who help the church remain true to the Bible, the gospel, and to God.

The church at Ephesus had elders, and Paul called for them. He wanted to give them some final advice. He didn't think that he would ever see them again. Turn to Acts 20:28–31. We'll read what Paul told his friends—the elders—at Ephesus. *Acts 20:28–31. Choose students to read.*

Acts 20:28–31

- ? In Acts 20:28 Paul told the elders to take "heed" to themselves. What do you think that means? *Allow discussion.*

Take heed to yourself means to be careful or pay attention to what you are doing. Paul wanted the elders to be careful and teach God's truth. He didn't want them to listen to anyone who might teach them lies about Jesus.

- ? Paul wanted the elders to take heed to themselves. He wanted them to stay true to the real truth about Jesus. But there was someone else these leaders in the church were to take heed to. Who was that? Look in Acts 20:28. *Acts 20:28. The flock among you.*

- ? What did Paul mean when he said to these men, "the flock" among them? *Allow discussion.*

Remember, the men he called from Ephesus to Miletus were leaders and teachers. They were considered overseers, or shepherds, and were called to take care of the flock—the people whom God had given them to teach. Paul was referring to the believers in the church.

- ? God purchased this church with something. What was that? *Acts 20:28. With His own blood.*

? Whose blood is he talking about? Who died so sinners could be forgiven?  
*Acts 20:28. Jesus.*

? Why did Paul want the elders to be so careful—to take heed to themselves and to the flock of believers in their church? Look in Acts 20:29. What did Paul think would soon happen in the church? *Savage wolves would come in among them.*

? What was Paul talking about when he said savage wolves would come in among them? *Allow discussion.*

He wasn't talking about real wolves! Paul was talking about false teachers—men who would not teach the truth. These false teachers would be very dangerous to a church—as dangerous as savage wolves would be to sheep out in the field at night.

? Someone read Acts 20:30 again for us. *Acts 20:30. Assign a reader.*

? Who did Paul say would rise up among them? *Acts 20:30. Men.*

? What would these men do? *Acts 20:30. Speak perverse things.*

? What does *perverse* mean? *Allow discussion.*

In this verse that word means false things or lies. Again, Paul was warning the leaders of the church that they should always be careful and ready to stop false teachers who would twist God's Word and change the meaning of it.

### Discover the Truth

*Refer to Memory Verse Poster.* Paul loved the gospel. Our memory verse tells us what he believed about the message of the Cross. Let's read that together.  
*Read 1 Corinthians 1:18 together.*

? Can anyone recite the verse for us without looking at the poster? *Allow students to say the verse.*

Paul knew that the message of the gospel and the Cross was foolishness to many people—people who did not believe and who were perishing in their sins. Paul warned the leaders in Ephesus, and ALL church leaders, that there would be people—false teachers—who would try to destroy the church by telling lies about Jesus. Paul called these false teachers "savage wolves" because they were dangerous to believers, and they would creep about and attack, hoping to destroy the truth of God.

? Let's go back to the class notes and finish those up. Will someone read #5 for us? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. False.*

? And what about #6. Who knows that one? *Assign a reader. Wolves.*

? And the last one—#7? Will someone read that? *Assign a reader. Foolishness.*



► If time allows, assign students to re-read the points on the class notes as a review and briefly discuss them.



## Wolves Not Welcome Skit

### MATERIALS

- ❑ Four Wolves Not Welcome Scripts from the Resource DVD-ROM

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Assign three students to play the characters. Encourage the actors to speak up and play their roles with enthusiasm.*

Today we get to watch a skit about a church! It's a strange day at the Ephesus First Church of Paul. Teacher Wolf is a false teacher who is trying to teach lies to the church. Sam and Faith are Christians and members of the church. Let's see what happens. *Have students perform the short skit.*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

It's one thing to listen to a lesson like the one we just had. And it's another to take

what you are hearing from God's Word and apply it to real life! That's just what Sam and Faith were doing in this skit. They knew that Teacher Wolf was teaching things that weren't true. They weren't fooled because they knew their Bible.

That's what Paul wanted the elders in Ephesus to do. He warned them about false teachers he called wolves. Even though he was traveling far away, Paul loved his brothers and sisters in Ephesus and wanted them to be careful about men who would teach against the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We should be careful, too! Like the characters in our skit, we won't be fooled if we always look



## Applying God's Word

### WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*Refer to the Lesson 3 Lesson Theme Poster.* Paul spent nearly three years in Ephesus on his third missionary journey. He taught in the synagogue for three months. Then some of the Jews became hardened and spoke evil about the Christians, so Paul moved his teaching to the school of Tyrannus. He stayed there for over two years. Paul's teaching spread far and wide while he was in Ephesus. Although many Jews did not believe, many Jews and Greeks heard the Word of the Lord and believed! Paul continued on his journey and left the church and the new believers behind.

Not long after Paul left Ephesus, he arranged a meeting with the elders of the church to warn them of the dangers of false teachers. He told them these false teachers would not believe what the Bible said and would try to add to it or take things out. He called these false teachers "wolves" because they wanted to destroy the church. Paul wanted the leaders in

Ephesus to guard the new Christians from any false teachers that were sure to arise.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

? Do you think we still have to watch out for false teachers in the church? Or was that something that was only for the church 2,000 years ago? *Allow discussion.*

Of course! We had an example in the skit we just watched. Paul's warning was for the church at Ephesus. But God's Word is for all of us. The problem of false teachers is still real! Savage wolves are always trying to attack the flock. That means false teachers are always trying to get Christians to believe something different than what God's Word says.

What can be done about it? Know God's Word! Check out every teaching against what God's Word says to make sure it is true. And if you aren't sure if something lines up with God's Word, ask about it with respect. Don't be afraid to ask questions of your teachers and leaders when they are teaching you about God. Simply say, "Where can I find that in God's Word?" Or ask, "Can you show me where that is in the Bible?" You'll be learning and guarding your heart from false teaching at the same time.



► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.



### MEMORY VERSE

**1 Corinthians 1:18** For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.



### GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God for the truth of His Word.
- Ask God to help us know the difference between the truth of His Word and lies that cause us to doubt or question God and His Word.