



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Mission Adventures  
Spring Year 3, Lesson 57

# There Is But One God

**Take Home Point:** \*There is but one God.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Acts 17:15-34

**Key Verses:** Isaiah 43:11, "I alone am the LORD, and there is no savior except me."

John 14:6, "Jesus answered him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one goes to the Father except through me.'"

**We will help kids know:**

- In today's culture, as in the Greek culture of the New Testament, people believe in many gods. But there is only one true God; and through his Son Jesus, we can have a restored relationship with him.
- Man wants to create God in his image; but stone, metal and wood cannot hold him.
- Before we help someone become friends with God, we must understand and respect them even if their beliefs are false.

**We will help kids feel:**




- Compassion for people who don't have a true understanding of God.
- Secure in knowing that through God's word, he has revealed his truth to us.

**We will help kids do:**

- Play a guessing game in an effort to find out what is true and what is untrue.
- Compare some different religions in the world today.

**Kingdom Quest Year 3 - Lesson 57 - 1**

## THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Kids will play “My Favorite Things” in an effort to find out what is true and what is untrue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  7  9  9  10	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p><b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “Gordy’s Gorge-Out”—Gordy tries to fool the presenter and get him to believe that asparagus is his favorite food.</p> <p><b>Video:</b> <i>The Visual Bible: Acts</i>—show clip of Acts 17:15-34.</p> <p><b>Teaching Point:</b> Using objects from the suitcase, the presenter conveys that there are things that are true and untrue.</p> <p><b>Puppet Conclusion:</b> “Gordy’s Gorge-Out”—Just like the kids can guess Gordy’s favorite food because they know him, we can know that God is the true God by spending time in his word getting to know him.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• suitcase</li> <li>• Gordy’s backpack</li> <li>• Items for the suitcase—Appendix A, “Religions: Are They All the Same?”</li> <li>• a lightening bolt cut out of paper or poster board (see Appendix B)</li> <li>• sign with the question mark and Unknown God written on it (see Appendix C)</li> <li>• sandwich bag with a rock</li> <li>• a metal washer or coin</li> <li>• a piece of wood or a stick</li> <li>• a cross</li> <li>• the <i>Visual Bible: Acts</i>, produced by Visual Bible International. Order from <a href="http://christiancinema.com">http://christiancinema.com</a></li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	5	When we know what is true, it is easier to tell what is untrue. Kids compare some different religions in the world today.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• chart of different religions (one per child)</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

**Cautionary Note:** *The most popular religion in America today is the belief that all religions lead to the same god. This does not agree with Biblical Christianity. Today's lesson attempts to show kids that there are widely held beliefs about God that are false.*

*To distinguish those beliefs, we must first understand the truth that there is only one God and he has provided eternal life through Jesus. This Warm-Up activity is a fun game that establishes that if some things are true, then others are false.*

Begin with:

**Kids, today we are going to play a game called “Discover My Favorites.” We will take turns going around the circle and talking about our favorite things like our favorite games to play, our favorite subjects in school, and our favorite sports.**

**But here is the trick. Each time you say what your favorite thing is, you will also say something else that really isn't your favorite. For example, I will say, “My favorite sports are soccer and baseball.” Now, one of those really is one of my favorites and one of those is not. Guess which one is not my favorite. Is it soccer or baseball?**

Let kids guess. Then say:

**Now who wants to go next? You will begin by saying, “My favorite sports are “blank” and “blank.” One of them *will not* be a favorite. We'll try to guess what it is.**

Go around the group and let kids take turns.

**Now we will find out what is your favorite indoor game to play. You will begin by saying, “My favorite indoor games to play are “blank” and “blank.” One of them *will not* be a favorite. We'll try to guess what it is.**

Continue in the same way. As time allows, insert the following “favorite things.”

- Favorite foods
- Favorite subjects in school
- Favorite things about mom and dad

Then say:

**Did you notice how we guessed what was true and what wasn't true? What made it easier to guess what was true? Yes, if you really knew the person, it was easier to know the right answer.**

**Do people ever say things about God that aren't true? Like what?** *(Like there are many different gods; God doesn't love or care about us; etc.)*

**How can we know the true things about God?** *(Reading the Bible regularly, being around people who do know God well, going to church, etc.)*

**The more we know about God and the Bible, the more we will be able to recognize when someone says something untrue.**

**Often we hear in our society today an untrue statement. Many people say there are many different religions and they all lead to the same God. That is NOT TRUE! Even though it may sound good, it isn't true. Today we will find out more about this important truth: *\*there is but one God.***

## **Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes**



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

**Puppet Presentation:** “Gordy’s Gorge-Out”—Gordy tries to fool the presenter and get him to believe that asparagus is his favorite food.

**Video:** *The Visual Bible: Acts*—show the clip of Acts 17:15-34.

**Teaching Point:** Using objects from the suitcase, the presenter conveys that there are things that are true and untrue.

**Puppet Conclusion:** “Gordy’s Gorge-Out”—Just like the kids can guess Gordy’s favorite food because they know him, we can know that God is the true God by spending time in his word getting to know him.

# Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

## Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Acts 17:15-34 in their Bibles.

**Why did the Athens philosophers take Paul to the city court to hear the new ideas he was teaching?** *(Acts 17:21. The Athenians liked to tell or hear something new and unusual.)*

**What was the unusual teaching that Paul told them about their “Unknown God?”** *(Acts 17:23-25. This God made the universe and everything in it. He gives everyone life, breath, and everything they have.)*

**How did Paul describe the one true God of the Universe as different from the gods the Athenians had made to worship?** *(Acts 17:24, 29 & 31. He doesn't live in shrines made by humans. He is a divine being not like an image made from gold, silver, or stone from human imagination and skill. The God of the Universe has set a day when he will judge the world with justice and he will appoint a man who rose from the dead to do this.)*

## Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

**Who do you think is this man that rose from the dead?** *(Jesus.)*

**Why do you think some people thought Paul was joking and some became believers?** *(Some thought this notion was too outlandish, maybe some thought it was so different and unusual that it must be true.)*

## Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

*Supplies needed: chart of different religions -one per child (see Appendix A)*

**Just like in the game we played earlier, when we know what is true, it is easier to tell what is untrue. When you come to know God and trust him, you know you can believe him and what the Bible says.**

Pass out the comparison chart “Religions: Are They All the Same?” to each child. Discuss briefly how the religions differ from Biblical Christianity. Younger kids may not be able to read this with understanding. Let them take it home as a resource for their parents. You may go over a few examples of the differences with them as time allows.

**Do you have friends who belong to any of these other religions: Hindu, Islam, Buddhism, New Age or who just don’t believe in the God of the Bible?**

Establish the importance that we want to respect other people and their religions like Paul did, even if their beliefs are wrong. Paul did this by first finding common ground with the Athenians. When he saw their monument to the Unknown God, he realized he had an opening to talk about the one and only true God.

**What do you see as the main differences between Christianity and these other religions?** *(God provided a gift in Jesus Christ his Son, who is also true God. Jesus lived, died, and rose again to pay the price for our sin. No other religion claims a god who did this for his people. Jesus fulfilled prophecy that was spoken hundreds of years before. By fulfilling prophecy and completing the work, we have a God who is our friend and savior. We do not have to earn our way to God by doing good things.)*

**Is it true that there are many ways to get to God?** *(NO! BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR that this is NOT TRUE. )*

**The more we know about God and the Bible, the more we will be able to recognize when someone says something untrue. In John 14:6, Jesus says, “...I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one goes to the Father except through me.”**

**\*There is but one God. Isaiah 43:11 says, “I alone am the LORD, and there is no savior except me.” God says he is the ONLY God.**

Have kids restate the take home point: **\*There is but one God.**

#### Closing Prayer:

Praise God that he is the true God of the Universe who gives life on earth and eternal life. Pray for kids to grow in the word of God so they may know the truth from untruth. Have kids pray for family or friends who do not know the one true God and for the Holy Spirit to show them how to witness.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Large Group Presentation:

20-30 minutes

## Series Overview: MISSION ADVENTURES

*We will investigate Paul's first and second missionary journeys. Week to week children will be reminded that though Paul and others were set apart to be missionaries by vocation, God has not called all of us to be missionaries. He has, however, called us to have a mission. That mission is to serve him.*

*A suitcase and a backpack are used to illustrate the main point in the large group presentation. The presenter uses the suitcase to talk about Paul and one of his adventures---specifically, a mission adventure. The small backpack or knapsack is attached to Gordy, the puppet. Some weeks Gordy will have an object in his pack that will help explain his perception of having a mission. Most weeks, however, an object from the traveling suitcase will be given to Gordy to be put in his pack. Week to week Gordy will discover more about how God has called him to serve.*

*Supplies: Items for the suitcase—Appendix A, “Religions: Are they all the same?” a lightening bolt cut out of paper or poster board (see Appendix B); sign with the question mark and Unknown God written on it (see Appendix C); sandwich bag with a rock, a metal washer or coin, a piece of wood or a stick; a cross*

### Gordy's Gorge-Out Puppet Presentation

**Presenter:** Let's call Gordy out today.

Kids call out Gordy. **Gordy...Gordy...Gordy....**

Gordy: Hi, kids. Hi, (presenters name). I liked playing that game in small group. You wanna play?

**Presenter:** Sure, Gordy. Tell me what is your favorite food.

Gordy: Remember, (presenters name), that I say two things and one of them isn't really my favorite.

**Presenter:** I understand. Now, what's your favorite food?

Gordy: A Gordy gorge-out.

**Presenter:** What's that?

**Gordy:** *(Talking fast)* It's chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream on an extra large gooey brownie with gobs of chocolate syrup all over, topped with a mountain of whipped cream with a cherry on top. *(Sigh)*

**Presenter:** Is that one food item?

Gordy: Yep. A Gordy gorge-out.

**Presenter:** What's your other favorite food?

Gordy: Asparagus.

**Presenter:** Just asparagus...the green vegetable?

Gordy: Yep. Just asparagus. I eat it raw!

**Presenter:** Well, I think I'll have to guess that asparagus is not really your favorite, and your favorite is the Gordy gorge-out.

Gordy: Wrong.

**Presenter:** What!?

Gordy: Yep. I can't stand all that ice cream and brownies and chocolate syrup stuff. Yech...Give me raw asparagus any day.

**Presenter:** Gordy? Are you pulling my leg?

Gordy: Well... I think I won the game, don't you?

**Presenter:** If you say so. Too bad, though, I was going to ask you over after church to make one of those Gordy gorge-outs. It sounded pretty good. But I guess I'll just go get some asparagus instead.

Gordy: Wait...wait...wait...You know I was just kidding. And besides, I don't want you to have to eat asparagus.

**Presenter:** Actually, I like it, Gordy.

Gordy: Yuck...I even had a hard time kidding about it.

**Presenter:** Gordy, today we are talking about something we shouldn't kid about.

Gordy: Asparagus?

**Presenter:** Of course not. We have been following Paul's mission adventure and today we find him in the famous Greek town of Athens. There he found something that the people made up.



Gordy: Asparagus ice cream?

**Presenter: No, they made up different gods and different idols to remind them of their gods so they could worship them.**

Gordy: I didn't know you could make up gods.

**Presenter: God says you can't, and you shouldn't. But they did.**

Gordy: What did Paul do when he saw that? I bet he really got mad and let them have it.

**Presenter: Gordy, let's all find out. Let's watch the Bible on video and see Acts 17:15-34. Come back and talk about this when it's over, okay?**

Gordy: Sure, (presenters name).

## **Video**

Show *The Visual Bible: Acts*, produced by Visual Bible International. Show the clip of Acts 17:15-34.

## **Teaching with Object Lesson**

After the video, continue with:

**Boys and girls, let's follow Paul on his mission adventure today. He was in the town of Athens in Greece. Athens was known for its many statues of many different gods. Maybe you have heard of many of those gods. They said that Zeus was the head of all the gods. He is seen holding a lightening bolt in his hand.**

Take the picture of the lightening bolt from the suitcase and hold up for the kids.

**Apollo is the god of the sun. Athena was goddess of wisdom. They had many different gods that supposedly ruled over our world.**

**Think about it. Can all these gods be true, when at the same time our God says there is no other gods but me? No, they can't be true. So Paul wanted to tell the people about the true God. Where would he begin? He began here.**

Take out the picture of the question mark and the statement Unknown God.

**He noticed that where the statues of the gods were placed in the city, they even had an altar for an unknown god. The people of Athens didn't want to hurt the feelings of any other gods they didn't know, so they created a monument to the unknown god, as well.**

**Paul said, "Let me tell you about him."**

Take out the bag with a rock, metal and sticks.

**Paul explained that God created everything and that it was silly to think we can create gods by just making a statue carved from rock or metal or even wood. These are things that God made, not something we make to hold him.**

Pull out the cross.

**Paul said that God showed who he was by sending his Son Jesus. Jesus proved he was God by rising from the dead. At that time, many did not believe and laughed at the idea. But others wanted to find out more and became believers.**

**Here is another paper that shows some different gods many people claim today.**

Show the sheet comparing different religions.

**Let's call Gordy out to talk about this.**

## **Gordy's Gorge-Out**

### **Puppet Conclusion**

**Presenter: Gordy, what did you think about the city that had many different statues to many different gods?**

**Gordy:** Well, it kind of seems weird. But do you think it could be true? Maybe there are many different gods, and maybe these religions just have a different way of explaining their gods.

**Presenter: Many people believe that today. But our God says that he is the only God and there is only one way to get right with him. That is to trust Jesus as Savior.**

**Gordy:** Does that mean all those other people with different beliefs about their god are wrong?

**Presenter:** Yes, Gordy, it was like the game we played. There was one wrong answer and one true answer.

**Gordy:** Are you sure? I know that was a game we played, but are you sure they both can't be right?

**Presenter:** I'm sure. If one religion says that Jesus was just a good man who died but didn't rise again, he'd be just a good teacher. Christianity says that Jesus is God's Son and he had to die to pay the price for our sin. Jesus completed the work because he rose again on the third day, proving he was God's Son and fulfilling prophecy. Only one of these religions can be true.

**Gordy:** Well, how do you know which one is true?

**Presenter:** Do you remember how we knew you didn't like asparagus? We know *you*, Gordy. Because we know you, we know what you like. When you come to know God and trust him, you know you can believe him and what the Bible says.

**Gordy:** I think I want to talk about this some more.

**Presenter:** Good idea, Gordy. We'll go back to our small groups and talk about it more. Scripture will show that *\*there is only one God*. The shepherds will have these charts to discuss different religions. Not all need to be discussed. But it will help you understand the differences. Gordy, will you lead us in prayer?

**Gordy:** Sure. Dear God, thank you for showing yourself in Jesus Christ. Thank you for giving us Jesus who paid the price for our sin. We thank you that he rose again showing your power in him and having victory over death. Jesus is the way to heaven. Help us understand who you are so we can help others know you and the gift you have given in Jesus. *\*There is but one God*. Thank you for being him. In Jesus' name. Amen.



## ***Religions: Are They All the Same?***

<b>What do you believe about...</b>	<b>Christianity</b>	<b>Islam</b>	<b>Hindu</b>	<b>Buddhism</b>	<b>New Age</b>
<b>God, the Father</b>	There is one God in three persons. The title of God often refers to God the Father who created all things and is personally involved with people. He loves us all.	God is called Allah. He cannot be called Father. Nothing else can be associated with him. He was selected from one of more than 100 Bedouin gods to be their #1 god.	God is absolute and a spirit who is everywhere. Everyone is part of god. God is called Bharmen.	They don't believe in the existence of God.	Everyone and everything is god. God is a force.
<b>God, the Son</b>	Jesus is God's Son who was born, died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead.	Jesus is considered to be one of thousands of prophets sent by Allah. But he was not the Son of God and did not die on the cross.	Jesus is a teacher and a son of God, as all of us are. He did not die on the cross for sin or rise from the dead.	Jesus was a teacher.	Jesus is not God or Savior. He learned his own unlimited inner power.
<b>God, the Holy Spirit</b>	The Holy Spirit is God. He leads us to faith and helps us live our faith.	Muslims do not believe there is a Holy Spirit.	Not a part of their belief system.	Not a part of their belief.	Sometimes it is a psychic force.
<b>Heaven</b>	We get heaven as a gift. It is given to those who trust Jesus as the one who took away sin by dying on the cross and rising from the dead.	Those who do more good than bad gain heaven. Allah determines if an individual gets to go to heaven.	After dying, you are born into another life. Finally you may be absorbed with God.	The goal to life is to get rid of all desires and escape suffering.	No heaven or hell. But a person may come alive in lives of others. In the future, they may discover they are god.
<b>Holy Book</b>	The Bible. The writers were inspired by God to know what to say. The consistent theme is the restoration of relationship between God and man.	The Qur'an. (Koran)	Many writings such as the Vedas.	Many writings of Buddha including the "Great Story."	No special holy book, but many selected writings.

