



Encouraging the Churches

5



Key Passages

- 1 Corinthians 1:18; Galatians 1:1–2; Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1

Lesson Focus

- God used Paul to help the church to grow.

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will find the things that don't belong in the Shipwreck Picture and circle them as a review of Lesson 4 and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—God sent Paul on four long journeys. On his journeys, Paul told many people about Jesus. Later, he wrote letters to the new churches in some of the cities to help the churches grow.

Song Time—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: Letter Hunt

Students will search the room for letters Paul wrote to the new churches. Then they will help complete the letters and color them.



Activity 2: Paul Wrote to the Churches

Students will follow the path to the places Paul wrote letters to—Galatia, Ephesus, and Philippi. Then they will mark the places with stickers and color the rest of the map.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they play a game and recite/sing the verse. Give them an opportunity to repeat the verse with you or after you individually.



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

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



COME ON IN

- Print one Shipwreck Picture from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Provide play dough if appropriate.

- Shipwreck Picture for each student
- Crayons
- Play dough
- Cookie cutters



CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.
- Print the Transportation Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use during class.

- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Bible
- Transportation Illustrations
- Lesson Flip Chart Page



LETTER HUNT

- Print the Letter to the Galatians, Letter to the Ephesians, and Letter to the Philippians from the Resource DVD-ROM. Print only one letter per student, but be sure all three of the letters are used.
- Glue each letter to brown construction paper (optional).
- Roll the letters and tie with yarn or string.
- Hide the letters around the classroom.

- Letters, one per student (be sure to use the three different letters—Ephesians, Philippians, and Galatians)
- Brown construction paper (optional)
- Yarn or string
- Glue
- Crayons



PAUL WROTE TO THE CHURCHES

- Print one Paul Wrote to the Churches Activity Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Bring in appropriate stickers students can use to mark the places on their map.

- Paul Wrote to the Churches Activity Sheet for each student
- Appropriate stickers
- Crayons



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- Print and cut out one set of the 13 Memory Verse Flashcards from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use—preferably on cardstock. You will use these cards for Lessons 1–5.

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Memory Verse Flashcards
- Tape or poster putty



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Lesson Flip Chart for Review
- Snacks



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

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

The Apostle Paul serves as a great example to all Christians today. He loved His Savior. God used him in a mighty way to further the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ. Paul suffered trial after trial for Jesus's sake. He was beaten with rods, stoned, shipwrecked, in danger in the sea, in danger of robbers; his own people came against him; the Gentiles came against him; false teachers were against him; he was often weary, hungry, thirsty, and cold (2 Corinthians 11:25–27). Paul's experiences show clearly that he did not count his own life dear but longed to finish the race set before him with joy (Acts 20:24).

And Paul loved his fellow believers. As he traveled throughout the regions during his three missionary journeys and finally to Rome, he was intent on strengthening the churches the Lord had established and encouraging the believers (Acts 15:41). In fact, Paul was daily burdened for the churches and the people in them. He had deep concern that they continue to grow strong in the faith (2 Corinthians 11:28–29).

Paul's love, commitment, and dedication to Christ's church are made very evident by a brief look at the New Testament where he is credited with writing at least 13 different letters to churches and church leaders. It is widely believed that Paul wrote Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon.

Many of these letters were written to the various churches Paul had taught during his visits. For example:

- “To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus . . .” (1 Corinthians 1:2).
- “To the churches of Galatia . . .” (Galatians 1:2).
- “To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 1:1).
- “To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons” (Philippians 1:1).

Some of the letters Paul wrote, he wrote to specific men—friends and leaders in the church. These include the letters he wrote to Timothy who was Paul's beloved son in the faith.

- “To Timothy, a true son in the faith” (1 Timothy 1:2).
- “To Timothy, a beloved son” (2 Timothy 1:2).

Paul also wrote a special letter to Titus, who was a Gentile and a beloved disciple and worker in the gospel (Titus 1:4). And he wrote to a fellow believer named Philemon (Philemon 1:1).

We know that all Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness in order that the man of God may be complete and equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16–17). And as you read the letters Paul wrote to his beloved friends and churches, that truth will be made clear to you. Paul wrote so that the early Christians would know how to conduct themselves in the house of God (1 Timothy 3:14–15). The “house of God” in verse 15 does not mean within the church building, but among the saints of God. Paul wanted the early Christians to understand how to act toward one another. In his letter to the Ephesians Paul gives clear instructions on Christian living and proper conduct among Christians. He writes that all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking should be put away as well as all malice. He admonished the church at Ephesus, and thus all believers in all churches, to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave them (Ephesians 4:31–32).

Paul was filled with genuine, heart-felt joy at the thought of fellow believers, and he wanted to encourage them in their faith. He often would write to the churches how grateful he was to God as he remembered their faith and fellowship in the gospel. Paul told the church at Philippi that he was confident that God, who started a good work in them, would complete it as the day of Jesus Christ approached (Philippians 1:3–6).

Paul had similar sentiments for all the churches. In his letter to the saints at Colossae, Paul wrote that he gave thanks to God for them and prayed regularly for them because of their faith in Jesus Christ and their love for each other and all Christians (Colossians 1:3–4).

The life of the Apostle Paul presents an amazing testimony to the grace of God and the saving power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. From Paul's very dark background of persecuting, arresting, and killing the early Christians (Acts 8:3) to his unceasing drive to further the very gospel message that changed him, God has shown vividly what it means to truly become a new creation in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). We see

in this remarkable life that God's grace can extend to anyone. And God does save to the uttermost all those who come to Him through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 7:25).

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

The letters of the New Testament are often called *epistles*. They were originally written as letters to churches or individuals. The word epistle comes from the Greek word *epistole*, which means "letter" or "message." Epistles were a principal form of communication in the ancient world, especially during New Testament times.

An epistle would have been written on a scroll. Often, it was dictated to a secretary (also called an amanuensis) and then reviewed by the author before being delivered by a messenger. In one of Paul's epistles, the amanuensis (or secretary) mentions himself when he writes, "I, Tertius, who wrote this epistle, greet you in the Lord" (Romans 16:22). Tychicus was one of Paul's messengers; he delivered several of his epistles (Ephesians 6:21; Colossians 4:7). It appears that Paul signed each one of his epistles to verify that he was its author (1 Corinthians 16:21; Galatians 6:11; Colossians 4:18; 2 Thessalonians 3:17).

Epistles generally followed a similar format. Most of Paul's epistles begin with an introduction that identifies the author and any of his associates. It then mentions the recipients and gives a greeting. There is an introduction followed by the main body of the letter. Most epistles conclude with a general blessing and personal notes to individuals within the church that received the letter.

Twenty-one of the New Testament's twenty-seven books are epistles. Thirteen of these epistles were written by the Apostle Paul: Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. Paul's epistles are often divided into subgroups. One group is called the Prison Epistles (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon), so-called because they were written during Paul's two-year house arrest in Rome (Acts 28:30–31). Another subgroup is the Pastoral Epistles (1 and 2 Timothy and Titus). These letters were written to church leaders and include many teachings regarding practices within the church.

God used Paul as he traveled on four different journeys and planted churches wherever he went. Paul kept the churches in his heart whether he was with them or not. He felt responsible for them, like a father for his children (1 Corinthians 4:14; 1 Thessalonians

2:11). The epistles he wrote to them were his way of encouraging, teaching, correcting, and staying in touch with those whom he loved.

The following is a breakdown of Paul's letters and the possible dates and locations from which he wrote them:

- Galatians (AD 50–51, from Syrian Antioch)
- 1 and 2 Thessalonians (AD 51–52, from Corinth)
- 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians (AD 54–56, from Ephesus)
- Romans (AD 57–58, from Corinth)
- Ephesians, Philemon, Colossians, Philippians (AD 61–63, from Rome)
- 1 Timothy (AD 64–66, from Macedonia, Rome, or Philippi)
- Titus (AD 64–66, from Ephesus or Rome)
- 2 Timothy (AD 65–66, from Rome)

Although Paul either penned or dictated these letters, he made it clear that he was speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The other apostles, as well as the early church, accepted these letters as words from God, like the rest of the Scriptures (2 Peter 1:20–21, 3:15–16). In fact, when Jesus commissioned Paul to go, He told Paul that he was sending him as a witness of all Jesus would reveal to him (Acts 26:16–18).

These letters of Paul to the churches, along with the rest of the Bible, are inspired by the Holy Spirit. All 66 books of the Bible represent the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. It is the only written Word from God and is the only basis of truth for the Lord's people and His church.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord Jesus, thank you. Thank you for your work in the Apostle Paul. Because of your marvelous grace, he became a faithful servant to you. And now, 2,000 years later, we are encouraged and instructed because of what he wrote under your inspiration. Your plan is always perfect. Your Word is always true. Use this lesson to build on that foundation with my students. Impress upon them the truth that you are building your church still today and that they can be a part of it as they yield to your Word, believe it, and apply it to their lives.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will circle the things that don't belong in the Shipwreck Picture as a review of Lesson 4.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aide/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons 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 Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs. Bring your Lesson Flip Chart, Bible, stuffed animal for prayer time, Transportation Illustration, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or an appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Supplication is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today we will ask God for something. That is a prayer of supplication, or a "please" prayer. God cares about us and has promised to provide us with all we need.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking.

► Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Bible Pass Around

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

I'll start. Dear God, I know that you hear all my prayers, and you will give me all I need according to your perfect will. Lord could you please . . . (insert personal prayer).

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of supplication asking God to help provide their needs according to His will.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week this quarter. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? **What is sin?** *Sin is any disobedience against God.*
- ? **Who is a sinner?** *Every person is born in sin.*
- ? **Did Jesus ever sin?** *No. He lived a sinless life.*
- ? **Does everyone go to heaven?** *No. Only those whose hearts are changed and believe in Jesus.*
- ? **What does it mean to believe in Jesus?** *To trust that Jesus alone can save me.*

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number *choose a number. You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.* We'll start right here. Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin. *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue with the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.*

Refer to the Flip Chart Map Page. Paul had been on four long journeys! Whew! He must have been so tired! Paul visited so many people in so many cities.

- ? **How did Paul get around? How did he travel?** *Allow discussion.*

Refer to Transportation Illustrations. When Paul was alive, there were no planes or cars or bicycles or trains. They had to walk wherever they went! Paul's feet must have been really tired!

? Refer to the Flip Chart Map Page. How many journeys did God send Paul on? Four!

? Who did Paul talk about when he went on these journeys? Jesus!

Trace journey one or have a student trace it. This was Paul's first journey! He went a long way. He visited many cities. And he told many people about Jesus! Some people believed in Jesus. But some people did not believe what Paul said about Jesus.

Trace journey two or have a student trace it. Then God sent Paul on journey two! This time Paul used a boat to travel. He returned to some of the same cities he visited on journey one! Still, people would not believe the message of the Cross. Those people thought what Paul said was foolish and silly.

Trace journey three or have a student trace it. And then God sent Paul out again! He went on a third journey! God used Paul to tell so many people about Jesus. Well, this caused the church to grow. A lot of the people believed what Paul told them and became Christians. They loved to learn about Jesus! This must have really encouraged Paul, don't you think?

Trace journey four or have a student trace it. And then God sent Paul on journey four! Paul was on his way to Rome.

? Refer to Lesson 4 Flip Chart Page. But what happened on this exciting journey? A shipwreck. A storm. They almost died!

Yes! This was a very scary journey. The ship Paul traveled on was caught in a very bad storm! The weather was terrible, and the sea was fierce! It rocked the ship up and down! It seemed like Paul would never get to Rome. In fact, it seemed like everyone on the ship would die in that terrible storm.

? But who promised Paul that NO ONE on the ship would die? God!

? Yes! And who promised Paul that he WOULD get to Rome? God!

That's right! And even though it was very dangerous, God protected Paul, and Paul got to Rome!

? Who did Paul tell the people in Rome about? Jesus!

? Did all the people in Rome believe in Jesus and become Christians? Allow discussion.

Refer to the Memory Verse Flip Chart Page. No! Everyone did not believe in Jesus. In fact, in all the places Paul traveled to, the same thing happened. Some people believed Paul's message, and some people did not. You see, some people think that God's Word and what Jesus did on the Cross is silly—or foolish—like our memory verse says. Those people are perishing! They will not go to heaven when they die. They will not have eternal life because they don't believe in Jesus. But to people who are saved, the message of the Cross and what Jesus did on the Cross is powerful!

► Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Flip Chart Map Page. Show the four journeys. You may want to have students trace the journeys with their fingers, if appropriate.

1 Corinthians 1:18

Let's sing our Memory Verse Song together right now. The message of the Cross is powerful! *Sing 1 Corinthians 1:18.*

That was great! Even though a lot of people did not like what Paul was saying, he did not stop telling people about Jesus. Paul loved Jesus! And he loved the people who DID believe in Jesus, too. After he traveled on all of these journeys, Paul wanted to be sure they remembered him and what he told them about Jesus.

- ? What do you think Paul did to help the people in those cities remember what he told them? *Allow discussion.*

Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where the book of Galatians is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.

Well, Paul wrote letters to the churches he had visited. These letters were inspired by God! And many of them became part of the holy Bible—they are God's Word! *Open your Bible to some of Paul's letters.*

Galatians 1:1-2

Here is one letter Paul wrote. Listen as I read from the Bible. Tell me who Paul wrote this book to. Listen carefully! *Read Galatians 1:1-2 emphasizing "to the churches of Galatia."*

- ? Who was this letter written to? *The churches in Galatia.*

Refer to the Flip Chart Map Page. Point out Derbe, Iconium, Lystra, and Antioch. Look here. See this? This whole area was called Galatia. One of the cities in this area is Iconium. We talked about that city before. This letter was written to Iconium and other churches in this area. Paul wanted the churches to keep growing and to remember that the message of the Cross is powerful!

Ephesians 1:1

OK. Listen to another verse from God's Word. This was another letter Paul wrote to a church. Listen and tell me who this letter was written to! *Read Ephesians 1:1 emphasizing "to the saints who are in Ephesus."*

- ? Who was this letter written to? *The saints in Ephesus.*

Refer to the Flip Chart Map Page. Paul wrote to the believers in Ephesus. He had already been to Ephesus and told them about Jesus. Now he was writing a letter to the church there to teach them more. This letter is part of God's Word. God wanted Paul to write it for the church here in Ephesus. But he also wrote it for someone else!

- ? Can you guess who else Paul might have been writing to? *Allow Discussion.*

Paul's letters are part of the holy Bible—God's Word. So his letters are meant for ALL Christians, everywhere! His letters are for us, just as much they were for the believers in Ephesus and Galatia!

I am going to read one more. Listen carefully. Paul wrote to the church in another city. He loved the believers in the churches he wrote to, and he wanted to help them learn more about Jesus! Listen and tell me who Paul wrote this letter to! *Read Philippians 1:1 emphasizing, "to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi."*

? **Who was this letter written to?** *The saints in Philippi!*

Refer to the Flip Chart Map Page. Here is the city of Philippi. Paul visited that city before. And now he was writing a letter to the church there so they would stay strong and joyful in the Lord.

Refer to the Flip Chart Map Page and your Bible. Here is the letter to the Galatians. This letter was written to all the cities in the area of Galatia and to all Christians everywhere. Here is the book of Ephesians. This letter was written to the church in the city of Ephesus and to all Christians everywhere. Here is the book of Philippians. This letter was written to the saints in Philippi and to all Christians everywhere. Paul wrote these letters and more! They are part of God's Word—the Bible. They were very important to the churches when Paul wrote them. AND they are very important to us, too. God made these letters part of the Bible! They are all part of God's Word!

➤ Show students the letters in your Bible and the cities on the map.

SONG TIME

Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. Jesus died on the Cross and rose from the grave. He did this so we can be forgiven of our sins and be in heaven one day with God! Paul went on four long journeys to tell other people about Jesus. Let's sing our song called "J-E-S-U-S." *Sing together while clapping.*

On journey four, God sent Paul to Rome. On the way, Paul's ship was caught in a terrible storm. The ship was destroyed, but God promised Paul that he would be safe and would make it to Rome. God kept His promise to Paul! He finally made it to Rome and told more people about Jesus. Let's sing about Paul in the storm! *Sing "Paul Was in a Storm" together while marching around the circle.*

Repeat songs as time allows. You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments.

➤ Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Flip Chart Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.

➤ Lyrics can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the end of this Teacher Guide.

Philippians 1:1



Letter Hunt

MATERIALS

- Letters, one per student
- Brown construction paper (optional)
- Yarn or string
- Glue
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the Letter to the Galatians, Letter to the Ephesians, and Letter to the Philippians from the Resource DVD-ROM. Print only one letter per student, but be sure all three of the letters are used. Glue each letter to brown construction paper (optional). Roll the letters and tie with yarn or string.

Hide the letters around the classroom. Have students search for the letters. When each student finds a letter, he will take the letter to the table, connect the dots on the words to "finish" the letter, and then color the picture.

Today we're going to look around the room for the letters that Paul wrote to the churches in Galatia, Ephesus, and Philippi. I want each of you to find just one letter and go back to your seats. Then you will

connect the dots to finish the letter for Paul and then color the picture. Let's go!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Point out the cities on the Flip Chart Map Page as you mention them.

? **Who has the letter to Galatia?** *Help students determine which letter they have.*

Here is Galatia on the map!

? **Who has the letter to Ephesus?** *Help students determine which letter they have.*

Here is Ephesus on the map!

? **And who has the letter to Philippi?** *Help students determine which letter they have.*

And here is Philippi on the map!

Paul wanted to be with the people in Philippi, Ephesus, and Galatia. But he couldn't be everywhere at once! So, Paul wrote letters to the churches in these places. Those letters are God's Holy Word. And we can learn from those letters today.



Paul Wrote to the Churches

MATERIALS

- Paul Wrote to the Churches Activity Sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Stickers for marking the places Paul wrote to

INSTRUCTIONS

Students will follow the path to the places Paul wrote letters to—Galatia, Ephesus, and Philippi. Then they will mark the places with stickers and color the rest of the map.

Let's follow Paul's path to Galatia, Ephesus, and Philippi! Then we will mark those places with stickers and color the map.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Paul visited a lot of churches and helped them to get started. After that, he wrote letters so they would continue to learn about Jesus! Those letters are now part of the Bible! And all Christians can read them and learn from them.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

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.

MATERIALS

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Memory Verse Flashcards printed on cardstock (Cards will be used in Lessons 1–6)
- Tape or poster putty

INSTRUCTIONS

Print, preferably onto cardstock, and cut out one set of the Memory Verse Flashcards. 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 from the wall. Recite the verse again with the class. Continue to choose students to remove cards one at a time reciting the whole verse after each card is removed.

We're going to practice our memory verse.

Let's say it first. *Point to each flashcard as you say each word and have the students repeat.*

Good job! Now I'm going to ask one of you to come up and take one of our cards down. Then we'll say the verse without that card! Do you think we can do it? Of course we can! **OK, let's do it!** *Call on a student to take down one card then recite the verse together. Help the students to recite the verse after each card is removed. Continue until the cards are gone.*

You may want to sing the Memory Verse Song instead of saying the verse. When finished, see if anyone can say the verse using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Jesus died on the Cross and rose from the grave! Now sinners can have eternal life in heaven one day! That is the powerful message of the Cross! Everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved!



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart.

Paul did a lot of traveling. He went many places to tell people about Jesus. He loved the people who believed in Jesus and wanted to see them grow in their faith. But Paul couldn't be with everyone at the same time. So he wrote them letters to help them grow. He wrote to the believers in Galatia, Ephesus, and Philippi. He also wrote those letters to us! Because Paul's words are in the Bible, we can read his words every day!

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

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

Paul wanted to encourage the new believers he met on his journeys so he wrote letters to them. These letters are part of God's Word, the holy Bible. They were very important to the churches when Paul wrote them. AND they are very important to us, too, because God made these letters part of the Bible! They are all part of God's Word!



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for the powerful message of the Cross.
- Praise God that the churches in Galatia, Philippi, and Ephesus grew because of Paul's letters.
- Pray that more people will believe the message of the Cross.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18

(To the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")

For the message of the Cross,

(Twinkle, twinkle little star,)

Is foolishness to those,

(How I wonder what you are.)

Who are perishing,

(Up above the world so high,)

But to us who are being,

(Like a diamond in the sky.)

Saved it is the pow'r of God.

(Twinkle, twinkle little star,)

1 Corinthians 1:18.

(How I wonder what you are.)

J-E-S-U-S

(To the tune of "B-I-N-G-O")

There was a man Paul preached about,

(There was a farmer had a dog,)

And Jesus was His name-o.

(And Bingo was his name-o.)

J-E-S-U-S, *(B-I-N-G-O,)*

J-E-S-U-S, *(B-I-N-G-O,)*

J-E-S-U-S, *(B-I-N-G-O,)*

And Jesus was His name-o.

(And Bingo was his name-o.)

He died to save us from our sins,

And Jesus was His name-o.

J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S,

And Jesus was His name-o.

He rose victorious from the grave,

And Jesus was His name-o

J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S,

And Jesus was His name-o!

PAUL WAS IN A STORM

(To the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Row, row, row the boat,

(Row, row, row your boat,)

Paul was in a storm.

(gently down the stream,)

He was tossed and turned around,

(Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,)

In the giant sea.

(Life is but a dream.)

God pro-tected Paul,

He knew he would be saved.

An angel of the Lord was there,

He said, "Don't be afraid!"

Think of fun ways to sing. Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.

