

SAUL//PAUL

Acts 9 and 13-28

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For I am NOT

ASHAMED

of the GOSPEL,

because it is

the POWER of
GOD

that brings
SALVATION

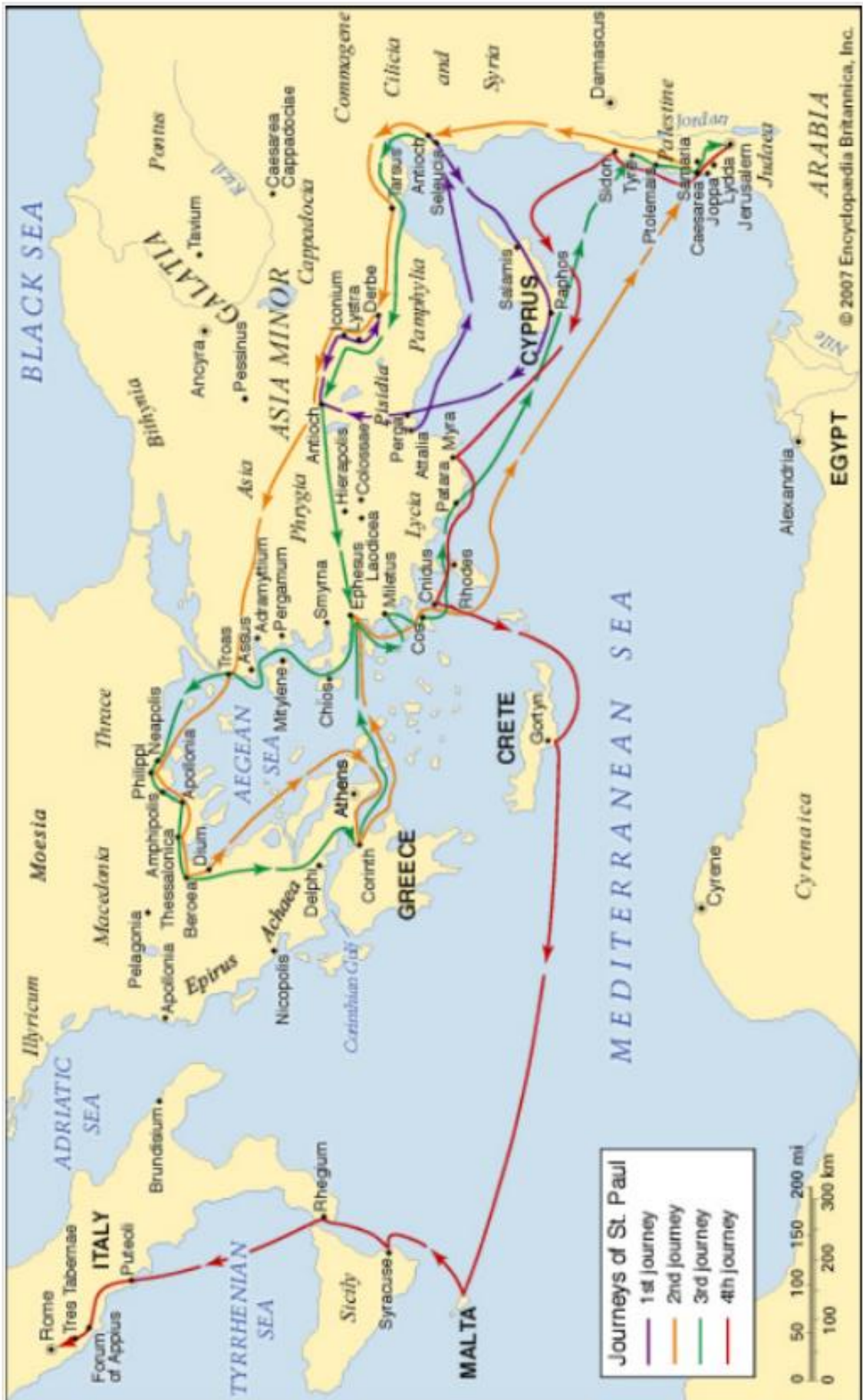
to EVERYONE
who BELIEVES:

FIRST to the JEW,

then to the NON-
JEW.

ROMANS 1v16

Map of Paul's journeys



SESSION 1 SAUL'S EYES ARE OPENED

Big idea: The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see that Jesus is God

Saul was blinded by religion and hatred and could not see that Jesus was God until Jesus revealed Himself to Saul. Saul was blinded for three days, but recovered his sight when he was prayed for by Ananias

5-9 years

SESSION 1: SAUL'S EYES ARE OPENED

GET TO KNOW YOU GAME - Fruitsalad

INTRO

At this point in the Bible's story, Jesus has lived, proclaimed the kingdom of God is close at hand, died for the sins of the world and risen from the dead. A small band of followers has been baptised in the Holy Spirit and the church is expanding rapidly, but not all religious leaders are happy about this. A man named Saul was very angry about people saying that Jesus was the saviour of the Jews and he wanted to stop the spread of this message.

BIBLE STORY - ACTS 9:1-19 EYES OPENED Act out or use small world figures to tell the story

GAME - Blind man's buff

EXPLORE THE STORY

PRAYER - Pray that Jesus would open our eyes so that we would see Him clearly and understand who He is

MEMORY VERSE

We are going to learn this Bible verse.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the non-Jew. Romans 1v16

CRAFT - Eyes opened



5-9 years

GAME: FRUIT SALAD

Equipment:

Chairs in a circle equal to the number of people playing minus 1 chair

Go around the circle labelling everyone a fruit: "apple" "pear" "banana" or "orange"

Person in the middle calls out a fruit, e.g. "orange!"

All the oranges switch seats with each other and the person in the middle has to try and sit on one of their seats

The new person in the middle has a turn to call

You cannot go back to your own seat. You must find a new one each time

GAME: BLIND MAN'S BUFF

Paul was blinded when he saw Jesus and had to be led around by the hand for 3 days until the word of God was explained to him and God opened his eyes.

Equipment:

1 blindfold

1. Blindfold one child
2. Everyone else spreads out around the room
3. The child tries to catch the other children
4. Variation: Marco-Polo: Every time the blindfolded child says "Marco", the other children must say "Polo" to help the child locate them.

5-9 years

EXPLORE THE STORY

You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego

Set out playdough in one tray and duplo on another spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.

Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a horse, a blind man, a baptism scene, disciples being imprisoned

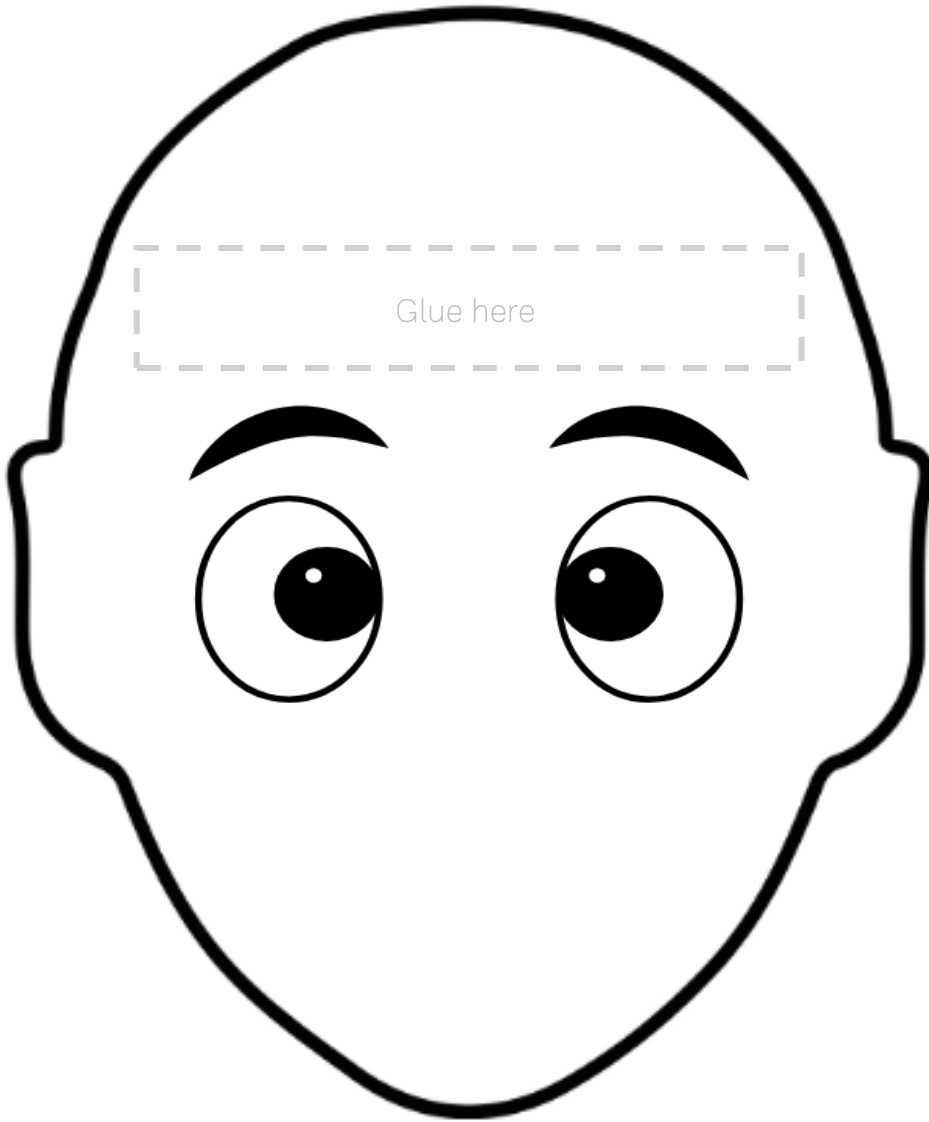
As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

1. Why was Saul angry at Jesus' disciples?
2. Saul was hurting Jesus' disciples, but Jesus said Saul was hurting Him, Jesus. Why do you think Jesus said that?
3. How do you think Ananias felt about going to see Saul?
4. Saul's eyes were blinded, but his heart was blind as well, because he could not see who Jesus really was. How did God help him to see clearly?

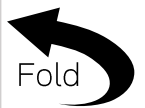
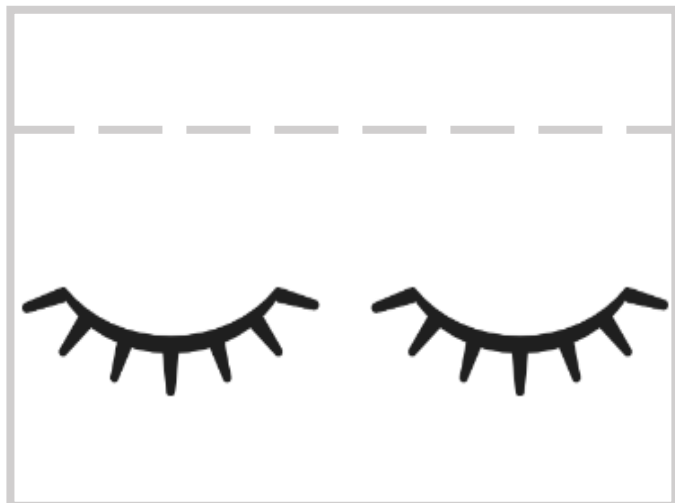
ACTS 9:1-19 GOD OPENED SAUL'S EYES



Complete the drawing of the face



Cut out the box, fold along the dotted line and then glue the tab to the box marked on the forehead



SESSION 2

PASSION IGNITED

Big idea: Saul was passionate to see other people's eyes opened too

As soon as Saul heard the good news about Jesus, he had a passion to tell everyone else what he had discovered

5-9 years

SESSION 2: PASSION IGNITED

GAME = Good news! Jesus is King!

INTRO

Saul was a devout jew who was hurting Jesus' disciples, but Jesus met him on a road and revealed Himself to Saul. Saul's eyes were opened to who Jesus is and he was baptised with the Holy Spirit and in water. Let's see what happened next!

BIBLE STORY = Acts 9:20-31 Use small world figures to tell the story or act it out

EXPLORE THE STORY

MEMORY VERSE

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.
Romans 1v16

PRAYER

Pray for God to give us a passion to share the good news of Jesus too

CRAFT = Fire flags



5-9 years

GAME: GOOD NEWS

Equipment: none

After Jesus had risen from the dead and gone back into Heaven, the news about Him spread from person to person.

Everyone spread out in the room and sit down. One person starts by standing up and walking over to someone else and saying, "Good news! Jesus is King!"

Then that person and the first person walk to another person each and say "Good news! Jesus is King!"

Then those 4 people continue to 4 others and say "Good news! Jesus is King!"

And so on until the whole group has heard

Go again starting with a different person

Variation: have half the people stand at one end of the room and half at the other. One child runs with an object like a beanbag representing the good news and hands it to the next person on the opposite side of the room saying "Good news! Jesus is King!"

That person then runs back to the other side of the room and hands the bean bag to the next person saying "Good news! Jesus is King!"

And so on, back and forth until everyone has received the message.

5-9 years

EXPLORE THE STORY

You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego

Set out playdough in one tray and duplo on another spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.

Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make Paul being lowered in a basket, Barnabas befriending Saul, a synagogue, people plotting against Saul.

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

1. After Saul's eyes were opened, what did he immediately do with the good news?
2. Why did he have to leave Damascus?
3. What did Barnabas do that was very brave?
4. What did he do in Jerusalem?
5. As soon as Saul's eyes were opened he had a passion to tell everyone else the good news too. This passion would take him on many adventures for Jesus. What do we mean by "passion to share the good news"?

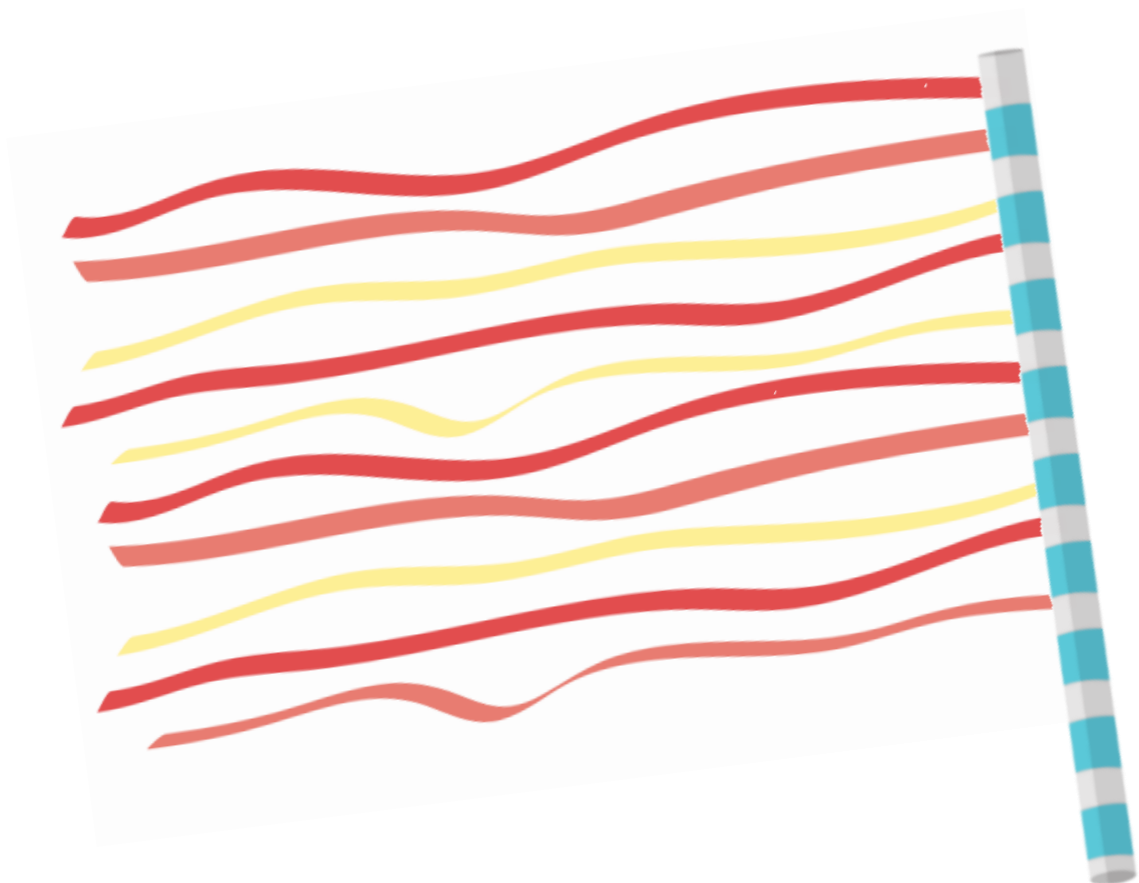


ACTS 9:20-31 PASSION IGNITED FIRE FLAGS

When Saul heard the good news about Jesus, a flame ignited inside him to tell everyone everywhere the good news.

You will need: fiery coloured tissue paper/streamers and straws or sticks

Using sticks or straws and tissue paper, create a fiery streamer or flag and ask God that He would give you a passion to share the good news with everyone like Saul had.



PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY ADVENTURE

(Session 3 and 4 were originally written as
material for a weekend away)

Acts 13-14

SESSION 3: PAUL'S FIRST ADVENTURE - SET SAIL

Big idea: We can courageously share the
good news

Paul and Barnabas went on an adventure to
share the Good News about Jesus with people
in different cities

5-9 years

PAUL'S FIRST ADVENTURE SET SAIL

INTRO

Recap Paul's story so far, which the kids will have done the previous two weeks.

Paul was a devout Jew who thought that Jesus followers were leading the people astray. He was so angry about this that he tried to imprison and even kill Christians. On his way to arrest more Christians, Paul saw a bright light from Heaven and fell off his horse. He saw a vision of Jesus who asked him why he was persecuting him. Paul was struck blind by the light, repented and Ananias was sent to explain the good news about Jesus to him. When Paul realised that Jesus was the Son of God, he became passionate about telling others the good news.

GET TO KNOW YOU GAME = Who's got the message

After Paul received the good news that Jesus was the Messiah that the Jews had been waiting for to take away the sins of the world and bring people into relationship with God, God sent on adventures to tell others about Jesus. This weekend, we will be learning about what happened on his first missionary journey.

BIBLE STORY - SET SAIL FOR CYPRUS

EXPLORE THE STORY

PRAYER = Pray for one another for courage to share the good news about Jesus with others and follow Jesus on whatever adventures God calls us on

CRAFT- Pasta models

EXTRA GAME - Fruitsalad



GAME: WHO'S GOT THE MESSAGE

Paul was carrying a very important message about the love of God. In this game, you have to guess who is holding the message.

Equipment:

A paper note or envelope

1. Sit everyone in a circle facing inwards, with their hands behind their backs
2. Choose one person to sit in the middle and close their eyes
3. A leader walks around the outside and drops the message onto the hands of one child
4. That child does not reveal that they have the note
5. Everyone keeps their hands behind their back still and the person in the middle opens their eyes
6. The middle child has three guesses to try to work out who has the message

GAME: FRUIT SALAD

Equipment:

Chairs in a circle equal to the number of people playing minus 1 chair

Go around the circle labelling everyone a fruit: "apple" "pear" "banana" or "orange"

Person in the middle calls out a fruit, e.g. "orange!"

All the oranges switch seats with each other and the person in the middle has to try and sit on one of their seats

The new person in the middle has a turn to call

You cannot go back to your own seat. You must find a new one each time

5-9 years

PAUL'S FIRST JOURNEY PART 1: SET SAIL FOR CYPRUS

This is a paraphrase of the story in Acts 13:1-13. You could use this paraphrase to act out or tell the story with small world (e.g. playmobil)

A few years after Paul first met Jesus, he helped his new friend Barnabas to strengthen the church in a city called Antioch. While they were fasting and praying, the Holy Spirit told the church to set aside Paul and Barnabas to go on a special journey that God was calling them on.

Paul and Barnabas got on a boat for Cyprus.

They travelled from synagogue to synagogue from one side of the island, starting at a place called Salamis, to the other end of the island, ending at a place called Paphos, telling everyone the good news that Jesus had risen from the dead and could forgive their sins.

In Paphos, the Roman ruler of the island, a man called Sergius Paulus, wanted to hear the message Paul and Barnabas were bringing, but he had a magician with him, a man called Elymas. Elymas was a Jew but he was a false prophet, who Satan was using to blind people to the truth.

As Paul and Barnabas spoke the truth about Jesus, Elymas got annoyed. He tried to stop Sergius Paulus believing in Jesus.

Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked at Elymas and said "You son of the devil, enemy of righteousness, you are full of trickery! Now the Lord will touch you and you will be blind for a time."

Immediately, everything became misty and dark for Elymas and he needed someone to lead him by the hand. When Sergius Paulus saw this, he believed Paul's message about Jesus.

From Paphos they sailed on to Perga to tell others the good news.

5-9 years

EXPLORE THE STORY

You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego

Set out playdough in one tray and duplo on another spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.

Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a boat, an island, a blind man

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

1. Why did Paul and Barnabas go on their journey?
2. In Cyprus, how did different people respond to their message?
3. What was Elymas the magician trying to do?
4. What made the Sergius Paulus, believe in Jesus?
5. What might Paul and Barnabas have learnt about Jesus and the power of the good news through that experience? *(some possible answers: that not everyone will like them talking about Jesus, Satan will try to oppose it, but Jesus is powerful and able to work miracles)*

CRAFT: PASTA MODELS

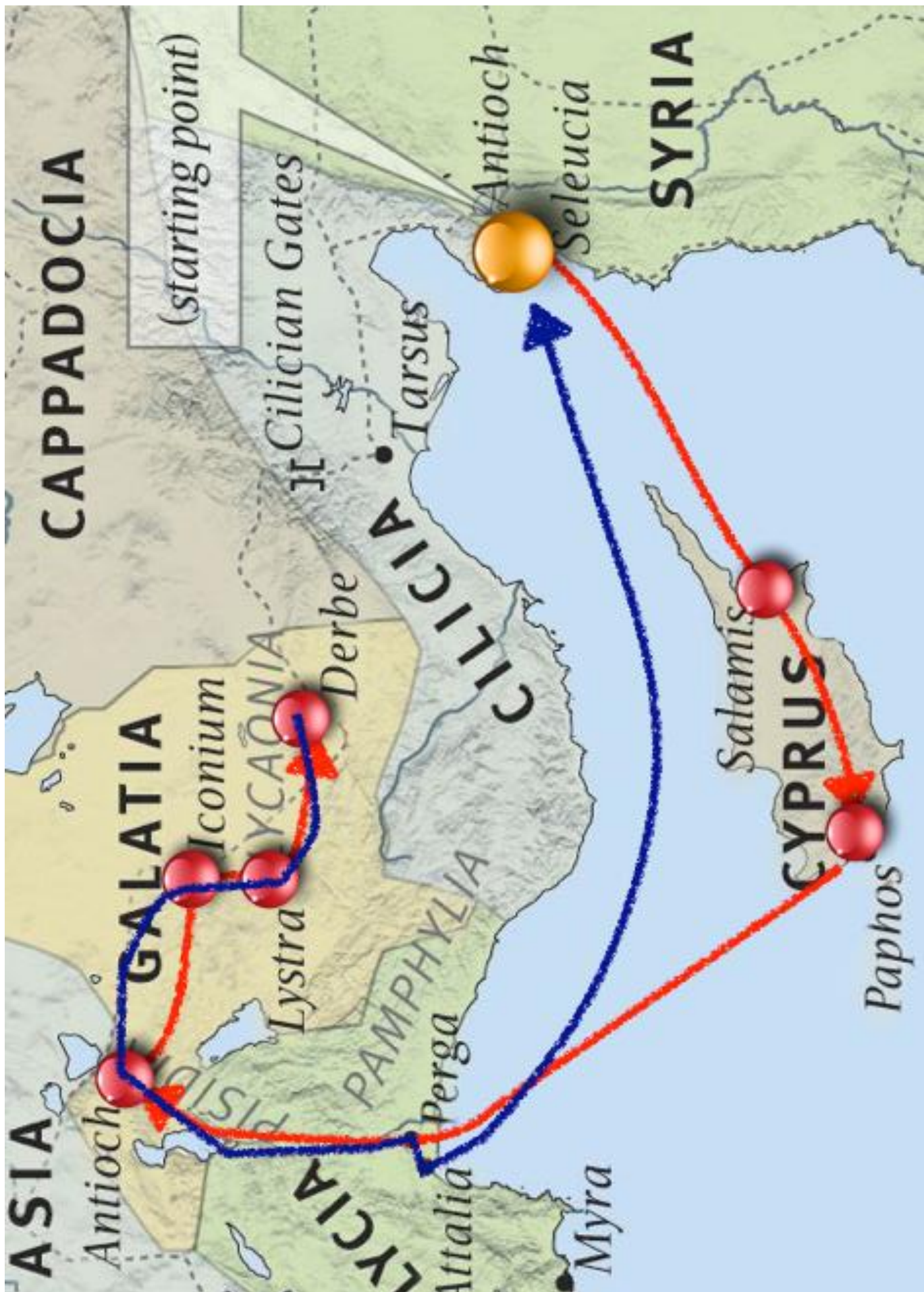
Equipment:

Craft mat, glue, bowls and sticks for the glue, different types of pasta, strong cardboard for base, other cardboard or paper

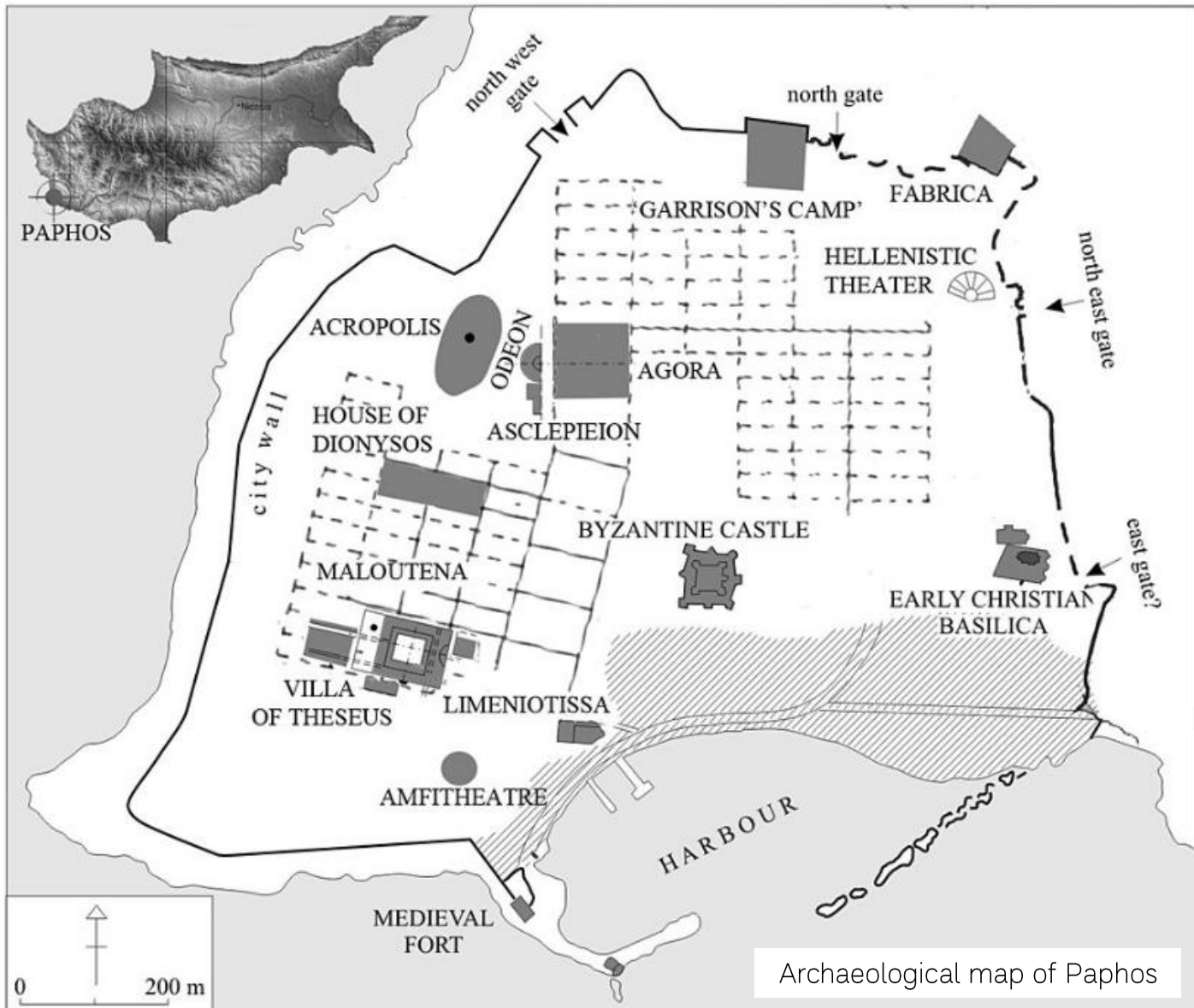
Each child needs one base card. Glue pasta shapes onto the base card to make a colonnade structure or other ancient Greek/Roman looking building.

For example:





Paul's first missionary journey



Archaeological map of Paphos

- monuments
- modern roads
- coastline
- city walls and gates
- extent of ancient port



House of Theseus, house of Roman Proconsul, Paphos, 2nd Century BC - 4th Century AD



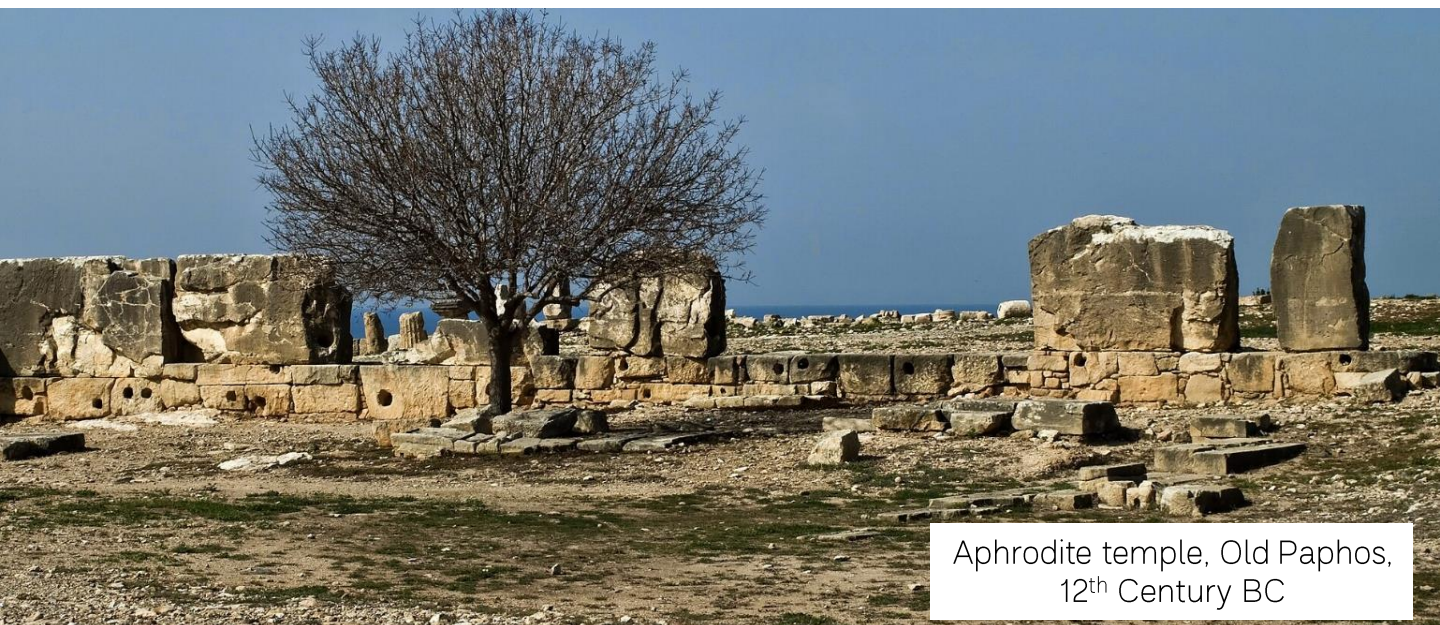
Geometric Mosaic, Paphos 2nd Century BC - 4th Century AD



House of Theseus, house of Roman Proconsul, Paphos, 2nd Century BC - 4th Century AD



Archaeological Roman site, Paphos, 2nd Century BC-4th Century AD



Aphrodite temple, Old Paphos,
12th Century BC

SESSION 4: PAUL'S FIRST ADVENTURE - PERGA TO DERBE

Big idea: Keep going even when it's tough
Paul and Barnabas kept pressing on, following
Jesus and telling others the good news, even
when it was difficult and painful

5-9 years

PAUL'S FIRST ADVENTURE PART 2

GET TO KNOW YOU GAME = Bean bag throw across circle and call out name

INTRO

After Paul received the good news that Jesus was the Messiah that the Jews had been waiting for to take away the sins of the world and bring people into relationship with God, God sent on adventures to tell others about Jesus. After seeing God's power to save in Cyprus, they went on to even harder places.

BIBLE STORY - PERGA TO DERBE = Use the paraphrase to tell the story with the trailblazer age group and the PLURP! worksheets to study it with the Climbers

EXPLORE THE STORY/PLURP! DISCUSSION

GAME = Message delivery challenge

PRAYER = Pray for each other to keep on following Jesus even when it is difficult

CRAFT = Paul sock puppets



5-9 years

PAUL'S FIRST JOURNEY PART 2: PERGA TO DERBE (ACTS 13-14)

Paul and Barnabas left Cyprus and arrived at Perga. They travelled overland to a place called Psidian Antioch where they worked hard trying to persuade the Jews in the synagogue that Jesus is the Son of God. Some listened to their message, but many Jews rejected Jesus. The Romans started to listen and accept Jesus as their Lord. When the Jewish leaders saw this, they became even angrier and drove Paul and Barnabas out of the city.

That must have been hard for Paul and Barnabas, but would they give up? No!

They travelled on to Iconium where again some loved hearing the Good News and some hated Paul and Barnabas for it. Some Jews followed from Psidian Antioch and stirred up the crowd to stone Paul and Barnabas, but they escaped.

That must have been pretty scary, but would they give up? No! They went on to a place called Lystra.

In Lystra there was a man who had been crippled from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul and Paul saw that he had faith to be healed so he said, "stand up and walk!" Immediately the man jumped up and began walking!

When the crowds saw this they began shouting "the gods are among us!" thinking that Paul and Barnabas were Roman gods. The priest from the temple of Zeus, a roman god, tried to put decorations on Paul and Barnabas and make sacrifices to them. Paul and Barnabas were shocked! They ran into the crowd and said "STOP!! Don't do this thing! We are just people like you!" They tried to tell them about Jesus, but the crowd were too excited to listen. Then Jews who had followed from Psidian Antioch and Iconium came and stirred up the crowd saying evil things about Paul. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking he was dead. But the next day, Paul got up, went and found Barnabas in the city.

That must have been pretty painful, but would they give up? No!

They went on to the next town, Derbe. They just would not give up!

After Derbe, they went back to all the towns they had preached to and strengthened the believers there before sailing all the way back to Antioch again.

5-9 years

EXPLORE THE STORY

You will need: sculpting toy like playdough /plasticine and/or construction toy like duplo/lego

Set out playdough in one tray and duplo on another spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.

Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a boat, a town, a garland, a cripple man walking, a roman building

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

1. Why did Paul and Barnabas keep going?
2. Who followed Paul from town to town?
3. How do you think they might have felt after leaving each town?
4. It must have taken courage to go back to the towns where they had almost been killed. Why did they go back to them?

CRAFT: SOCK PUPPET

Paul didn't give up telling people the good news. Make a sock puppet of Paul/Barnabas/yourself and tell each other the good news of Jesus with it!

Equipment:

Socks, googly eyes, buttons, pompoms, glue, wool, circle felt/foam/card

Each child needs one sock, two eyes a button or pompom for nose, some wool for hair or fabric for head dress. You could also use felt, foam or cardboard circle folded in half for a mouth

For example:



GAME: GOOD NEWS DELIVERY

Paul was tasked with delivering the message of Jesus to far off places. In this game, the cotton wool will represent the good news and you will use the paper planes to deliver the message to the finish line.

Equipment:

Cotton wool, 6 paper aeroplanes (can use template), 2 cups

Set up a start line and a finish line

Divide the group into two teams with half of the team behind the start line with the cotton wool supply and half behind the finish line with the cup

When you say go! The teams have to load cotton wool onto the planes and throw them from the start to the finish line. Their team mates will collect the cotton wool and put it in the cups and fly the planes back to the start line.

If the cotton wool falls off before the finish line, it needs to go back behind the start line to be re thrown. If the plane lands before the finish line but the wool is still on it, it can be reloaded and thrown from where it landed.

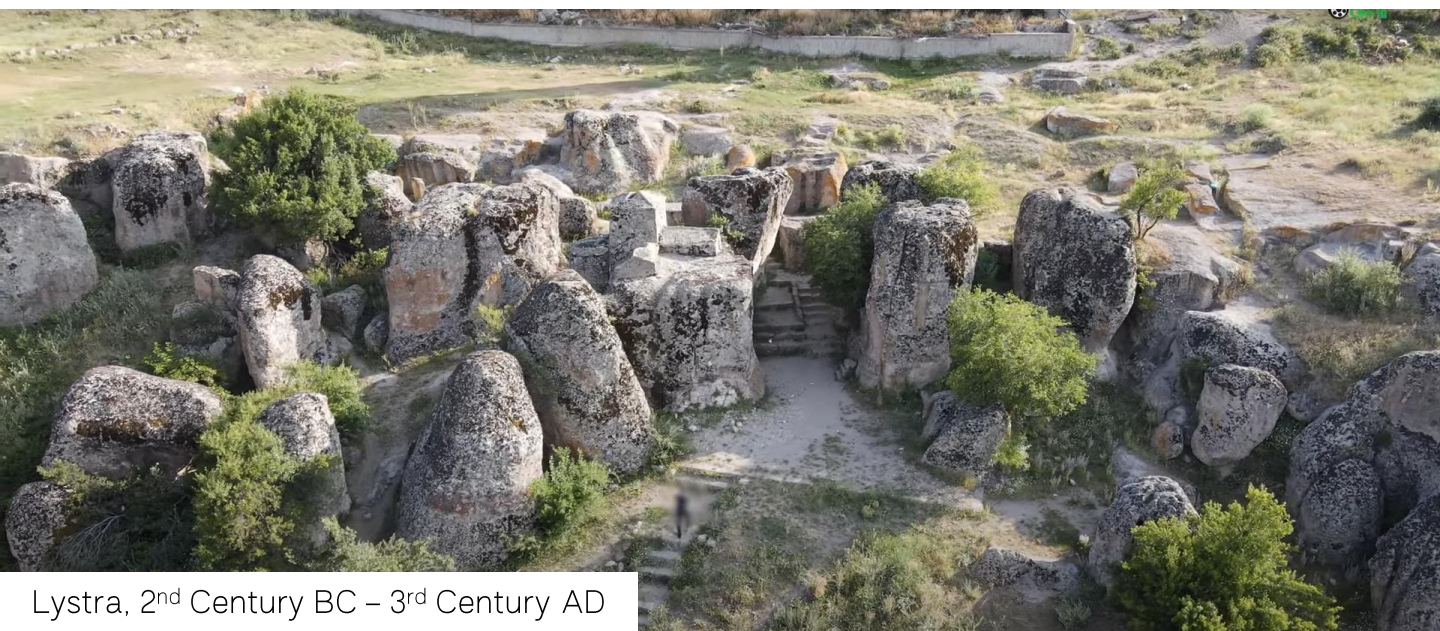
When you call time, see who has the most cotton wool collected.



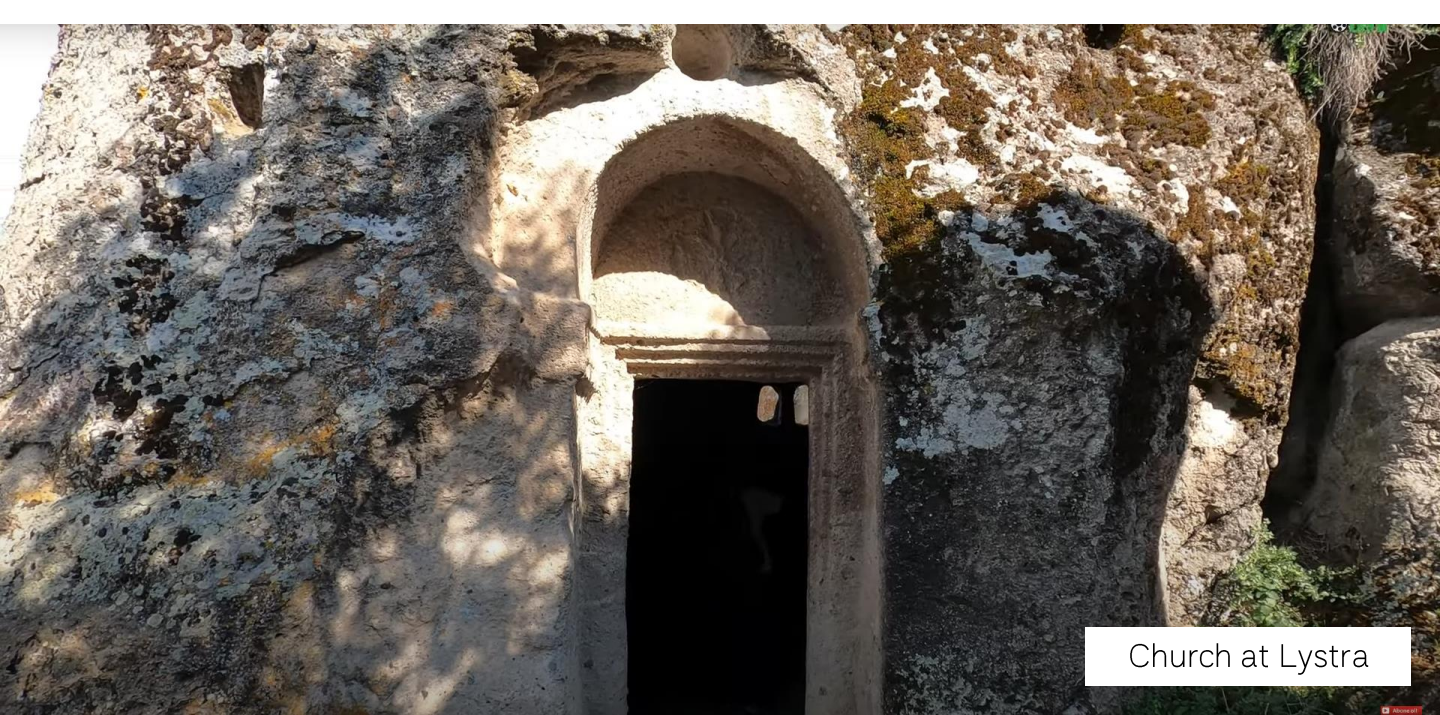
Lystra, 2nd Century BC – 3rd Century AD



Lystra, 2nd Century BC – 3rd Century AD



Lystra, 2nd Century BC – 3rd Century AD



Church at Lystra



Taurus mountains around Lystra



Roman road between Derbe and Lystra



Lystra

Ancient city of Lystra 2nd Century BC – 3rd Century AD



SESSION 5 AN OPEN DOOR TO THE NATIONS

Big idea: Faith in Jesus is what is necessary
for salvation

People from other nations do not have to be circumcised or follow the law of Moses to be in God's family. Jesus has opened up the way to the Father.

5-9 years

SESSION 5: AN OPEN DOOR TO THE NATIONS

WELCOME

BEANBAG NAME GAME – throw the beanbag around the circle and call the name of the person you are throwing it to

STORY RECAP

BIBLE STORY – One way in

2 DOORS SKIT

PRAYER – Thank God that He sent Jesus to make a way to know God the Father and be adopted into God's family. If anyone wants to ask to join God's family, lead them in prayer for this.

MEMORY VERSE GAME – TARGETS

EXPLORE THE STORY – See notes for suggestions on discussion questions after telling the story

CRAFT – Door of the sheep

MEMORY VERSE

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.
Romans 1v16



5-9 years

SESSION 5 BIBLE STORY: THE DOOR IS OPEN TO THE NATIONS

Retell using small world or acting:

RECAP:

Paul and Barnabas had been on an exciting adventure to the Island of Cyprus and then to cities like Pamphylia and Lystra, where they had told people the good news about Jesus. Some of the Jews had accepted Jesus but some had rejected Jesus and done awful things to Paul and Barnabas.

Can you remember any of the events of their journey? What happened in Paphos? Or Lystra?

STORY:

Surprisingly, lots of people from different nations, not just Jews, put their trust in Jesus, were baptised in water and by the Holy Spirit.

Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch to tell everyone what had happened.

Acts 14:27-15:11

When they arrived in Antioch, they gathered the church together. Paul and Barnabas told them all about what God had done with them. They told how God had made it possible for the non-Jews to believe! And they stayed there a long time with the followers.

Then some men came to Antioch from Judea. They began teaching the non-Jewish brothers: "You cannot be saved if you are not circumcised. Moses taught us to do this." Paul and Barnabas were against this teaching and argued with the men about it. So the group decided to send Paul, Barnabas, and some other men to Jerusalem. There they could talk more about this with the apostles and elders.

The church helped the men leave on the trip. They went through the countries of Phoenicia and Samaria, telling all about how the non-Jewish people had turned to God. This made all the believers very happy. When they arrived in Jerusalem, the apostles, the elders, and the church welcomed them. Paul, Barnabas, and the others told about all the things that God had done with them. But some of the believers who had belonged to the Pharisee group came forward. They said, "The non-Jewish believers must be circumcised. We must tell them to obey the law of Moses!"

The apostles and the elders gathered to study this problem. There was a long debate. Then Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know what happened in the early days. God chose me from among you to preach the Good News to the non-Jewish people. They heard the Good News from me, and they believed. God, who knows the thoughts of all men, accepted them. He showed this to us by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. To God, those people are not different from us. When they believed, he made their hearts pure. So now why are you testing God? You are putting a heavy load around the necks of the non-Jewish brothers. It is a load that neither we nor our fathers were able to carry. But we believe that we and they too will be saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus!"

Then they sent them back with 2 men, Judas Barsabbas and Silas, who carried a letter of encouragement to the church in Antioch. The church was very happy and was strengthened by Judas Barsabbas and Silas. Paul and Barnabas went on preaching the good news and taught people about Jesus.

2 DOORS: IMPRESSIVE TO GOD V JESUS

Have someone looking exhausted and carrying a heavy load coming to a doorway marked BE GOOD. Behind them is another doorway marked JESUS and a present inside which is written eternal life – free gift and scriptures from John 10

I want to look impressive to God. Do you think I've done enough yet?

I've been reading all these big books about the Bible.

I've been walking a up mountains to pray to try and show Him I am dedicated.

I've been keeping the house tidy

I've tried to keep a perfect record with everybody.

Oh wait I didn't feed the cat on time last night I need to go and say sorry to him!

I've been fasting since Monday and my tummy is really rumbling

I've given away everything I can to the poor... oh wait my socks... does anyone need socks? OK now am I good enough for God?

Can't get through the door... why isn't it working? I'm trying to be really really good.

Is there any other way in??

What's that? Jesus? You mean faith in Jesus and what He did on the cross can get me into God's family?

Wow! You're right! And what's this? A present?

It says eternal life is a free gift paid for by Jesus! And there's a scripture here...

(Read from John10)

So Jesus is the door to be in God's family. He is the way in! And He has sheep not of this flock. He means not just Jews, but He is bringing in people from all over the world and they will be one flock together and He will care for them all!

JOHN 10:9-11, 16, 27-30

Jesus said:

I am the door. The person who enters through me will be saved. He will be able to come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes to steal and kill and destroy. But I came to give life—life in all its fullness.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep.

I have other sheep that are not in this flock here. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never die. And no person can steal them out of my hand. My Father gave my sheep to me. He is greater than all, and no person can steal my sheep out of my Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.”

EXPLORE THE STORY

You will need: sculpting toy like playdough and/or construction toy like duplo

Set out playdough on one set of tables and duplo on another or on the floor spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.

Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a door, some people arguing/discussing, a sheep gate, a church with lots of people

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

How did the people feel when they realised God was saving people from other nations?

What is the one way into the family of God now?

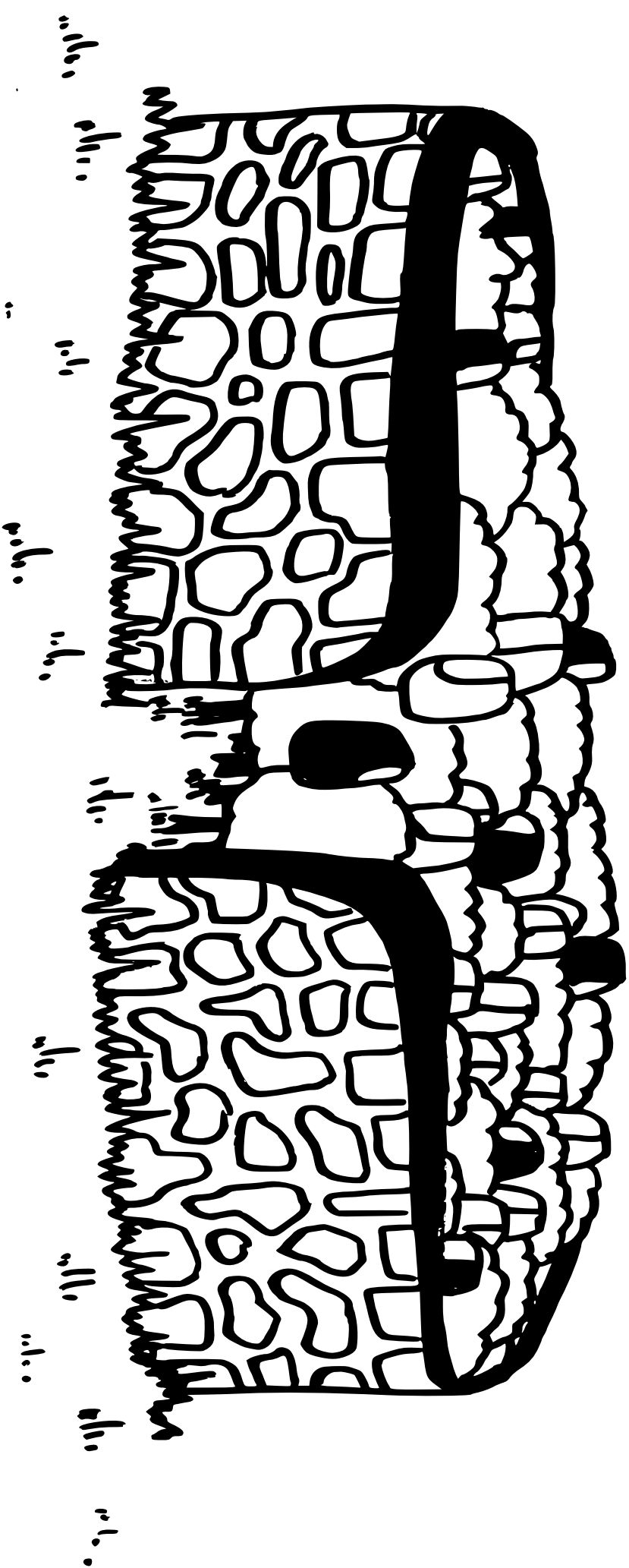
Who is Jesus gathering into God's family?

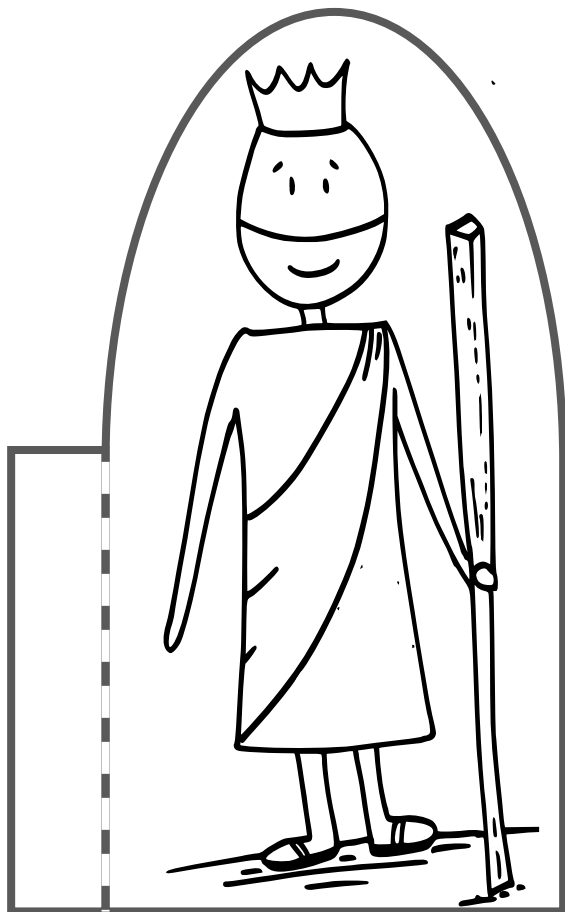
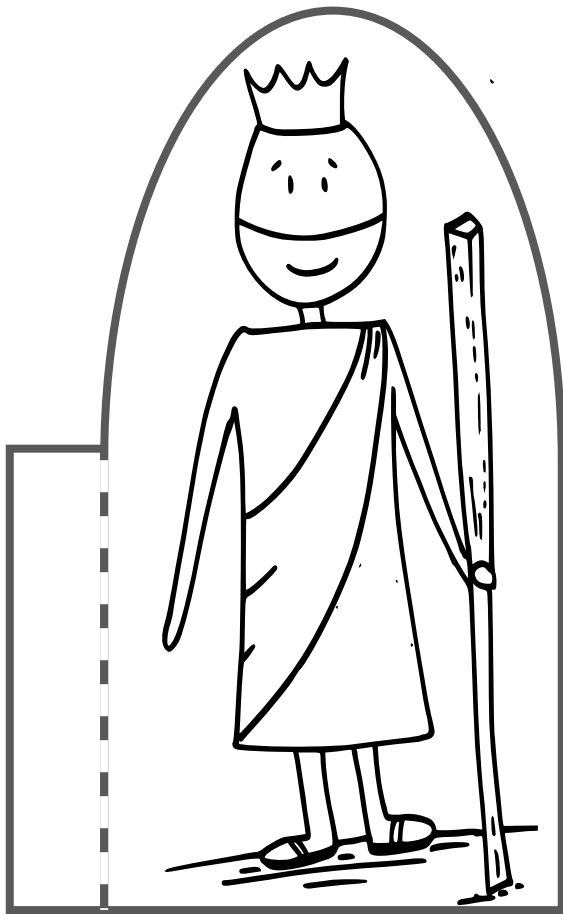
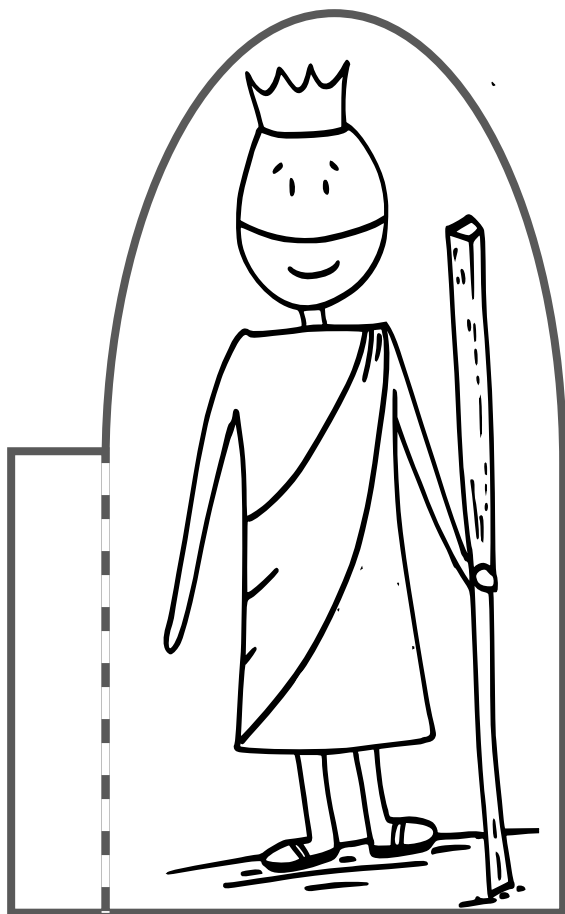
MEMORY VERSE GAME: TARGETS

Equipment: 2 sets of Memory verse cards jumbled and spread out, taped to a wall, 2 buckets with bean bags

- Split the group into two teams and assign one colour set of memory verse cards to one team and one to the other
- The teams line up behind a bucket of bean bags and take it in turns to throw the beanbags at the wall, trying to hit the “targets” which are the memory verse cards
- When there is a successful hit, collect the card until you have all of them and unscramble the memory verse
- First team to have completed their memory verse is the winner

I am the door. The person
who enters through me
will be saved. John10:9





Cut out the picture of Jesus, the Good shepherd and stick it on the doorway of the sheep pen

SESSION 6 TRUE FREEDOM

Big idea: True freedom comes from knowing
Jesus

Paul and Silas were imprisoned for their faith
and yet were able to worship God in the jail.
God set them free by an earthquake and then
they offered the true freedom of knowing Jesus
to the jailer and his family

5-9 years

SESSION 6: TRUE FREEDOM

WELCOME

MEMORY VERSE CARD SORT

As a group, sort the memory verse cards and tack them to the wall in the right order and repeat the memory verse together.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.
Romans 1v16

STORY RECAP

BIBLE STORY – Acts 16:16-40

GAME – COPS AND ROBBERS

EXPLORE THE STORY – See notes for suggestions on discussion questions after telling the story

PRAYER – Thank God that He can set our hearts free from fear and from the power of sin. He can give us courage and hope that makes us want to sing, even when life is difficult. Pray for God to give us worshipping hearts like Paul and Silas.

CRAFT – Worship in jail. Colour in the picture and stick lolly pop sticks as prison bars over the jail scene



5-9 years

SESSION 6 BIBLE STORY: TRUE FREEDOM

RECAP:

Paul and Barnabas had been on an exciting adventure to the Island of Cyprus and on to cities in the Roman Empire to tell people about Jesus. Some Jews and many non-Jews received Jesus as their saviour and Paul went on a second adventure for Jesus with a man named Silas to tell even more people about Jesus.

STORY:

Acts 16:16-40 Paul and Silas in Philippi

This is a great story for acting out!

One creative way you might tell the jail scene (Acts 16v23-29) with a parachute is as follows:

Have Paul and Silas pretend to be chained and sit them in the middle of a parachute. All the other children hold the edge of the parachute. The person playing the jailer waits on the outside.

Then everyone begins to sing softly and then louder. (E.g. "My God is so big and so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do" GoFish version, or "We wanna see Jesus lifted high" or "I will sing forever of your love come down, with my hands to heaven shout your praises loud, I was lost in darkness when you pulled me out, I will sing forever of your love come down".) As you sing softly, wave the parachute softly, then create larger waves as you sing louder. Then suddenly there is an earthquake – shake the parachute vigorously! Then stop as the jailer rushes to see what is going on and look around the parachute to see that everyone is still there.

Continue acting out the story from v 29-40

5-9 years

GAME: COPS AND ROBBERS

Equipment: 1 base (could be a bench/area/hoop)

*For 6-10 assign 2 cops. For more than 10 assign 3 or more.
Best played in an outdoor space if possible.*

The base is the prison. The cops chase the rest of the children and tries to tag them. If they are tagged, they must go to and remain in the prison. The other children can free them by tagging their teammates who are in jail, but if they are caught by the cops, they also go to jail.

Game finishes either when all the children are caught or time is up.

For a twist related to the story, when everyone is caught, at the end, start a worship song in the prison. Everyone is set free and shakes hands with the jailers.

EXPLORE THE STORY

You will need: sculpting toy like playdough and/or construction toy like duplo

Set out playdough on one set of tables and duplo on another or on the floor spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.

Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a jail, an earthquake scene, people being baptised

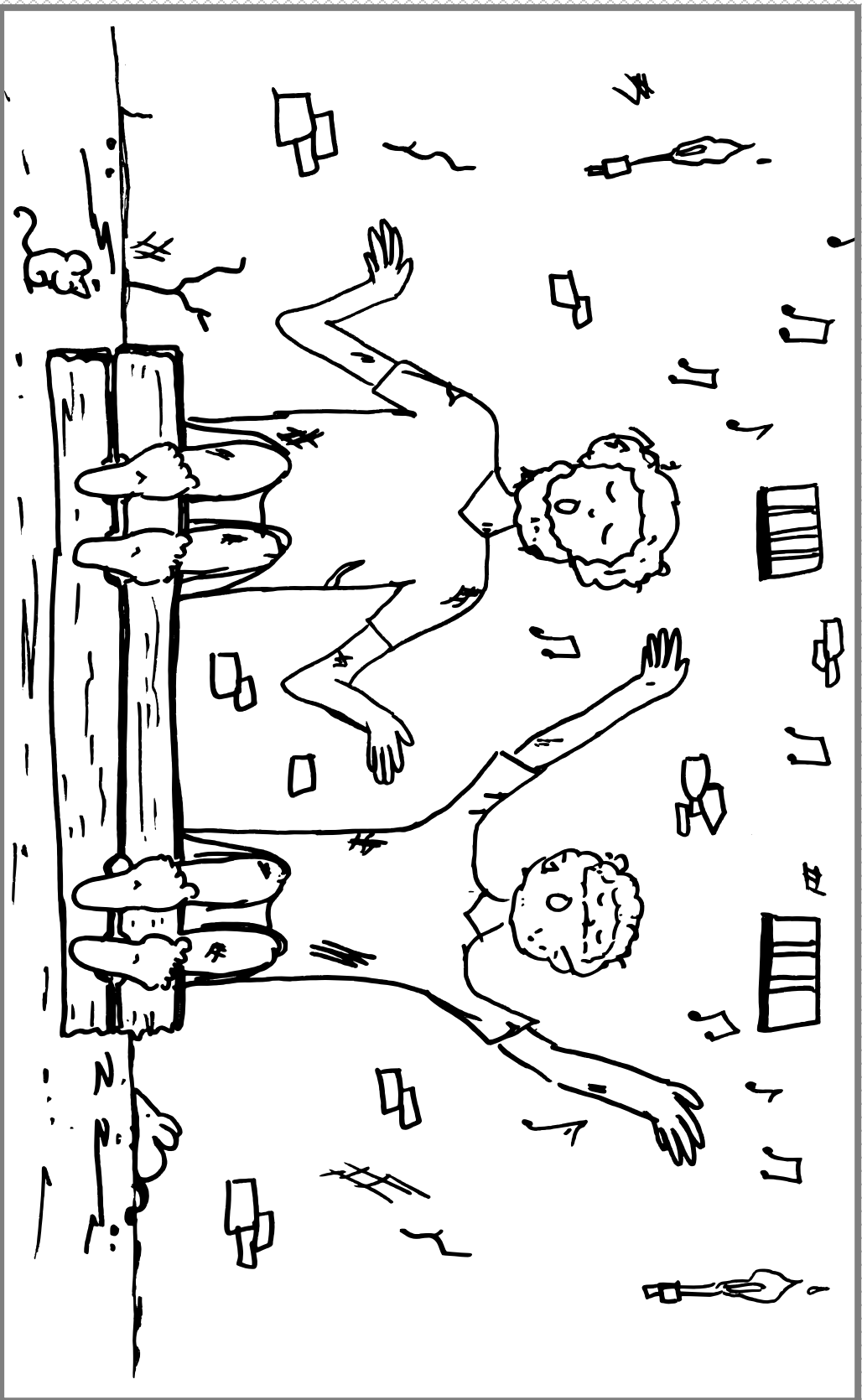
As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

Why do you think Paul and Silas sang worship songs, even though they were in jail?

How did the jailer respond to Paul and Silas?

The jailer saw in Paul and Silas, true freedom. They were free from sin and the fear of death, free to love and praise God even in prison. Paul and Silas' hearts were free even if their bodies were chained. The jailer and his family wanted that freedom. How did Paul and Silas say they could be saved?

TRUE FREEDOM IS FOUND IN JESUS



About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God. The other prisoners were listening to them ... They said to him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved" Acts 16:25 and 31a

SESSION 7 KEEP ON LOVING

Big idea: Paul kept telling his Jewish brothers and sisters about Jesus even when it was dangerous

Even though some of the Jews were among the strongest of Paul's opposition and repeatedly tried to kill him, Paul kept trying to persuade his Jewish brothers and sisters that Jesus was their Messiah. He knew that the Jews were chosen by God and he was determined that they should have an opportunity to know Jesus.

5-9 years

SESSION 7: KEEP ON LOVING

WELCOME AND PRAY

STORY RECAP AND BIBLE STORY - ACTS 17:1-15

MEMORY VERSE GAME - BEAN BAG BALANCE

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. Romans 1v16

EXPLORE THE STORY – See notes for suggestions on discussion questions after telling the story

SHARE AND PRAYER – Regroup to share what people have been making and thinking about in the “explore the story” time.

Paul kept trying to share with his Jewish brothers and sisters, even though many rejected him and hurt him. He kept loving them and trying to share the good news with them even though they did not deserve it. The Bible teaches that even when we were enemies of God, Jesus came and died for us. We did not deserve His love, but He kept loving us anyway.

Pray together that we would not give up loving people, even when people are mean to us. Pray that we would keep praying for people even when they don't deserve it.

CRAFT – Map. Colour in the map and add pictures of hearts and people to it.



5-9 years

SESSION 7 BIBLE STORY: KEEP ON LOVING

RECAP:

Paul and Barnabas had been on an exciting adventure to the Island of Cyprus and on to cities in the Roman Empire to tell people about Jesus. Some Jews and many non-Jews received Jesus as their saviour and Paul went on a second adventure for Jesus with a man named Silas to tell even more people about Jesus.

STORY:

You could act out the story, with a few children playing the Jews who opposed Paul and Silas, two playing Paul and Silas and the others being the Jews and non-Jews who believed in the message that Jesus is King.

Acts 17:1-15 Paul and Silas in Thessalonica and Berea (International Childrens Bible)

Paul and Silas traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia and came to Thessalonica. In that city there was a Jewish synagogue. Paul went into the synagogue as he always did. On each Sabbath day for three weeks, Paul talked with the Jews about the Scriptures. He explained and proved that the Christ must die and then rise from death. He said, "This Jesus I am telling you about is the Christ." Some of the Jews were convinced and joined Paul and Silas. Many of the Greeks who worshiped the true God and many of the important women joined them.

But the Jews became jealous. They got some evil men from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot. They ran to Jason's house, looking for Paul and Silas. The men wanted to bring Paul and Silas out to the people. But they did not find them. So they dragged Jason and some other believers to the leaders of the city. The people were yelling, "These men have made trouble everywhere in the world. And now they have come here too! Jason is keeping them in his house. All of them do things against the laws of Caesar. They say that there is another king called Jesus."

When the people and the leaders of the city heard these things, they became very upset. They made Jason and the others put up a sum of money. Then they let the believers go free.

That same night the believers sent Paul and Silas to Berea. There Paul and Silas went to the Jewish synagogue. These Jews were better than the Jews in Thessalonica. They were eager to hear the things Paul and Silas said. These Jews in Berea studied the Scriptures every day to find out if these things were true. So, many of them believed. Many important Greek men and women also believed. But when the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God in Berea, they came there, too. They upset the people and made trouble. So the believers quickly sent Paul away to the coast. But Silas and Timothy stayed in Berea. The men who took Paul went with him to Athens. Then they carried a message from Paul back to Silas and Timothy. It said, "Come to me as soon as you can."

5-9years

MEMORY VERSE GAME BEANBAG BALANCE

Equipment: 2 sets of memory verse card, 2 bean bags, 2 buckets

Shuffle each set of cards and put one set in one bucket and one in the other bucket at one end of the room.

Split the children into two teams

In a relay race, the first child balances a beanbag on his/her head and walks to the bucket without it dropping

They select a card out of the bucket and return to their team

The next child goes until all cards are collected

The first team to unscramble the cards and reveal the memory verse wins

EXPLORE THE STORY

You will need: sculpting toy like playdough and/or construction toy like duplo

Set out playdough on one set of tables and duplo on another or on the floor spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.

Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a synagogue, a town, a map

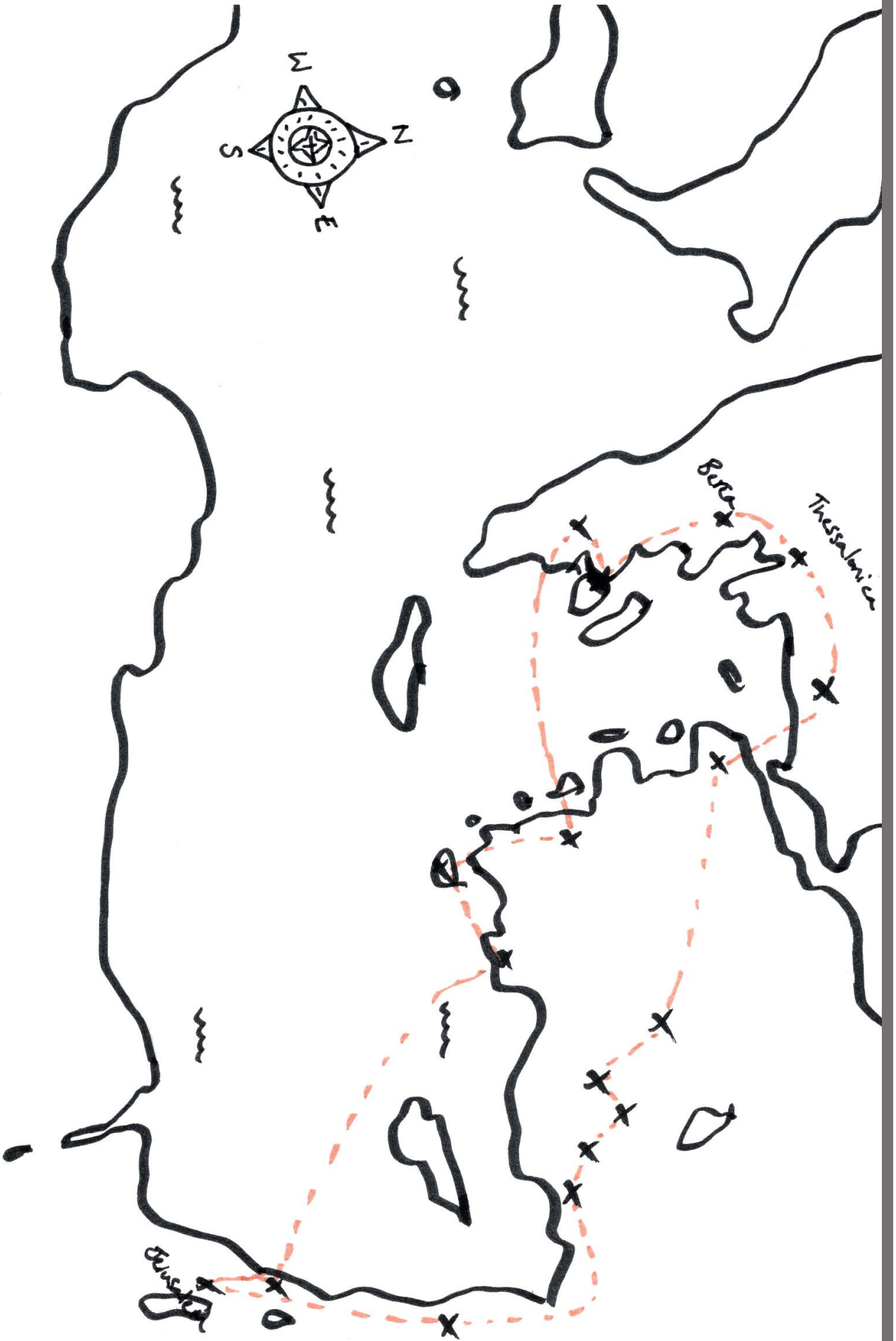
As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

What is a synagogue?

Why do you think some of the jews were annoyed with Paul and Silas?

Even though some of the jews were trying to hurt Paul and Silas, they didn't stop trying to show the love of Jesus and the message of Jesus with them. How do you think Paul and Silas were able to keep loving them?

KEEP ON LOVING



SESSION 8: ATHENS - GOD IS REVEALED IN JESUS

Big idea: God has revealed Himself in Jesus

Paul met lots of people in Athens who were trying to work out who they should worship. Paul explained that God revealed Himself in Jesus and answered lots of questions about Jesus.

5-9 years

SESSION 8: ATHENS = GOD IS REVEALED IN JESUS

WELCOME

MEMORY VERSE CARD SORT

As a group, sort the memory verse cards and tack them to the wall in the right order and repeat the memory verse together.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.
Romans 1v16

BIBLE STORY = Acts 17:15-34 See script

GAME - WHO AM I?

EXPLORE THE STORY – See notes for suggestions on discussion questions after telling the story

PRAYER – Praise God that He has made Himself known to us and ask Him to help you tell others about Him.

CRAFT – Colouring sheet and wordsearch



5-9 years

SESSION 8 BIBLE STORY: PAUL IN ATHENS ACTS 17:16-34

This is a way you could act out the story. You could use teddies spaced on tables around the room as props to represent idols.

Paul: Hello children, I'm Paul. I'm here in Athens waiting for my friends Timothy and Silas to get here. I wonder what is taking them so long. I hope they are not having too much trouble in Berea. Some of the Jews from Thessalonica would have killed us if they had had the chance! All for announcing that the Messiah, the anointed king we Jews have been waiting for, has arrived. His name is Jesus. He died for the sins of the world and rose from the dead. It is such a shame to have to leave Berea so soon. I was practically chased out of town! I'm sure God has plans for us here in Athens though. Well, while I'm waiting, I think I'll look around.

[Paul looks around the room]

What's all this? Idols! And so many of them! Do you know what these are, children? People make these statues and think that they are gods, so they worship them. They think life will go better for them if they do, but it's no good. They are false gods that cannot help anyone. They are not the true God of Heaven. It is upsetting to see so many of them and know that these people don't know who God really is! Father God, there must be a way of getting through to them. Show me how.

Narrator: Paul looked around and saw a statue saying "to the unknown god".

Paul: Aha! "To the unknown God!" This is how I will speak to them. Hey everybody! Hello! Come and listen! I have news to share! God has made Himself known. I must tell you about Jesus. He is the true God.

Narrator: Paul spoke to Jews and Greeks in the synagogues and in the town squares. They asked him lots of questions and Paul tried to explain to them who Jesus is. Athens had a group of people who spent their days thinking and trying to be wise. They were called philosophers and they invited Paul to speak in their special meeting place, the Areopagus, because they loved to hear and discuss new ideas.

SESSION 8 PAUL IN ATHENS STORY SCRIPT CONTINUED

Paul: Thank you for inviting me to speak to you all. When I walked around the city, I saw that you are very religious! You worship all kinds of gods. There was even an idol “to the unknown god”. Well, I know Him! I know the true God, who made the heavens and the earth. He is not a statue and He doesn’t need anything from you. He can’t be contained in a temple or an idol built by people. He built you! He made everything and gives everything life. We are God’s children, the creatures He has made and one day He will judge the whole earth by the man that He has chosen. God showed us this by raising that man Jesus from the dead. God wants you to know Him by believing in His son Jesus.

Narrator: Some people laughed at him. “Pah! Raise a man from the dead!!”; others wanted to hear him again “Hmmm...this is interesting”; and a few people believed and joined Paul “We believe in Jesus!”.

Paul: Well, children, I have to go on to another city called Corinth now, but I am glad we stopped off here in Athens, so that more people could hear the good news about Jesus. I hope and pray that you talk about Jesus wherever you go, as well. Lots of people want to know who God is, but they need help from someone like you or I who already know Him. I hope I see you again someday. Bye-bye!

5-9 years

GAME: WHO AM I?

When Paul was in Athens, he met lots of people who were not sure who God is and Paul told them that God has revealed who He is by sending Jesus. The people in Athens asked him lots of questions to understand what he meant. In this game, you will ask questions to work out who the person/animal stuck to your head is.

Equipment: Animal stickers or labels with Bible characters on them

If you have a younger group, stick an animal sticker to the forehead of each child without the child knowing which you have stuck to them. If your group is a bit older, write the name of Bible characters that you think they will know on labels and stick one on each child's forehead.

The children have to ask questions to each other about the person or animal stuck to their forehead in order to work out who they are.

EXPLORE THE STORY

You will need: sculpting toy like playdough and/or construction toy like duplo

Set out playdough on one set of tables and duplo on another or on the floor spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.

Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a Greek building, Paul standing on a rock to talk to people about Jesus (the Areopagus was a rocky hill in the centre of Athens where people would gather on top to hear speeches, debate with one another and judge legal cases)

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

How did Paul feel when he saw all the idols and temples to false gods?

Why do you think he felt like that?

How did he explain who Jesus was?

What question would you like to ask about God?

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands!

Acts 17:24



PAUL IN ATHENS

J W W F J S I L G C I S S V Y O Y D W U
X P B J B A W U X F R P M I P O I W I B
U H D K E O S F H Z Z M H E P A U U M D
I V O N A L T G K A G J F B U U A Q L Q
F N H R V X T J K X N H U T W S Z F G T
C Z L I I Z P U K M K D O K I D H Q B E
T Q H B I I C L P I I E S V O T W J R T
F Z R F D I X A I X L B P P C Y A B N D
V Y D Z F N Z L C R V A V N Z M R K N L
B M N M Y E H B U I L T Z A T H E N S E
A A T G X N G W T N T E M P L E O S Q F
U E F S G J F O F N K M C B R R P W O Z
Q W U V Z A E R N Z R W U G H O A T L U
W F H H I U S S Y B L M U N X R G O A Y
H D R Y U G T H U U R F B J L X U Z Q A
I F L P G R W I A S E W U N G O S P E L
G Z C Z H T I P H I L O S O P H E R S H
Q U W C Z N Q C T I D M D N D M O M D L
S P G N C A S N S D B O C R P R A G M C
M B Q O D V J Q A C M N L N E I Q R J G

AREOPAGUS

ATHENS

BUILT

DEBATE

GOSPEL

GREEK

HANDS

IDOL

JESUS

PAUL

PHILOSOPHERS

TEMPLE

WORSHIP



5-9 years

SESSION 9: EPHESUS BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT

WELCOME

MEMORY VERSE CARD SORT

As a group, sort the memory verse cards and tack them to the wall in the right order and repeat the memory verse together.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.
Romans 1v16

STORY RECAP

BIBLE STORY – Acts 19:1-10

SOAKING PRAYER

GAME – WATER RACE

EXPLORE THE STORY – See notes for suggestions on discussion questions after telling the story

CRAFT – Dove



5-9 years

SESSION 9 BIBLE STORY: BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

RECAP:

Paul was off on a third adventure for Jesus and when he came to Ephesus, there were some people who knew about John the Baptist and had been baptised into John's baptism. Do you remember who/what that was?

They had heard about Jesus and believed that He was God who came as a person and took away the sins of the earth.

But they had never been baptised by the Holy Spirit

STORY:

Acts 19:1-10 Paul in Ephesus

Who is the Holy Spirit? God

Flip chart spider diagram:

What does He do? Help people know God, empower for witness, give gifts, grow good fruit in our lives etc.

In the story, the Holy Spirit gave the people in Ephesus the gift of speaking in a special prayer language that they had never learnt. Paul and the believers with him were so empowered by the Holy Spirit that they were able to tell people courageously about Jesus so that everyone in the province of Asia, both Jews and non-Jews, heard the message of Jesus.

SOAKING PRAYER

Have some time with worship music on when the children lie on the floor and listen to God. Invite the Holy Spirit to come and speak with them and show Himself to them. Then give them a pen and paper and encourage them to write or draw what they receive. Share what they receive.

5-9 years

GAME: WATER RACE

Outdoor game

Equipment: 4 jugs or 2 jugs and two buckets, 4 paper cups with a hole poked in the bottom

Fill 2 buckets/jugs with water and have 2 jugs a few metres away

In two teams, run a relay between the bucket and measuring jugs. Each person takes a leaky cup, fills it up from the bucket and runs to the measuring jug.

Finish when you call time or when one jug is full.

The team with the fullest jug is the winner.

EXPLORE THE STORY

You will need: sculpting toy like playdough and/or construction toy like duplo

Set out playdough on one set of tables and duplo on another or on the floor spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.

Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a water baptism, a fire baptism, the hall of Tyrranus, a heart

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

What does the Holy Spirit help us to do?

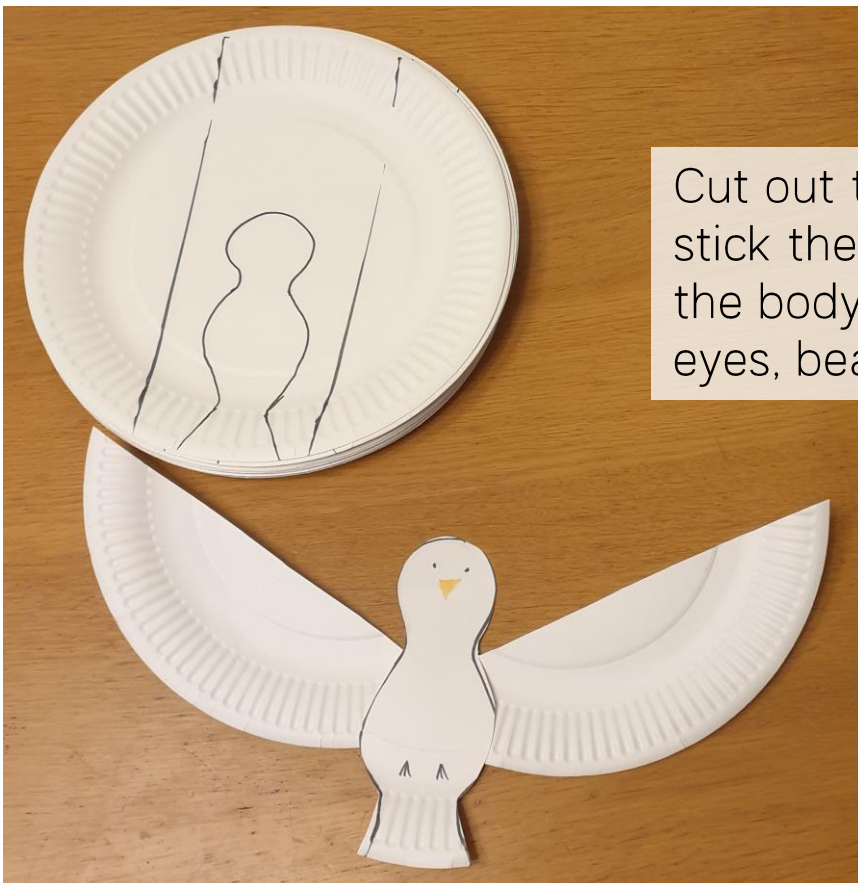
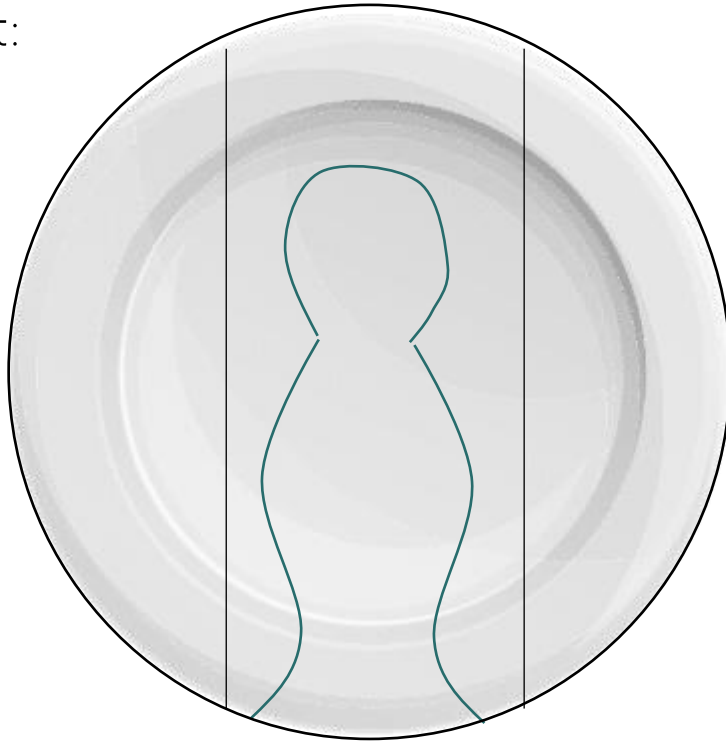
Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit helps us to know the love of God and to tell others of His love

HOLY SPIRIT DOVE

Equipment:

Paper plates,
pens,
scissors,
glue or
tape



Cut out two wings and a body,
stick the wings to the back of
the body and colour in the
eyes, beak and feet

SESSION 10: REPENTANCE AND RIOT

Big idea: The church is often persecuted for speaking about Jesus but the gospel never stops spreading

Many people turned to Jesus in Ephesus and the local idol makers tried to stop them violently and have Paul imprisoned, but God protected the believers and they went on speaking about Jesus.

5-9 years

SESSION 10: EPHESUS RE PENTANCE AND RIOT

WELCOME

MEMORY VERSE CARD SORT

As a group, sort the memory verse cards and tack them to the wall in the right order and repeat the memory verse together.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.
Romans 1v16

BIBLE STORY – Acts 19:11-12 and 18-41 Repentance and Riot

GAME – TIME TO REPENT

EXPLORE THE STORY – See notes for suggestions on discussion questions after telling the story

PRAYER – There are many people around the world who are attacked or imprisoned for their faith. Pray for people around the world that they would hold on to Jesus and God would watch over them. If there are countries or people particularly on your heart, pray for these.

CRAFT – tbc



SESSION 10 BIBLE STORY BASED ON ACTS 19:11-12 AND 18-41: REPENTANCE AND RIOT

Have one person at one end of the room pretend to be Demetrius, a person selling statues of Artemis, the roman goddess. Have one person at the other end of the room pretend to be Paul. Have everyone else in the middle, facing Demetrius and walking slowly towards him.

Narrator: The people in Ephesus were following a roman goddess called Artemis when Paul arrived in Ephesus. People like Demetrius would make statues of Artemis and sell them to people. That is how they would make money.

Demetrius: "Statues for sale! Statues for sale!"

Narrator: But Paul kept standing up in the hall of Tyrannus and anywhere else people would listen to him. He courageously told people about Jesus.

Paul: Turn away from Artemis! Jesus is the true God! Worship Him!

Narrator: God did extraordinary miracles through Paul and many turned away from following Artemis and doing other evil things like practising magic arts. They were glad to follow Jesus and know the true God.

Have most people in the middle turn around to face Paul happily, but a few not.

Narrator: Demetrius was very upset about this because people stopped buying his statues.

Demetrius: What are you all doing?? Come and buy my statues!

Narrator: He was so angry that he got some other people and started a riot. They were shouting and trying to arrest Paul, but they could not find him.

Demetrius: Get Paul! He is ruining Ephesus!

Those who didn't turn around join Demetrius in causing trouble.

Narrator: Instead of getting Paul, they seized Gaius and Aristarchus, two of the believers in Jesus, and dragged them into the court. Paul wanted to go in with them, but his friends held him back. Demetrius accused them angrily, but the crowd was so noisy that the person in charge of the court was afraid that the Romans would find out that there had been a riot, so he sent them all away.

After everything had calmed down, Paul gathered the believers, encouraged them and then said goodbye. He was going on to take the good news of Jesus to Macedonia.

5-9 years

GAME: TIME TO REPENT

Repentance means to turn around and go the other way.

This game is like “What’s the time Mr Wolf?”, but instead of asking Mr Wolf, ask Mr Paul and instead of shouting “Dinner time”, shout “Time to repent!”

EXPLORE THE STORY

You will need: sculpting toy like playdough and/or construction toy like duplo

Set out playdough on one set of tables and duplo on another or on the floor spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.

Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a jail, an earthquake scene, people being baptised

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

Why did people stop buying idols?

Why was Demetrius so angry?

What do you think it would have been like for Paul and the believers when the mob started rioting?

Could Demetrius stop the gospel being spread?

God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them (Acts 19v11-12)

... not everyone was happy about it, but Paul kept going!

RIOT IN EPHESUS

ACTS 19



SESSION 11: RESURRECTION IN TROAS

Big idea: God's resurrection power is available to Jesus' followers

When a young boy fell and died in Troas, Paul acted like Elijah, rising him from the dead. The same power that rose Jesus from the dead lives in us when we become followers of Jesus and are filled with the Holy Spirit.

5-9 years

SESSION 11: TROAS RESURRECTION

WELCOME

STORY RECAP

BIBLE STORY - Acts 20v7-12

PRAYER - Thank God that the same power that rose Jesus from the dead now lives inside of you and me.

GAME - WATCH OUT EUTYCHUS!

MEMORY VERSE

Hopefully, most of the group is pretty good at the memory verse by now, so try reciting it together in different ways. For example, march around in a circle and say it loud and clear. Then tiptoe around in a circle and whisper it. Then try and pat your tummy and rub your head while saying.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.
Romans 1v16

CRAFT - Resurrection in Troas

EXPLORE THE STORY - See notes for suggestions on discussion questions after telling the story



5-9 years

SESSION 11 BIBLE STORY: RESURRECTION IN TROAS

RECAP:

Paul is almost at the end of his third adventure around the Greek and Roman world telling people about Jesus. He left Ephesus after the riot and he was making his way back to Jerusalem. 7 friends who he had picked up during his adventures and were helping him in the work had gone on ahead of him to a place named Troas. Paul got on a boat at Philippi and arrived in Troas where he joined his friends and other believers there for a week. Something extraordinary happened on the last night in Troas.

STORY:

Acts 20:7-12 Paul in Troas

This is a short and action-packed story. You could read it straight from a children's Bible or act it out or use small world figure to retell the story, pausing to ask what people might have been thinking and feeling at key moments. For example:

Everyone had loved having Paul and his friends staying with them for the week. It had been so encouraging to hear his teaching and his stories, but they only had one more night to eat and talk together before he left. How might they have felt?

Paul had so much he wanted to tell them and so many stories of God's power and goodness that they kept talking all through the night. They kept lighting lamps so that they could keep speaking together. It was very late. How might they be feeling?

A young man named Eutychus was sat on a windowsill. They were high up on the third floor of the building. He was so sleepy that he just could not keep his eyes open and fell out of the window to the ground! Everyone was shocked! The boy had died! Surely that was not supposed to happen!

Everyone ran downstairs. Paul flung himself on the boy and hugged him tight. Everyone watched anxiously to see what would happen.

"Don't worry," Paul said, "He is still alive!" Wow! How do you think they felt now? They went back upstairs together and broke bread, remembering Jesus who died for their sins and rose from the dead to give them life.

They ate together and went on talking until sunrise. Then Paul left to climb aboard a boat that would take him on to Assos, the next stop on his journey. They took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.

Which other person in the Bible lay on a dead boy and saw him come back to life? Elijah.

The people went home with more than just stories that night. They had seen the power of Elijah, the power that rose Jesus from the dead, is the same power at work in Jesus' followers. Wow! What a mighty God we serve!

5-9 years

GAME: WATCH OUT EUTYCHUS!

Equipment: a hoop per leader, lots of beanbags

Each leader holds a hoop up. These are windows. The children then take beanbags and try to throw them through a hoop. When they successfully throw a beanbag through a window, they shout "Watch out Eutyclus!"

You could either play this with the adults walking around the room with their hoops or line children up in rows to throw them through a stationary hoop.

EXPLORE THE STORY

You will need: sculpting toy like playdough and/or construction toy like duplo

Set out playdough on one set of tables and duplo on another or on the floor spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.

Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a house, a window, a boat, a meal

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

How were the people encouraged by Paul's visit?

What did the boy rising from the dead show them about God and God's power?

CRAFT: RESURRECTION AT TROAS

You will need: scissors, worksheets,
pens, tape, lollipop sticks

1. Colour in the pictures
2. Carefully cut along the dotted lines
3. Cut out Eutychus and stick to the end of a lollipop stick
4. Pass the lollipop stick between the lines of cut paper so you can move Eutychus up and down the building



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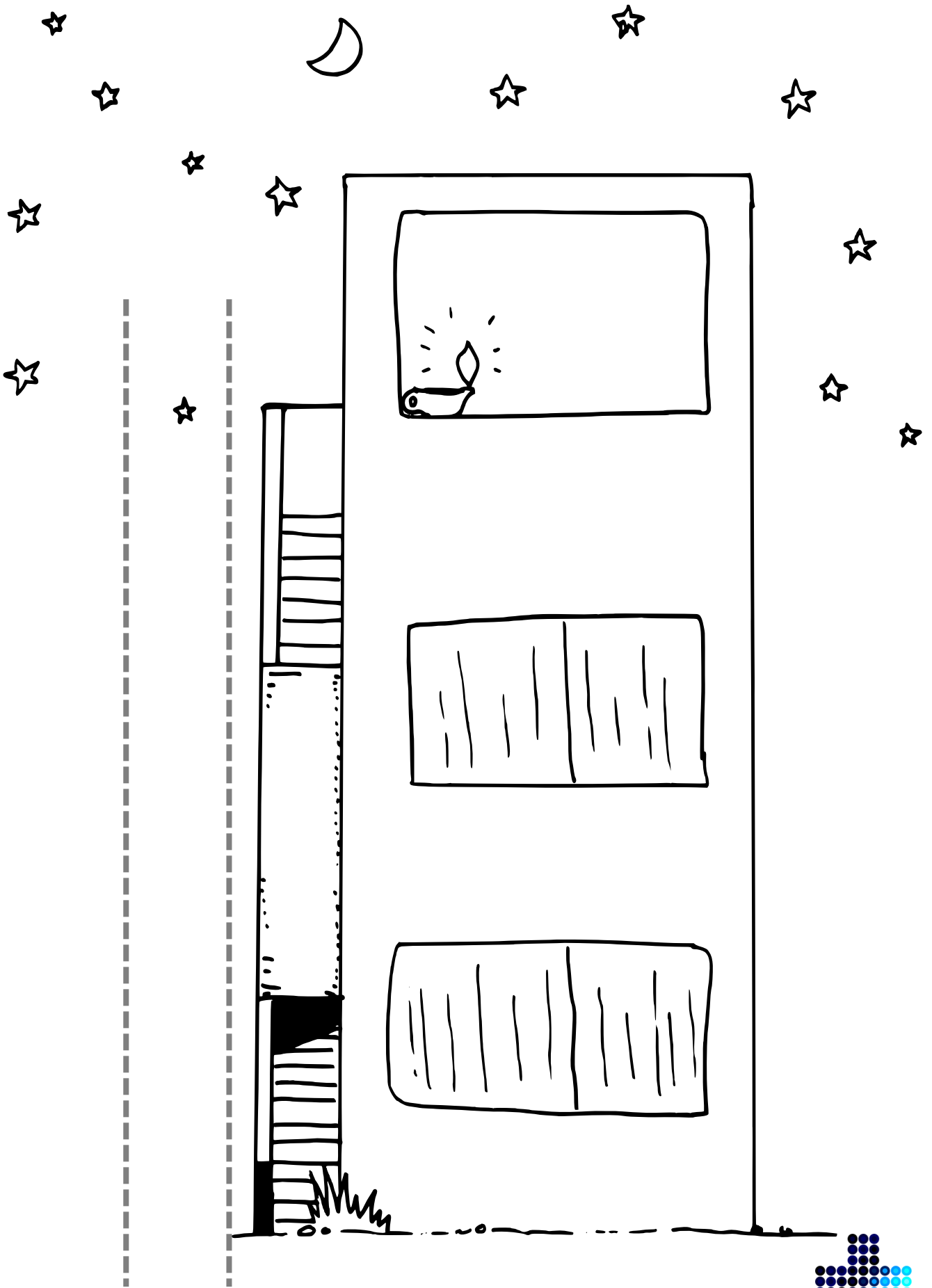
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ACTS 20:7-12 RESURRECTION IN TROAS



SESSION 12: COURAGE IN JERUSALEM

Big idea: Paul was not afraid to be imprisoned or even die for his faith in Jesus

Paul's friends warned him not to go to Jerusalem, because he would be arrested, but he was not afraid to go and testify about Jesus.

5-9 years

SESSION 12: ARRESTED IN JERUSALEM

WELCOME

MEMORY VERSE CARD SORT

As a group, sort the memory verse cards and tack them to the wall in the right order and repeat the memory verse together. The memory verse features in the script for the story this week, so you can encourage the children to join in when they hear it. Check the children's understanding of the words "ashamed", "gospel" and "salvation".

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the non-Jew. Romans 1v16

BIBLE STORY - COURAGE IN JERUSALEM (ACTS 20:17-23:35)

GAME - COPS AND ROBBERS

EXPLORE THE STORY - See notes for suggestions on discussion questions after telling the story

PRAYER - Thank God that He gives us salvation/life with God/rescue from sin, in Jesus. Pray that we would not be ashamed of the gospel, but would tell people about Jesus boldly.

CRAFT - Memory verse colouring



SESSION 12 STORY SCRIPT: COURAGE IN JERUSALEM

This is a retelling of Acts 20:17-23:35. It is an action-packed story, which could be acted out or told with small world figures and a toy fortress for the barracks or with pictures.

Narrator: Paul had been on three adventures around the roman world telling people about Jesus. Now, after 11 years of travelling, he felt the Holy Spirit was leading him back to Jerusalem. On the way, he saw many of his friends, to encourage them and say farewell, because he felt that he might not see them ever again.

Friends: Don't go to Jerusalem! They'll hurt you!

Paul: I know that trouble awaits me, but I feel I must go. Even if I am imprisoned or even killed, I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God to bring salvation to everyone who believes – first to the jew, then to the non-jew.

Narrator: His friends were sad to see him go, but they prayed for him that God's will would be done.

The Jews in Jerusalem knew that Paul had spent years with non-jews and they were angry about it. Paul went into the temple to worship, but an angry crowd through him out and started to beat him.

Crowd: Paul is a traitor! He brought non-Jews into the temple!

Narrator: Paul had not brought non-jews into the temple, but they falsely accused him and made such an uproar that the Roman soldiers came running. The roman soldiers had to carry Paul out of the crowd and into their fortress.

Paul: I want to go out and speak to the crowd.

Roman soldier: What? Don't go out there! They will hurt you!

Paul: I am not ashamed of the gospel! It is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes. First to the Jew, then to the non-Jew.

Narrator: The romans let him stand on the steps and speak to the crowd. When they heard Paul speaking in their own language, they were quiet and listened while Paul told them his story.

Paul: I once hated Jesus and tried to kill those who followed him. One day, when I was riding to Damascus to arrest his followers, I was knocked off my horse and a bright light flashed around. I saw a vision of a man and a voice from Heaven called "Saul, Saul, why are you hurting me?" "Who are you, Lord?" "I replied. "I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you are persecuting." I was once blind to the truth, but God showed me who Jesus was. I wanted to come and tell you about Him immediately, but God warned me in a vision and said I should not go to Jerusalem yet, because you would not listen. Instead, I should travel and tell the news about the risen Lord Jesus to the non-Jews.

SESSION 12 STORY SCRIPT CONTINUED

Narrator: At this, the crowd became so angry that they wanted to kill him. The Roman soldiers had to pick Paul up and carry him back inside the fortress.

The next day, the Jews held a council meeting and Paul was brought before them.

Paul: I am on trial because I believe that God can raise the dead.

Narrator: At this, the Pharisees started saying “of course God can raise the dead! And the Sadducees were shouting back “no He can't! That's impossible!”. They were arguing so much that the Roman soldiers had to take Paul away again for his safety.

Roman: Why did you do that? Didn't you know they could hurt you?

Paul: I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes. First to the Jew, then to the non-Jew.

Narrator: That night Paul saw an angel in a dream who told him not to be afraid. As he had told people about Jesus in Jerusalem, he must also tell people about Jesus in Rome.

The next day, over 40 Jews met together secretly and made a plot to kill Paul, but Paul's nephew heard about it and ran to tell Paul and the Romans guarding him. The Roman ruler ordered 200 soldiers, 70 horsemen and 200 spearmen to take Paul by horse in the dead of night to the city of Caesarea where he would stay in Governor Felix's palace and await trial.

Governor Felix could not understand why Paul was under arrest.

Governor Felix: Why do you hold onto this faith in Jesus? Don't you understand that it could get you killed?

Paul: I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes. First to the Jew, then to the non-Jew.

Narrator: The Jews from Jerusalem came and demanded that Paul was killed, but the Romans could not find any reason to kill him, so he was kept in the palace under guard.

5-9 years

GAME: COPS AND ROBBERS

Equipment: 1 base (could be a bench/area/hoop)

*For 6-10 assign 2 cops. For more than 10 assign 3 or more.
Best played in an outdoor space if possible.*

The base is the prison. The cops chase the rest of the children and tries to tag them. If they are tagged, they must go to and remain in the prison. The other children can free them by tagging their teammates who are in jail, but if they are caught by the cops, they also go to jail.

Game finishes either when all the children are caught or time is up.

EXPLORE THE STORY

You will need: sculpting toy like playdough and/or construction toy like duplo

Set out playdough on one set of tables and duplo on another or on the floor spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.

Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a fortress, a temple, an army, a prison, a palace

As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

Why did Paul's friends not want him to go to Jerusalem?

Why did Paul go?

Why were the Jews so angry with him?

FOR I AM NOT
ASHAMED OF THE
GOSPEL, BECAUSE
IT IS THE POWER
OF GOD THAT
BRINGS
SALVATION TO
EVERYONE WHO
BELIEVES: FIRST
TO THE JEW, THEN
TO THE NON-JEW.
ROMANS 1V16



SESSION 13: REVIVAL IN MALTA

Big idea: God used what looked like a terrible situation to bring life to many people

Paul and the romans with him were shipwrecked on Malta, but God used it to bring His salvation to the people on the island.

5-9 years

SESSION 13: SHIPWRECKED ON MALTA

WELCOME

MEMORY VERSE CARD SORT

Practise the memory verse together. For example, march around in a circle and say it loud and clear. Then tiptoe around in a circle and whisper it. Then try and pat your tummy and rub your head while saying.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. Romans 1v16

BIBLE STORY – Revival on Malta Acts 27-28:11

GAME – SHIPWRECK

EXPLORE THE STORY – See notes for suggestions on discussion questions after telling the story

PRAYER – Thank God that he can use even very difficult situations for good.

CRAFT – Shipwreck



SESSION 13 STORY: SHIPWRECKED ON MALTA

This is a retelling of Acts 27-28:11. It is an action-packed story, which could be acted out or told with small world figures and a toy boat

Paul had been travelling for 11 years telling people the good news that Jesus died and rose from the dead so that everyone who believes in Him could become children of God. Not everyone thought this was good news, however, and the Jews in Jerusalem had had Paul arrested and tried to have him killed. The romans could not find anything wrong with Paul though and after being held under arrest in Caesarea for a long time, Paul asked to stand trial before Caesar in Rome. So the romans put Paul in the care of a roman centurion called Julius and they started off across the sea towards Rome.

They had not got far when the weather turned bad and they had to stop on the island of Cyprus. Paul warned the centurion that they should stay where they were and wait for the winter to pass otherwise the ship will be lost in the stormy seas and they might die. But Julius listened to the ship captain who thought it would be better to go around the coast to a better harbour for the winter.

The next day the weather looked good, so they set out on the water, but no sooner had they left the harbour than the wind suddenly whipped up and a furious storm was upon them.

They could not steer in the storm. They lost complete control of the ship. They were driven along in the terrifying storm for days and days without sight of land. The clouds were so black with rain that they could not see the stars or the sun. They all thought they would die when an angel came to Paul in a dream.

“Do not be afraid,” the angel said, “you must witness in Rome. You will not die and nor will any of the people travelling with you. Only the boat will be lost”.

The next day, Paul told the others what the angel had said. After two whole weeks in the thrashing rain, Paul told everyone to eat, because they had not eaten in days. They had been so fearful. Then the sailors realised they were nearing land.

“Throw everything overboard to lighten the ship!” The captain called.

SESSION 13 STORY: SHIPWRECKED ON MALTA CONTINUED

Barrels and food, clothing and cargo were all thrown into the water in the hope that the ship might make it to the island. Some soldiers wanted to escape on lifeboats, but Paul warned the captain, "If they do not stay together, none of you will be saved." The captain cut away the lifeboats and they trusted that the words that Paul said were true.

They could see the land was close now. There was not much further to go and then they would all be saved. Suddenly there was an almighty crack! The ship had hit a sandbar. It was breaking apart.

"Quick!" called the captain. "Everyone swim for the shore. If you can't swim, hold onto planks of wood and help each other along."

Everyone grabbed pieces of wood and dived into the icy cold water. They paddled and kicked their way to the beach, working against the foaming waves until every single person was safely on land. God had saved them just as He said He would.

Islanders came to the beach and helped the exhausted travellers out of the surf. They lit fires to warm them and looked after them as best they could. Paul learnt that the island was called Malta and all the people on it were unusually kind to them.

As Paul leant near the fire, a venomous snake suddenly jumped out of a piece of wood and sunk its teeth into Paul's arms. The islanders were shocked!

They thought "surely this man is a murderer! Though he escaped the sea, justice has sent a snake to kill him."

But Paul simply shook the snake off into the fire. The islanders watched to see if he would swell up or fall down dead, but he was fine. The snake had not harmed him. The people of Malta were amazed and wondered if he was some kind of god. They asked if he would heal the father of their leader who lay sick in bed. Paul prayed for him in the name of Jesus and he was healed. Then everyone who was sick on the island was brought to Paul and Paul healed them all in the name of Jesus.

Three months later, Paul and the crew got ready to sail again for Rome. The islanders gave them everything they needed for the journey. Although Paul had never intended to come to the island, God knew that there were people in Malta with hearts ready to receive the gospel and Paul was ready to share the love of Jesus wherever he went.

5-9 years

GAME: SHIPWRECK

Equipment: 1 blindfold

Choose one person to be the boat. They wait at one end of the room with a blindfold

All the other children spread out around the room and sit cross legged on the floor. They are rocks.

When you say "Go!", the boat makes his/her way on hands and knees from one end of the room to the other, trying not to hit any of the rocks. If they come close to a rock, that rock makes a noise (it can be a "beep!" or "watch out!") to let them know that they are getting close.

If the boat touches a rock, they switch with another child who has a go. If the children find it too tricky, give them three lives before they have to switch over.

EXPLORE THE STORY

You will need: sculpting toy like playdough and/or construction toy like duplo

Set out playdough on one set of tables and duplo on another or on the floor spread out enough in the room so that the kids can have space to think and build.

Ask the children to choose either the duplo or playdough to create a scene from the story. For example, they might want to make a boat, an island, a campfire, a sick person being healed

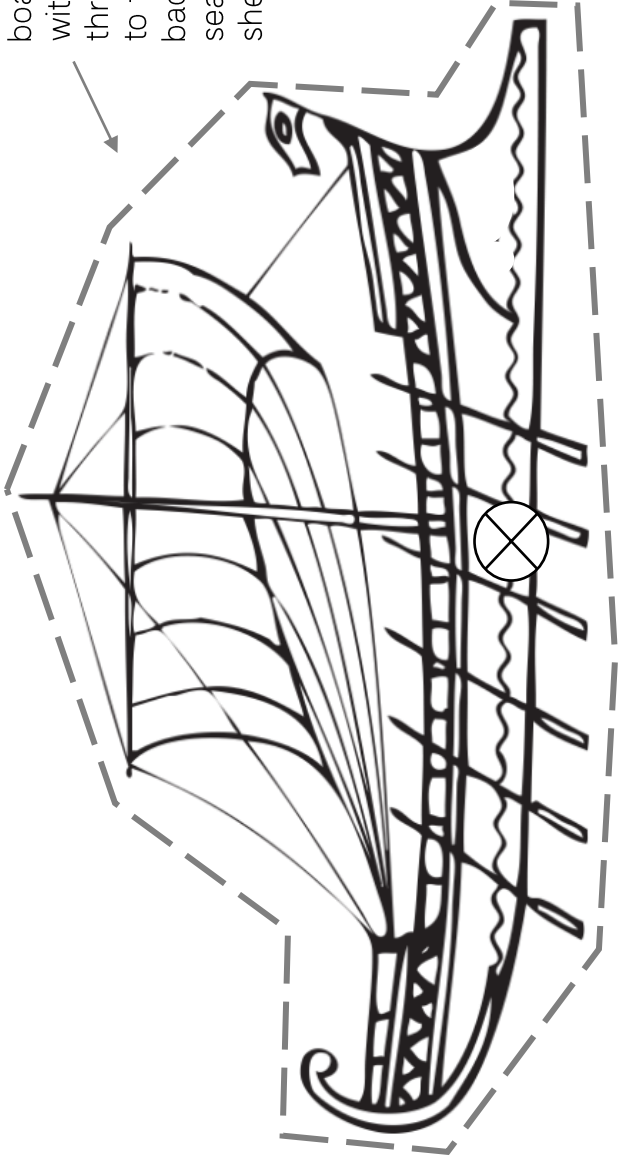
As they are building, talk to them about the story. You might want to ask some of these questions:

Who planned for Paul and his companions to end up on Malta?

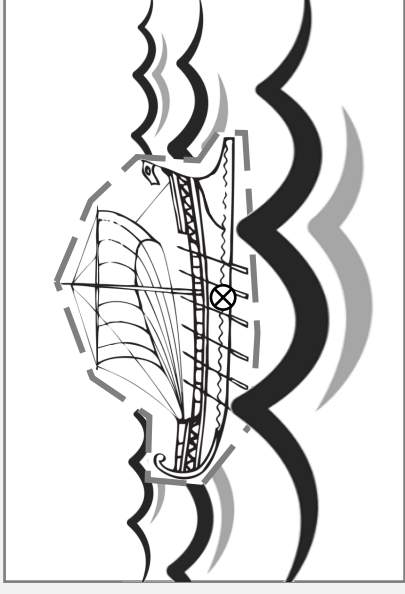
How did the people of Malta respond to Paul?

How did Paul encourage the other travellers when they were scared?

Cut out the boat and fix it with a split pin through the X to the background sea colouring sheet



CRAFT SHIPWRECK



Cut along top of black wave and stick the wavy piece of paper to the background sea colouring sheet glueing where it says "glue here"





GLUE HERE

GLUE HERE

GLUE HERE