



# 3

## Paul's Third Journey

### Key Theme

- Jesus will build His church.

### Key Passages

- Acts 19:8, 19:10, 19:20, 20:17, 20:28–29

### Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe how people responded to Paul's teaching.
- Describe what Paul said about false teachers.



## 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 match the shapes and fill out Paul's Third Journey Class Notes as you study the lesson.



### Studying God's Word

On Paul's third missionary journey, he 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: Paul's Journey Game

Teams will take turns answering review questions to send their "Paul" on a journey around the room. First team to finish the journey, wins.

# 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
- Pencils



### PAUL'S THIRD JOURNEY CLASS NOTES

- Print 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.
- Print the four Lesson Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Four Lesson Illustrations
- Tape or poster putty
- Memory Verse Poster
- Student Take Home Sheets



### PAUL'S JOURNEY GAME

- Print one Paul's Journey Game Teacher Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Print and cut apart the Paul's Journey Game City Signs from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Tape the signs up in order around the room.

- Paul's Journey Game Teacher Guide
- Paul's Journey Game City Signs taped up around the room
- Tape or poster putty



### MEMORY VERSE REVIEW GAME (OPTIONAL)

- This is an optional activity to use in some or all of the lessons to review the memory verse if time allows.
- Print onto cardstock and cut out the Memory Verse Flashcards from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Keep the cards for use in other lessons.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Flashcards
- Tape or poster putty



## 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.*

- The class notes are designed and written simply. Please encourage and help your students to read them as the class progresses. They are an excellent means to review important lesson principles.

Today you will complete the class notes by matching the shapes to find the right answers. But don't work ahead! I want to finish them together during the lesson.

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we go through our lesson today, we will see what Paul did in the city of Ephesus on his third journey and hear what he said about sheep and ferocious wolves!



## Studying God's 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!*

- ? Why would Paul keep preaching, even after all these awful things happened to him? What message was so important to him? Look at the

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

**Memory Verse Poster for a hint.** *Refer to the Memory Verse Poster. 1 Corinthians 1:18. The message of the Cross.*

? **That's right. And what is the message of the Cross?** *The gospel. Jesus died on the Cross for sinners.*

*Refer to the Memory Verse Poster. Let's say the memory verse together. Repeat 1 Corinthians 1:18.*

? *Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. Paul preached in a lot of cities. How did the people in all these cities respond to Paul and the gospel?* *Allow discussion. Some believed, but some did not.*

? **It seems like wherever Paul went, trouble followed him. Why was there always trouble? Who caused problems for Paul?** *Those who did not believe.*

**Yes! There were always people who did NOT believe his message about Jesus. And they would get angry and try to stop him!**

**But God is sovereign—He is always in control. And God chose to use Paul in a big way.**

? *Refer to Lesson 2 Lesson Theme Poster. Do you remember what happened in Philippi when Paul met Lydia by the river?* *Allow discussion. Lydia believed Paul's message.*

**Yes. Lydia heard Paul preach about Jesus, and God opened her heart and helped her understand the truth. She believed and was saved through Jesus Christ!**

**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? Where did they end up while they were in Philippi?** *Allow discussion. They were thrown in prison.*

**They were not only thrown in prison but beaten with rods and put in metal chains! And yet, God used Paul and Silas while they were in prison to tell the jailer about the Lord. He asked what he could do to be saved, and Paul told him, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved!"**

*Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. We have talked about Paul's first and second journeys. After that second journey, Paul went back to Antioch. But he wasn't home for long. God soon sent him on a third journey! This time, Paul went back to many of the cities he had already visited. He wanted to help the churches that were started in those cities and encourage the believers to stay strong in their faith for Jesus.*

*Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. Follow the path of journey three, and point out areas as you explain. This trip was a really long trip, too. Paul and his friends started by going over to these places called Galatia and Phrygia. They probably visited the cities of Tarsus, Derbe, Iconium, and Antioch.*

## SOVEREIGN

*(Refer to Attributes Poster)*

➤ If needed, print the Map Pronunciation Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM, Lesson 1, for help pronouncing the place names.

➤ You can have students find each city on the poster as you discuss Paul's third journey or point out where each city is as you discuss it.

Then they headed over to a city called *Ephesus*. This is where Paul spent most of his time on this third journey. In fact, he was in Ephesus for about three years! When Paul and his companions left *Ephesus* they went to the churches in *Philippi*, *Thessalonica*, *Berea*, *Corinth*, and *Athens*. *Troas* was the next stop. Then the cities of *Assos*, *Mitylene*, *Samos*, and *Miletus*.

But wait! The trip was not over yet! They kept going to *Cos*, *Rhodes*, and then to *Patara*. Now remember most of this is walking! Wow! How would you like to walk this far? Finally, they got on a ship and sailed to *Tyre* and went to *Ptolemais*. Then the journey ended here in *Jerusalem*.



➤ Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we have written these lessons for you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, please encourage your students to bring Bibles to class. And if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.

## READ THE WORD

Refer to Paul's *Missionary Journeys Map*. This was a very long journey. And Paul spent a lot of time in the city of Ephesus where he preached and taught about Jesus.

We are going to talk a little about his time in Ephesus, starting with Acts 19:8. Listen as I read this, and when I'm finished you can tell me what Paul did when he got to this city. *Read Acts 19:8.*

Acts 19:8

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

? Where did Paul go when he got to Ephesus according to what I just read?  
*Acts 19:8. To the synagogue.*

Right! Paul went to the synagogue. This is where the Jews gathered for prayer and worship. And this is where Paul went and boldly preached to them.

? How long did Paul teach there? *Re-read Acts 19:8 if necessary. He taught for three months.*

Yes. The Bible says Paul taught in the synagogue for three months. He was teaching about the kingdom of God.

? And what do you think happened next? What seemed to follow Paul wherever he went? What happened in the other cities Paul visited? *Allow discussion. People did not believe, and Paul got into trouble.*

Some of the Jews did not believe what Paul told them about Jesus, and they wanted to stop him. The Bible tells us these people started saying evil things about Paul and the people who believed the message of Jesus. Paul had to leave the synagogue.

But that didn't stop him! Paul went to a different place in the city where Jews AND Gentiles could come and listen to him teach the gospel. This place was called the school of Tyrannus. Listen as I read about that. *Read Acts 19:10.*

Acts 19:10

## Acts 19:20

? How long did Paul preach at this special school? *Acts 19:10. Two years.*

Paul taught the gospel in Ephesus for about three years all together! I wonder if anyone listened. Well, I want you to listen to me because the Bible gives us the answer to that question. I'm going to read Acts 19:20.

*Read Acts 19:20.*

? What does this verse tell us about the word of the Lord that Paul was preaching? *Acts 19:20. It grew mightily.*

### Discover the Truth

*Refer to Lesson Theme Poster.* 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 the truth that Jesus was the promised Messiah. But many of them would not believe. Instead, they started saying evil things about Paul and the Christians. So, Paul left the synagogue and went to another place in the city to teach—to the school of Tyrannus. Here he taught Jews and Greeks for two years! And the word of the Lord grew mightily! Jesus was building His church.

? OK. Now let's take a look at the class notes. Remember, if you match the shapes you will find the answer! Someone read #1 for us. Where did Paul spend most of his time on journey three? *Assign a reader. Ephesus. Have students complete #1.*

? While in Ephesus how long did Paul preach to the Jews in the synagogue? Who will read #2 for us? *Assign a reader. Three. Have students complete #2.*

? Why did Paul stop preaching in the synagogue? Who will read #3? *Assign a reader. Stop. Have students complete #3.*

? What did these people say about Paul? Someone read #4 for us. What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Evil. Have students complete #4.*

? OK. Now #5. Let's read that one. Paul taught both Jews and Greeks at the school of Tyrannus. How long did he teach there? *Assign a reader. Two. Have students complete #5.*



### READ THE WORD

*Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map.* After Paul spent almost three years all together with the people in Ephesus, God called him 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.* Point out some of the other cities Paul visited before he came back to Miletus. Paul visited many other cities after he left Ephesus, and his journey finally brought him to the city of Miletus. See how close it is to the city of Ephesus? Well, he did something in Miletus. Let's read and see what he did. *Read Acts 20:17.*

## 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 are leaders in the church. The Bible tells us that every church should have godly men who will lead the church, teach the Bible, and protect the church.

*Pass out the four Lesson Illustrations. I am going to read what Paul told the elders at Ephesus. But before I do, I’m going to give these pictures to four of you. Set them beside you. I will want you to bring them up later and put them on the board.*

Listen to this verse carefully so you can answer some questions. It is Acts 20:28. *Read Acts 20:28.*

? Paul told the elders to “take heed” to themselves. What does “take heed” mean? *Acts 20:28. Allow discussion.*

“Take heed” to yourself means to be careful or pay attention to what you are doing. Paul wanted the leaders in the church to be careful and always teach the truth.

? Listen again to this verse. What did the Holy Spirit make these leaders, or elders, in the church? *Re-read Acts 20:28b emphasizing “overseers to shepherd the church of God.”*

? Who has picture #1? Bring it up now, please. *Allow student to attach Lesson Illustration #1 to the board.*

*Refer to Lesson Illustration #1. The Bible says that the elders are to be like shepherds. They are to care for the church and the people in the church like a shepherd cares for his sheep.*

? Now, who do you think the sheep are? Who has picture #2? Will you bring that up? *Allow student to attach Lesson Illustration #2 to the board.*

? Who do the sheep represent? What does picture #2 say? *Believers are like a shepherd’s sheep.*

*Refer to Lesson Illustrations #1 & #2. The elders Paul was talking to were leaders and teachers—the Bible calls them shepherds. Paul was telling them to watch out for and care for the believers—the sheep—in the church.*

OK. Now let’s read what else Paul told the elders. Listen! *Read Acts 20:29.*

? What did Paul say would soon happen in the church after he left? *Savage wolves would come in among them.*

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text.

Acts 20:28

Acts 20:29

- ? Oooh! That sounds scary! A savage wolf is mean and dangerous. What was Paul talking about when he said savage wolves? Did he actually mean the animals with big teeth and claws? *Allow discussion.*
- ? Who has pictures #3 and #4? Will you bring those up now? *Allow students to attach Lesson Illustrations #3 and #4 to the board.*

*Refer to Lesson Illustration #3.* These “wolves” Paul was talking about are liars and people who do not teach the truth about Jesus. They are false teachers! They twist God’s Word and confuse people so they will not understand what is really true about Jesus.

*Refer to Lesson Illustration #4.* These false teachers are very dangerous to a church—as dangerous as savage wolves are to sheep out in the field at night. And just like a shepherd must guard his flock and keep the wolves away, the elders of a church have to be careful to protect the people in the church from lies about Jesus.

### Discover the Truth

*Refer to Lesson Illustrations on the board and the Lesson Theme Poster.* Paul called the leaders from Ephesus to come to Miletus. He wanted to tell them that they had to be careful! They had to be like shepherds and watch out for the sheep—the people in their churches. Paul knew there would be false teachers who would want to confuse the people about the truth of the gospel.

Paul told the leaders that these false teachers would be dangerous to the church—as dangerous as a pack of wolves coming down on sheep in the field at night!

- ? Let’s finish up our class notes now. You can use the lesson pictures here on the board for help. Who will read #6 for us? *Assign a reader. Elders. Have students complete #6.*
- ? And how about #7? What are believers in the church like? *Assign a reader. Sheep. Have students complete #7.*
- ? Who will read #8? What are false teachers compared to? *Assign a reader. Wolves. Have students complete #8.*



➤ If time allows, do a quick review of each point on the class notes.



# Paul's Journey Game

## MATERIALS

- Paul's Journey Game Teacher Guide
- Paul's Journey Game City Signs
- Tape or poster putty

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Teacher Instructions: Place the ten Paul's Journey Game City Signs around the room. Divide the class into two or more teams depending on the class size. Each team will select one person to be "Paul" for that team. The "Pauls" will stand by the #1 Start sign. Read the names on the signs reminding the students where Paul's third journey took him. Ask the first team a question. If the students answer correctly, their "Paul" should move to the next city sign. If the students answer incorrectly, their "Paul" may not move. Ask the other team the same question. If the students answer it correctly their "Paul" may move AND that same team will also get a new question. The first team to reach the #10 Finish sign AND answer the question correctly at the finish sign, wins. If there is extra time, you may want to switch teams and "Pauls" and play again. Or, have the entire team "travel" together as they answer questions.*

OK. Now we are going to get into teams and play the "Paul's Journey Game." Each team needs to pick one person to be

"Paul." It can be a boy or a girl. The "Pauls" will all stand by the Start sign with the #1 on it. Each team needs to help its "Paul" complete the journey around the room by correctly answering the questions I ask. Whenever your team gets an answer right, your "Paul" can move to the next city sign. But if your team doesn't answer a question right, the other team will get a chance to answer it. The first team to get its "Paul" all the way to the Finish sign, #10, AND can answer the last question wins. Let's get started! *Play the game.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Paul spent a lot of time on his third journey. He wanted to teach and encourage the believers to stay strong in Jesus. He warned the church leaders to beware of false teachers who would come in and tell lies about God and His Word.





# Memory Verse Review Game (Optional)

**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.

*If you find you have extra time, please consider reviewing the memory verse with your class by playing this game.*

## MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Flashcards printed on cardstock
- Tape or poster putty

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Print and cut out one copy of the Memory Verse Flashcards, preferably onto cardstock. Tape the cards in order on the wall or board as you recite the verse together. Review the verse as you point to each card. Choose a student to remove one card of his choice. Recite the verse again. Continue to choose students to remove cards one at a time, reciting the whole verse between each one.*

**Let's say the memory verse together.** Point to each flashcard as you say each word and have the students repeat. **Good job! Now I want one of**

you to come up and take one of the cards down. Then someone can try and say the verse without that card! **Are you ready?** Call on a student to take down one card then recite the verse together. Continue until the cards are gone and the whole verse is recited from memory.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

*Put the appropriate flashcards on the board as you explain.*

- ? **What does foolishness mean?** *Something that seems silly or stupid.*
- ? **Right. And what will happen to those who think the message of what Jesus did on the Cross is silly or stupid?** *They will perish.*
- ? **But what about those who are being saved? Is the message of the Cross foolishness, or is it powerful?** *It is powerful.*
- ? **Whose power can save sinners?** *God's power.*



# Applying God's Word

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*Refer to Lesson Theme Poster.* God called Paul to travel again. Most of the cities he visited had new churches of believers. Paul took time to visit them and encourage them to stay strong in their faith in Jesus.

When Paul got to Ephesus, he wanted to preach to the Jews, so he went to the Jewish synagogue. But after the Jews listened for a few months, some of them did not believe the message of the Cross. They started speaking evil about what Paul taught of Jesus and about those who believed the message. So, Paul moved to the school of Tyrannus to teach. And many people came to listen—Jews and Gentiles heard the good news of Jesus!

Later on that journey, Paul wanted to see leaders of the church in Ephesus again. He spoke to them and told them to be on guard for those who would try to creep in like wolves and tell lies to the people and twist God's Word. He told them they needed to watch over the believers in their church just like shepherds need to guard their flocks of sheep.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Paul warned the leaders from the city of Ephesus about false teachers. And guess what? The problem of false teachers is still real in the church today! The Bible calls them savage wolves, and they tell lies about God's Word so that Christians get confused and don't know what the real truth is!

But you can be ready! Keep learning God's Word! If something you hear doesn't make sense, or you don't think that is what the Bible says, ask someone you trust about it—someone like your parents or pastor or Sunday School teacher. Don't be afraid to ask questions about what you are learning when it comes to God's Word.



➤ 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, and ask for help to keep learning it.
- 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.

