



# PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

LESSON AT A GLANCE

■ New Apostolic Church USA



## CURIOSITY

An object lesson, experiment, or activity that sparks curiosity, encourages exploration, and gets kids thinking about the wonder of God.

- Welcome Question: *If you were moving somewhere on the other side of the world and could only bring one suitcase, what would you bring?*
- Interactive Game: Pack Your Bags!
- Declaring God's Wonder

## BELIEF Choose either Hear It or Experience It and supplement with the video

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Opening Prayer
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth

## FAITH

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own, emboldening their faith and fostering a deeper understanding of their place in God's kingdom.

- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time

## IDENTITY

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids of these core truths: I am known, I am loved, I am led, and my life can tell of God's wonder.

- Responding in Worship: Watercolor Map Painting
- Blessing Your Kids

### PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS LESSON 1

#### NAC USA

#### Goals and Objectives

[IA 1, 3-9, 11, 13-19, 21, 23-29](#) [IB 1, 3, 5](#) [IC 1-13](#)  
[ID 1, 3, 5](#) [IE 1-3](#) [IIA 3, 6, 10](#) [IIIA 1-3](#)

**WONDER TRUTH:**  
God Works Through the Holy Spirit

**SCRIPTURE:**  
[Acts 16](#)

**GOD'S BIG STORY:**  
After Jesus goes to heaven, God sends the Holy Spirit to be our helper. God works through the Holy Spirit to lead Paul on missionary journeys to spread the good news.

**WORD OF WONDER:**  
[Romans 8:14](#)  
*Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.*



Lesson PPT Slides



Lesson PDF Slides



Lesson Printables

# FOR LEADERS

## A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN'S LEADERS

*We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father...*

Dear Sunday School Teachers,

Have you ever gone hiking? One thing that's important while hiking is following the signs—signs that point us in the right direction, remind us how far we've come, and reassure us when we've reached our destination. Without them, the journey could feel uncertain, even overwhelming. In [Acts 16:6–15](#), Paul and his companions took the gospel into unfamiliar places, and they didn't have trail signs to show them where to go. But they had something far greater—the Holy Spirit.

Like Paul, we all long for clear signs from God, but they aren't always easy to recognize. Sometimes, the Spirit directs us in unmistakable ways, and other times, we are simply called to stay faithful to the path before us, trusting that God is leading us exactly where we need to be.

This is why your work as a Sunday School teacher is so important! You are helping children see the signs of God's presence in their lives. You are showing them how to listen for the Holy Spirit and walk in obedience, even when the path isn't always clear. Every lesson you teach, every story you share, every moment of encouragement you give is a step toward strengthening their faith and trust in God's guidance.

Keep going! Stay on the path! Know that the Holy Spirit is working through you to guide these young hearts, just as He guided Paul. What a privilege it is to help children recognize God's direction in their own lives!

You are making an eternal difference.

With love and joy,

**The Faith Arc Team**

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## A ROAD MAP

### WHO?

Paul, also called Saul, was a Jewish man from Tarsus. He was a Pharisee who persecuted the early church but became a follower of Jesus after encountering Christ on the road to Damascus. Paul proclaimed Jesus to the Gentiles (non-Jews) and endured much persecution himself.

### WHAT?

While traveling with his companions, Paul was prevented by the Holy Spirit from entering Asia Minor or Bithynia (by-thin-EE-uh). The Spirit instead led him to Macedonia, where Paul preached to a woman named Lydia. The Lord opened her heart to accept the good news of Jesus. Lydia was thereby the first person in Europe to become a Christian.

### WHERE?

Paul and his companions set out from Troas, a coastal city in present-day Turkey. They crossed the Aegean Sea and landed in Neapolis before heading to Philippi. These cities were part of Macedonia, which was located north of Achaia (uh-KAY-uh) in present-day Greece.

### WHEN?

Acts tells the story of the growth of the early church after Jesus ascended into heaven. This story recounts part of what is known as Paul's Second Missionary Journey, taking place around AD 50. This was several years after Paul's conversion and well into his ministry.

### CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

God promised Abraham that all peoples would be blessed through Abraham's family. Jesus, a descendant of Abraham, makes the way for all people to be part of God's kingdom. In Acts, the Holy Spirit empowers Jesus' followers to spread this news to the nations of the world.

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### WELCOME QUESTION

**SUPPLIES:** paper, colored pencils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional), **Welcome Question Slide**

Before kids arrive, display the **Welcome Question Slide**, or write the following question on a whiteboard: "If you were moving somewhere on the other side of the world and could only bring one suitcase, what would you bring?" Set out sheets of paper and coloring utensils.

As kids arrive, warmly welcome them by name and ask them to Check In.

#### All Ages

Use the feelings chart on the next page and ask each child how they are feeling (refrain from asking "How are you?" as children may be accustomed to responding with "fine"). You may want to print and post the feelings chart in your classroom for ease of use.

- Allow each child to name their feeling or to use a color to name their feeling. Older children might use words, younger children might point to the pictures or use the colors to express their feelings.
- There are no wrong feelings and all feelings should be acknowledged.
- Acknowledge how children feel by giving each child time and space to share anything they might need or want to share in regard to their feelings. For example, you can ask "Why are you angry?" or "What made you sad?"
- If you can, address the feeling (hunger/thirst - provide a snack/drink, sadness - give a hug, joy - give a high five, tired - let the child rest, anger - a calming space, etc.).
- Keep in mind throughout the lesson how each child is feeling and that feelings may change during your time with the child.
- If you notice a change, you may want to allow the child to rename their feeling and again address the feeling if needed.
- Acknowledge all feelings, concerns, joys, and celebrations in your opening and closing prayer. Use a grace-based approach to the learning as feelings will impact how children learn. (adapted from the Zones of Regulation)

Show them the **Welcome Question**. Encourage them to share their answers with 2-3 other kids. Be sure to share your own answers too! Invite kids to illustrate their answers if they choose. If you have younger kids, be sure to read the question for them.

#### At your start time...

Call everyone together and let them know you're glad they're here today. Invite a few kids to share their answers to the Welcome Question with everyone: ***If you were moving somewhere on the other side of the world and could only bring one suitcase, what would you bring?*** After each answer, give the kid an air high five.

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# SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL CHECK IN

Angry



Scared



Panicked



Inconsolable



Happy



Focused



Calm



Proud



Worried



Frustrated



Silly



Excited



Sad



Bored



Tired



Sick



In God's big story, Jesus' disciple Paul and his fellow travelers had to learn how to travel all over the world and share His story ... without Jesus standing right next to them (because He was in heaven). Who could help them share the story? Today we're going to discover the incredible helper God sent them. But, first, it's time to be curious.

## INTERACTIVE GAME: PACK YOUR BAGS

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only), bags (2 small suitcases, duffel bags, or backpacks), 2 sets of items (adult-sized clothing (several) and one article of purple clothing), cardstock (optional), **Pack Your Bags Slide**, **Relay Game Flame Sheet**, **Journeys Wonder Truth Slide**

For this activity, kids will race to pack a bag with items relevant to the Bible story, including an article of purple clothing and a paper flame (representing the Holy Spirit).

Ahead of time, print the **Relay Game Flame Sheet** (on cardstock, if possible) and cut out the two flames. Set out the bags on one side of the room, and each pile of clothing on the other side of the room. Both piles should have the same number of clothing items and one paper flame.

Divide the group into two teams. **We're going to pack some bags to take with us on a missionary trip! Each of you will put on an item of clothing from the pile and wear it as you walk to your team's bag. Then you'll take it off and put it in the bag. If you choose the flame, you can hold it over your head or in front of you. Then the next person in line can go.** Demonstrate this for the kids by slipping on an article of clothing, walking to a bag, and placing the item into the bag. Return the article of clothing to the pile before kids begin.

**Ready, set, go!** Cheer for the kids as they participate and lend a hand to those who need a little help. You can congratulate the first team to pack all the items into their bag or simply affirm everyone for doing a great job without declaring a specific winner.

**Teaching Tip:** *You can modify this game in several ways based on the number of kids in your group. If you only have a few kids: Have only one team, but time the relay. If time allows, do it twice so kids can try beating their first time. If you have lots of kids: Choose several kids to be on the two teams, then encourage the rest of the kids to cheer. If you have more kids than items but want everyone to have a turn: Play the game twice or have half the kids take the clothing out of the bag and wear it back to the starting position.*

**Make It Inclusive:** *If you have kids who aren't able to dress themselves or have sensory challenges that make them sensitive to certain fabrics or extra clothing, allow them to simply carry their items to the other side. Or make extra copies of the flame cutouts so multiple kids can carry flames rather than put on articles of clothing.*

Gather kids back together. **The relay had two clues about what we're going to learn in God's big story today.** Hold up one of the articles of purple clothing. **First, you might spy some purple clothing in our story.** Hold up one of the paper flames and display the **Journeys Wonder Truth Slide**. **And second, the most important clue is the flame. It reminds us of our life-changing Wonder Truth: GOD WORKS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

### DECLARING GOD'S WONDER

Write on a white board or chart paper or display the **Declaration Slide**. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

**Thank You, God, that You are good!** (Kids repeat.)

**You made me on purpose, for a purpose.** (Kids repeat.)

**And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat.)

**You know me, love me, and lead me.** (Kids repeat.)

**You work through Your Holy Spirit.** (Kids repeat.)

**Your Spirit is my amazing helper!** (Kids repeat.)

**My life can tell of Your wonder!** (Kids repeat.)

### OPENING PRAYER

Before entering into God’s big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for sending Jesus to save us and Your Spirit to help us. Thank You for working through Your Spirit to help us follow You and spread the good news about Jesus. Help us to learn how Your Spirit works in us as we follow You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

### GOD’S BIG STORY

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story – we recommend you choose **HEAR IT!** or **EXPERIENCE IT!** and supplement with the **WATCH IT!** video. **HEAR IT!** is read directly from the Bible. **EXPERIENCE IT!** is an interactive story-telling activity.

### Hear It!

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid), **Journeys Title Slide**

Display the **Journeys Title Slide**. Explain to kids that today’s reading comes from the book of Acts, which tells the true story of what happened to Jesus’ followers after He went back to heaven. Invite them to turn to Acts 16. Encourage leaders to help kids find the passage, if needed.

**Let’s start by reading part of God’s big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story!**

Read [Acts 16:6–15](#). Before reading, tell kids that Paul is an Apostle and a missionary, traveling to tell people about Jesus. If you have confident readers, invite one kid to read [verses 6–10](#) and another to read [verses 11–15](#). Encourage the other kids to follow along as the volunteers read.

### Watch It!

Watch the [Paul’s Missionary Journeys God’s Big Story!](#)

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## Experience It!

**SUPPLIES:** cardstock, scissors (prep only), masking tape, white gift bag, tissue paper (orange, red, and yellow), blue bed sheet, purple cloth, paper clip, **Full-size Holy Spirit Flame Sheet** (2 copies), **Quarter-size Holy Spirit Flame Sheet** (5 copies), **Paul's Vision Sheet**

Ahead of time, print two copies of the **Full-size Holy Spirit Flame Sheet** on cardstock. Print five copies of the **Quarter-size Holy Spirit Flame Sheet** on cardstock with two-sided printing, which will provide more than enough flame cards for all the kid volunteers participating in the storytelling.

Ahead of time, make the Holy Spirit Flame Bag. With glue or tape, attach two copies of the **Full-size Holy Spirit Flame Sheet** to the outside of a white gift bag (one on each side). The gift bag should be about as large or a little larger than an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper. Fill the gift bag with flame-colored tissue paper—red, orange, and yellow. Cut the **Quarter-size Holy Spirit Flame Sheets** along the dotted lines and stack the cards, securing them with a paper clip. Place the cards inside the Holy Spirit Flame Bag. Print **Paul's Vision Sheet** and place it in the bag.

Ahead of time, place near your story telling area the Holy Spirit Flame Bag, a blue bed sheet, and purple cloth. Set masking tape nearby for when Paul and Lydia receive the Spirit.

**Can you remember when you first heard the good news that Jesus is God's Son and He loves you? You might have heard it from your parents or from someone at church, or maybe a friend told you! Or maybe you first heard the good news in a song or read about it in a book, like the Bible.** Briefly share how you first heard about Jesus—even if you share that you can't remember, because kids can relate to that. **Right after Jesus was on earth and had ascended back to heaven, the only way to hear the good news about Jesus was to hear it from someone. And back then, not many people knew Jesus had lived and died and rose again!**

**Teaching Tip:** *Keep the Holy Spirit Flame Bag to use again during the Lessons 3 and 4 Experience It! Scripts.*

**But there was a group of people who knew Jesus really well. They had followed Him, learned from Him, and witnessed His death and resurrection. Who were they?** Wait for a response. **His disciples!** Invite one or two kids to the front of your story telling area to play the roles of Jesus' disciples. Ask them to face the other kids and wait for your instruction.

**After Jesus died on the cross, He rose from the grave, defeating death and making the way for all people to be part of God's forever kingdom. For 40 days, Jesus appeared to His disciples, proving He was alive and teaching them about God's kingdom. Then He went back to heaven, or ascended, to be with God the Father.**

**But first** (hold the Flame Bag in your hands) **Jesus prepared His disciples for what was coming next in God's big story. God was about to send an amazing gift** (point to the flame on the bag)—**the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit is God—God's powerful, wise, and loving presence. (The Holy Spirit isn't an actual flame, but sometimes a flame is used to represent the Holy Spirit.)**

**Teaching Tip:** *Acts 2:3 describes when the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost: "They saw something that looked like fire in the shape of tongues." You may want to explain that while we can't see the Holy Spirit, we will use the Bible's image of a flame to represent the Spirit— the gift of God's presence to all who are baptized and sealed and believe Jesus is Lord.*

**When the Spirit came to Jesus' followers, He came as their helper.** From the Flame Bag, give a Flame Card to each of Jesus' disciples standing up front. Have them hold the cards in front of them so the

## ELEMENTARY

other kids can see them. **The Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to spread the good news about Jesus.** Ask Jesus' disciples to read out loud together the message on the back: "Jesus is God's Son, and He loves you!" (If any of the disciples are pre-readers, whisper the message to them and invite them to repeat it out loud.) Then ask them to share that message—the good news—with the group one more time but with boldness and enthusiasm. Remind them it is the Holy Spirit's power that makes them brave and gives them the words to say. Thank the disciples for spreading the good news and ask them to return to their seats. **God was at work, and His kingdom was growing.**

**Eventually, a man named Paul became a follower of Jesus.** Invite another kid up to play the role of Paul. **At one time, Paul was against Jesus and His followers, but then Jesus appeared to Paul and God changed his heart.** From the Flame Bag, pull out a Flame Card. Place a tape roll on the back of the card and have Paul stick it to his shirt, over his heart. **Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit guided Paul and gave him power to tell people about Jesus.** Direct Paul to proclaim to the whole group, boldly and with enthusiasm: "Jesus is God's Son, and He loves you!" **Paul traveled around spreading the good news.** Invite Paul to move through the audience telling each person the same message—the good news. While he does that, say: **The good news spread not only to Jewish people who had been waiting for the Messiah—the everlasting King—but also to non-Jewish people called Gentiles. The news about Jesus was for everyone! Salvation was coming to the ends of the earth!** Have Paul rejoin you, even if he didn't get to everyone.

**One time, Paul and his companions traveled to the border of a region called Mysia** (mah-SEE-uh), **which was hundreds of miles from Jerusalem. They were trying to decide where to spread the message about Jesus next.** Direct Paul to repeat these lines after you: "Where should we go next?" Pause. "Who hasn't heard about Jesus yet?" Pause. **Then Paul had a vision** (from the Flame Bag, pull out Paul's Vision Sheet and hold it above Paul's head), **a special picture from the Holy Spirit. He saw a man from Macedonia** (ma-si-DŌ-nyuh) **standing and begging him. "Come over to Macedonia! the man said. 'Help us!'"** ([Acts 16:9](#)). **Macedonia was on the other side of the sea.** Invite two volunteers to play the role of the water. Give them each opposite long ends of a blue bed sheet. Direct them to move the sheet like gentle waves. Stand behind the sheet and walk while holding Paul's Vision Sheet over the water like a boat moving across the sea, showing Paul the way to go. **The Spirit was showing Paul where to go next.**

**Paul and his companions got into a boat and went to Macedonia.** Direct Paul to follow you from one end of the water to the other, moving as though he is in a boat. **They arrived at the coastal town of Neapolis** (nee-AP-o-lihs), **then went to an important city called Philippi** (fih-LIHP-ai). **On the Sabbath—a day to rest and remember God's goodness—they walked outside the city gate and down to the river.** Ask the kids to imagine the water is now a calmly flowing river. **Paul and his companions were looking for a place where people gathered to pray and worship. They found a group of women and started talking to them.**

**One of the women was named Lydia.** Invite another kid up to play the role of Lydia. **She was from the city of Thyatira** (thai-uh-TAI-ruh), **which was back across the sea in Asia Minor. In Philippi, she had a business selling expensive purple cloth.** Place the purple cloth over Lydia's shoulders. **She was a worshiper of God who needed to hear the good news about Jesus. As Paul and his friends spoke** (direct Paul to tell Lydia the good news: "Jesus is God's Son, and He loves you!"), **the Lord opened Lydia's heart to accept Paul's message** ([Acts 16:14](#)). From the Flame Bag, give Lydia a Flame Card with a tape roll on it and have her stick it to her shirt, over her heart. **She and her family were baptized with water as a symbol that God was washing them clean of their sin, the wrong they had done.** Direct Lydia to stand behind the water, and ask the kids holding the bed sheet to pass it once over her, like a slow-moving jump rope. Invite Lydia to proclaim to the audience, boldly and with enthusiasm: "Jesus is God's Son, and He loves you!" **Then Lydia invited Paul and his friends to come and stay at her house.** Thank all the volunteers and invite them to sit down.

The Holy Spirit was at work! He had led Paul to Macedonia, and now Lydia and her family were followers of Jesus! Soon other people would hear the message too. The kingdom of God was growing and is still growing today as more and more people come to know that Jesus, God's Son, is Lord! Invite all kids to tell someone sitting near them: "Jesus is God's Son, and He loves you!" Encourage them to proclaim it boldly and with enthusiasm. Make sure everyone has heard it from someone; then thank the kids for spreading the good news. **Like Paul, we can trust in the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, our amazing helper, because God works through the Holy Spirit.**

## CONNECTING THE WONDER TRUTH

Display the **Wonder Truth Slide**. Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

**Our Wonder Truth today is GOD WORKS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

**God promised Abraham that people of all nations would be blessed through his family. Many years later, Jesus, who is a relative of Abraham, made the way for all people to be part of God's kingdom. The Holy Spirit gave Jesus' followers the power to spread the good news of Jesus to all nations. The news continued to spread until it eventually got to us! And it keeps going!**

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Divide your group into smaller groups based on age. If your group is already small, stay together for this time.

### QUESTIONS: YOUNGER KIDS

- **Who sent the Holy Spirit?** (*God the Father*)
- **Who does the Holy Spirit help?** (*God's children—anyone who trusts in Jesus*)
- **How do we receive the Holy Spirit?** (*After our Holy Baptism, we come before an Apostle of Christ, who lays his hands on us, prays a special prayer, and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. - It's important to be mindful that some children may come from different backgrounds and may believe they have already received the Holy Spirit in a different way. When sharing this, simply present it as how members of the New Apostolic Church receive this gift, while respecting and acknowledging the faith of each child.*)
- **What did Paul see in a vision (a special picture from God)?** (*Paul saw a man from Macedonia begging him to come there and help them.*)
- **The Holy Spirit showed Paul where to go next through a vision! What do you think this shows us about God?**
- **What are some ways the Holy Spirit helps you?**
- **How do you need the Holy Spirit to help you this week?** (*Kids might give suggestions such as "with my math homework," but consider guiding them to character-based responses such as "being kind to my sibling" or "being gentle with my pet."*)

God sent the Holy Spirit to help all His children, including you and me. The Holy Spirit wants to help us tell others about Jesus, but He also wants to help us become more loving, joyful, and peaceful. He also helps us be kind, gentle, and self-controlled. Let's take some time to pray together, asking the Holy Spirit to work through us.

### PRAYER TIME: YOUNGER KIDS

Invite kids to share some of their prayer requests with the group. Take time to pray together, allowing kids to pray aloud for one another. Close in prayer by thanking God for working through the Holy Spirit to help us.

**Teaching Tip (For Younger Kids):** *Younger kids might not know how to pray for someone else. Give them a structure for what to say by starting with a very simple prayer. For example: Jesus, thank You for my friend. Please help her be more patient. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

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## QUESTIONS: OLDER KIDS

- **How do we receive the Holy Spirit?** *(After our Holy Baptism, we come before an Apostle of Christ, who lays his hands on us, prays a special prayer, and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. - It's important to be mindful that some children may come from different backgrounds and may believe they have already received the Holy Spirit in a different way. When sharing this, simply present it as how members of the New Apostolic Church receive this gift, while respecting and acknowledging the faith of each child.)*
- **What are some ways the Holy Spirit helped Paul?** *(changed his heart, guided him, gave him power to tell people about Jesus, showed him where to go, guided him to Lydia, opened Lydia's heart)*
- **How did the Holy Spirit help Paul know where to travel next?** *(through a vision—a special picture from God—that showed a man from Macedonia begging Paul to come there and help them)*
- **One way the Holy Spirit led Paul was through a vision. What are some ways the Holy Spirit might lead you?**
- **What are some ways the Holy Spirit helps you?**
- **How do you need the Holy Spirit to help you this week?** *(Kids might give suggestions such as "with my math homework," but consider guiding them to character-based responses such as "being kind to my sibling" or "being gentle with my pet.")*

God works through the Holy Spirit to help all His children, including you and me. He wants to help us tell others about Jesus, but He also wants to help us grow in the fruit of the Spirit (see [Galatians 5:22-23](#)). This means the Holy Spirit helps us be full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Let's pray together, asking the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us.

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Invite kids to share some of their prayer requests with the group. Take time to pray together, allowing kids to pray aloud for one another. Close in prayer by thanking God for working through the Holy Spirit to help us.

**Teaching Tip (For Older Kids):** *Kids might be nervous to pray out loud. Give them a structure for what to say by starting with a very simple prayer, and encourage them to try a short prayer out loud. For example: God, thank You for my friend. Please help her show kindness to her little brother. In Jesus' name, Amen. Even if a child's out-loud prayer is rough, always affirm them for praying and never criticize their attempt!*

God gave us His commandments so we can live a life that is pleasing to God. When we honor our parents, which commandment says this? Allow kids to respond and then confirm the answer is the Fourth Commandment, when we don't take things that don't belong to us, which commandment says this? Allow kids to respond and then confirm the answer is the Seventh Commandment, when we don't cause harm to others, which commandment says this? Allow kids to respond and then confirm the answer is the Fifth Commandment. When we follow all of the commandments, we also live in a way that shows love for our neighbor and when we do that the fruit of the Holy Spirit grows in us. This means the Holy Spirit helps us to be full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. Let's say these together. Use choral response to repeat the Fruit of the Spirit. Practice saying them several times, changing the way you say them each time, slowly at first, then quickly, in a whisper, then boldly. After saying them several times, see if the group can remember all nine, without any clues from you.

## RESPONDING IN WORSHIP: WATERCOLOR MAP PAINTING

**SUPPLIES:** cardstock, dry watercolor paints (1 set per 3–4 kids), paintbrushes (1 per kid), cups of water (1 per 3–4 kids), **Paul's Journeys Map Sheet** (1 per kid), **Responding in Worship Slide**, [Holy Spirit Our Helper Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print one copy of the **Paul's Journeys Map Sheet** onto cardstock for each kid.

Display the **Responding in Worship Slide** and gather kids together. Only set out the dry watercolor paints and paintbrushes (not the cups of water).

Hold up a copy of **Paul's Journeys Map Sheet**. **This map shows the part of the world where Paul traveled as he told people about Jesus. Let's paint it!**

Allow the kids to notice they can't paint the map with the supplies in front of them. **Wow, I guess we need something else to help us paint. What do we need?** Pause for answers. **Yes, we need water! Now let's imagine that we are like these watercolor paints.** Hold up a set of dry watercolor paints. **How might the Holy Spirit be like the water?** Hold up a cup of water. Then allow kids to think and share their ideas.

**Good thoughts! Yes, just like we need water to paint effectively, we need the Holy Spirit's help to effectively be who God made us to be and do what He has for us to do! We cannot use watercolor paints without water, and we cannot live the good life God has for us without help from the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit helped Paul do what God asked him to do, and the Holy Spirit helps us live our daily lives as well.**

Set out the cups of water and allow kids to paint the map however they like. If they prefer, they can flip the page over and create their own art instead of painting the map. As they work, play music from the [Holy Spirit Our Helper Elementary Spotify playlist](#) and encourage kids to think about how God might work through the Holy Spirit in their lives. If kids are curious about the order of Paul's journey, refer back to [Acts 16:6–15](#) and help them draw arrows from place to place on their maps.

**Teaching Tip (For Older Kids):** *If you paint an area with water then add watercolors while it's still wet, the color fills up the entire watery area. Show kids this art technique, then remind them that Paul was able to preach to Lydia because she was already praying at the river with friends. The Holy Spirit helps us connect with what He's already doing, making us more effective.*

**Make It Inclusive:** *If you have kids with fine-motor skill challenges, here are a few options for modifying this art project: 1) Give them large paintbrushes that cover a lot of surface area and are easy to hold. 2) Encourage them to flip the sheet over to make their own painting, so they don't feel frustrated about trying to paint in the lines. 3) Give them only water to paint with.*

### PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS LESSON 1

NAC USA  
Goals and Objectives  
[IA 1, 3-9, 11, 13-19, 21, 23-29](#) [IB 1, 3, 5](#) [IC 1-13](#)  
[ID 1, 3, 5](#) [IE 1-3](#) [IIA 3, 6, 10](#) [IIIA 1-3](#)

**WONDER TRUTH:**  
God Works Through the Holy Spirit

**SCRIPTURE:**  
[Acts 16](#)

**GOD'S BIG STORY:**  
After Jesus goes to heaven, God sends the Holy Spirit to be our helper. God works through the Holy Spirit to lead Paul on missionary journeys to spread the good news.

**WORD OF WONDER:**  
[Romans 8:14](#)  
*Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.*



Lesson  
PPT Slides



Lesson  
PDF Slides



Lesson  
Printables

**Disclaimer:** We have permission from the publisher to use the Spotify music playlist solely for the purposes of the Sunday School hour, Vacation Bible School experiences, fellowship events, or for listening at home. Please note that this playlist is not to be used during the divine service or for any streamed or broadcasted occasion.

## BLESSING YOUR KIDS

Write on a white board or chart paper or display the **Blessing Slide**. Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

**Blessing:** May God work through the Holy Spirit in your life, helping you live as chosen and beloved children of God.

# GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

## ELEMENTARY

This additional game or activity is optional and can be used in the lesson where a movement break is needed. We've included teaching tips and tips to make the game and activity inclusive for all kids. Printables for the game and activity, if needed, are included in the printable link.

## GOOD NEWS TAG

**SUPPLIES:** none

**Teaching Tip:** You may want to designate a fairly small space for this game so it's easier for the Good News Crews to tag everyone.

**Make It Inclusive:** This game could be challenging for kids with limited mobility. If possible, pair a less mobile kid up with a more mobile kid as a helper or give them the job of Good News Coach (to point out who still needs to be tagged) or Crew Counter (to determine the winner).

In this game, kids will play a variation of tag—the more kids tagged, the bigger the group gets. Ahead of time, clear out an open space (indoors or outdoors) with clear boundaries where kids can play this game. **Today we're going to play a game called Good News Tag!** I need some taggers. Select at least two taggers (more if your group is larger, select 1 if your group is small).

**When I say, "Go," the taggers will run and try to tag you. The tag only counts if they shout, "Good news!" when they touch you.** Demonstrate by tagging someone and shouting, "Good news!" **When you're tagged, you become a part of the "Good News Crew," and you'll link up with the kid or kids who tagged you.** Demonstrate by holding hands or linking arms with someone else. **Tag as many other people as you can. When the game ends, the Good News Crew with the most kids in it wins! Don't forget to shout, "Good news!" when you tag someone.** If your group is small, the game will end when all kids have been tagged and are part of the Good News Crew. Encourage kids to spread out. Then begin: **Ready, set, go!**

Play until everyone is tagged or until time is up. Count the number of kids in each group and declare the winner. If time allows, play multiple rounds with new taggers. Gather kids back together. **In God's big story today, we learned how Paul spread the good news about Jesus. Similar to the way you became connected to a group in our game, Paul helped lots of people become connected to Jesus and to other believers through his preaching and through the work of the Holy Spirit.**

### PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

LESSON 1

NAC USA

Goals and Objectives

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