



Date: _____
Series: Mission Adventures
Spring Year 3, Lesson 58

Paul in Corinth

Take Home Point: *Speak up for Jesus!

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Acts 18:1-17

Key Verse: 1 Peter 3:15, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (NIV)

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Paul's stay in Corinth and how God encouraged him in a vision to not be afraid, but continue his witness.
- God calms our fears about telling others of Jesus.
- An easy way to share Jesus with others is to tell what Jesus has done for me.




We will help kids feel:

- Confident to share a witnessing tool with others.
- Bold and courageous in speaking about Jesus.

We will help kids do:

- Discuss their relationship with Jesus and their response to the gospel.
- Design witness cards to help them share Jesus with others.
- Identify friends that they would like to talk to about Jesus.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids discuss exciting things that have happened to them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none
Large Group 	3 6 9 9	Overview Puppet Presentation: “Gordy and Ralph the Mouse”—Gordy shares about the exciting day he had when he found a new pet mouse. Video: <i>The Visual Bible: Acts</i> —show the clip covering Acts 18:1-17. Puppet Presentation Conclusion: Gordy realizes it is even more exciting to know Jesus than to have a pet mouse, so he wants to <i>*speak up for Jesus</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • backpack for Gordy • suitcase • shoe box with a lid • scissors • the “Special Formula” (see appendix) rolled up • the <i>Visual Bible: Acts</i>, produced by Visual Bible International—order from http://www.christiancinema.com
Small Group Application 	3	Kids fill in the Special Formula cards with friends’ names to share Jesus with and pray for these friends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Special Formula” (see appendix) –copied on cardstock and cut, several per kid

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.

Let this time generate a fun discussion as the group has plenty of time to describe several experiences.

Tell about one of the most exciting things that ever happened to you.

After kids have had time to share some exciting experiences, say:

Wasn't it fun to share and be able to talk about things that were exciting to you?

When was the last time you were really excited about something God has done for you? Tell us about it.

Today we will talk about how we can **speak up for Jesus.*

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 and Ralph the Mouse”—Gordy shares about the exciting day he had when he found a new pet mouse.

Video: *The Visual Bible: Acts*—show the clip covering Acts 18:1-17.

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: Gordy realizes it is even more exciting to know Jesus than to have a pet mouse, so he wants to **speak up for Jesus.*

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 18:1-17 in their Bibles.

What did Paul do while he was in the city of Corinth? *(Acts 18:3-5. He made tents and discussed the scripture in the synagogue. Later, he devoted all his time to teaching the word of God. He assured the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah.)*

What did Paul do when some of the Jews opposed and insulted him? *(Acts 18:6. He shook the dust from his clothes and said the Pharisees were responsible for their own deaths and for not believing. He took the Good News to non-Jewish people.)*

Did Paul give up preaching about Jesus? *(Acts 18:7-8. No. He left the synagogue and went to a house next door.)*

What happened because Paul kept preaching? *(Acts 18:8. The synagogue leader and his whole family came to believe in Jesus, as well as many other Corinthians.)*

What did God tell Paul in a vision? *(Acts 18:9. "Don't be afraid to speak out! Don't be silent! I'm with you. No one will attack you or harm you.")*

How long did Paul live in Corinth? *(Acts 18:11. For a year and a half.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Why do you think God appeared to Paul in a vision? *(Maybe Paul was feeling discouraged.)*

How do you think Paul felt to hear from the Lord? *(Encouraged.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Does God promise the same to us?

When the Holy Spirit works in our hearts and we are excited about what God has done for us through Jesus, we can't help but share with others. It is exciting to tell others about our Good News. One of the best ways we can share Jesus is to tell what he has done for us and how that makes us feel.

Today's key verse from 1 Peter 3:15 says, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (NIV)

Application Activity:

Supplies: several "Special Formula" cards per child

Hand out one card to each child. Be sensitive to where each member of your small group is in their relationship with God. If they do not have a personal relationship with him, this is an excellent opportunity to share the gospel with them.

Say:

This is the "Special Formula" card that the presenter was talking about in large group. Look at the card. As I read it, silently put your name in the blanks.

Read the card out loud, pausing at each blank.

There is nothing more exciting than having a personal relationship with God and knowing you can live with him now and forever.

I would like you to think of one to three friends that you can share this exciting formula with. Let's spend some time praying for each one of these friends and that God will give you the opportunity to share this card with them. Let's pray that their hearts will be open to him. They, too, will have the same excitement you have about Jesus.

Closing Prayer:

Have kids pray for their friends. Pray for opportunities to share these cards. Pray that the kids will have Holy Spirit excitement to ***speak up for Jesus** about all the wonderful things he has done.

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Large Group Presentation:

20-30 minutes

Series Overview: MISSION ADVENTURES

For the next several weeks, 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: small backpack for Gordy; suitcase with shoe box, scissors and the "Special Formula" (see appendix) rolled up and place inside

Gordy and Ralph the Mouse

Puppet Presentation

Presenter: Kids, should we call Gordy?

Before the kids can call, Gordy comes out very excited as he interrupts and speaks very fast.

Gordy: (presenters name), (presenters name)!

Presenter: Gordy, good morning. We didn't even have a chance to call you.

Gordy: I just have to tell you what happened. I just have to tell you.

Presenter: Tell me what?

Gordy: I got a new pet yesterday!

Presenter: Fantastic!

Gordy: Guess what it is!

Presenter: Sure. Can you give me a hint?

Gordy: It has cute ears and a tail.

Presenter: I know. It's a dog.

Gordy: No, but here's another clue. He has whiskers and his name is Ralph.

Presenter: How about a cat?

Gordy: No, that's not it. One more clue. Ralph likes to run.

Presenter: Where does Ralph like to run?

Gordy: Away from me.

Presenter: You're going to have to tell me, Gordy.

Gordy: It's a mouse.

Presenter: Wow, Ralph the mouse. Did you go to the pet store and pick out one of those cute little mice?

Gordy: No, I only had to go to my backyard.

Presenter: Your backyard?

Gordy: Sure, I found Ralph there.

Presenter: Where do you keep this new pet?

Gordy: I just happened to have a mouse house.

Presenter: You do?

Gordy: Yeah, it was the box my new shoes came in.

Presenter: This is really exciting news. I am very glad for you.

Gordy: You ought to be glad for Ralph the mouse, too. This is no ordinary mouse. He did a mouse house makeover.

Presenter: A what?

Gordy: He put a door in the mouse house.

Presenter: You mean he bit a hole in the box?

Gordy: Yeah, I guess he wanted to be able to go in and out.

Presenter: How does this door work?

Gordy: Well, he likes to go out a lot more than he likes to come in.

Presenter: Gordy, do you mean you lost him?

Gordy: No, my mom found him. I guess he wanted to meet the rest of the family.

Presenter: What did your mom say when she met Ralph?

Gordy: EEEEEEEK!!!!

Presenter: So, what did you do, Gordy?

Gordy: I told her, "Thank you for finding Ralph." Then I explained how excited I was to have a new pet.

Presenter: Did you put Ralph back in his mouse house?

Gordy: Yes, I used his house to trap him in a corner and catch him. But, we had to relocate the house.

Presenter: It's not in your room anymore?

Gordy: No, mom explained that Ralph was an outdoor mouse.

Presenter: You mean the mouse house got moved outside.

Gordy: Yeah, with Ralph. But, let me tell you. It was a very exciting Saturday! It was so cool having a new pet even though I didn't get to keep him very long.

Presenter: Well, Gordy, today we are looking at the mission adventures of Paul. Paul had something so exciting that he could not stop talking about it either.

Gordy: A pet mouse?

Presenter: No, it is even better than finding a pet. It is discovering the best gift that God gave everyone. Once you receive this gift, you cannot be quiet about it. You HAVE to tell others!

Gordy: Kind of like me being so excited that I had to tell everyone my pet story.

Presenter: That's right.

Gordy: I want to know what the gift is.

Presenter: Let's take a look at Paul when he goes to the town of Corinth.

Gordy: I have heard of that place before.

Presenter: I bet you have heard of the Corinthians. That is a book in the Bible that was a letter Paul wrote to the church in Corinth. But, on this missionary journey, Paul was visiting the church in Corinth.

Even though Paul told the people about Jesus, some did not want to hear and got very upset with Paul. I wonder if he was supposed to keep Jesus to himself and not share anymore?

Let's find out what God told him to do.

Gordy exits.

Video

Show the video, *The Visual Bible: Acts*, produced by Visual Bible International. Show the clip covering Acts 18:1-17. Clip length: 3 minutes 12 seconds.

Continue with the teaching point.

Gordy and Ralph the Mouse Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Gordy enters. Mr King takes the shoe box out of the suitcase.

Presenter: Notice that this box is empty.

Gordy: That box reminds me of Ralph the mouse's house.

Presenter: I am sure it does, Gordy. Paul was preaching to some of the Jewish leaders in the temple. Their religion was a lot like this box – empty.

Take the lid off of the box.

These people were thinking that if they just did enough religious things or good things, they could earn God's love. Then they could earn their way to heaven.

Paul, at one time, was a religious leader like these men, and he had believed just like them. But Paul found it was all empty. No matter how hard he tried, there was nothing he could do to make himself perfect.

When Jesus met him on the road to Damascus, Paul soon discovered that Jesus was the Messiah the entire Old Testament was pointing toward.

Jesus entered our world and kept the law perfectly.

Put the lid back on the box. Cut a hole in the side of the box and put the rolled up piece of paper into the box through this hole.

Take the lid off the box and take out the rolled up piece of paper.

The Bible tells us in John 3:16, “*God loved the world this way. He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.*” When Paul discovered this, it was better than any other exciting events in his life and his life was no longer empty.

This was the most important and exciting event ever for Paul and for us. Paul trusted Jesus just like we can today. Jesus gave his life for us on the cross, and, if we believe him, we will live with God right now and forever.

Gordy: Boy, I would have really been excited if Ralph would have crawled back into his house instead of leaving it empty, but he didn't.

Presenter: Right, but how excited are you knowing that Jesus came from heaven into our world for one purpose? Jesus coming down to our world was kind of like cutting a hole in this box and you going into Ralph's world. Jesus came to pay the price for sin, so we can have friendship with God now and eternal life forever.

Gordy: Wow! I'd like to share Jesus with others so we can be in his world forever.

Presenter: Let me give you the special formula to live forever.

Gordy: Special formula?

Presenter: Yep. It is something that is more exciting than anything mentioned today. John 3:16 sounds this way with your name in it, “God loved Gordy this way. He gave Gordy his only Son so that if Gordy believes in him, Gordy will not die, but Gordy will have eternal life.”

Gordy: (presenters name) that IS exciting! Is the “him” God is talking about Jesus?

Presenter: Yes. He's worth getting excited about. But just like Paul, we can't keep quiet about this formula. God says “*Speak up for Jesus!”

Gordy would you pray for that today?

Gordy: Sure. Dear God, please bless Ralph the mouse. Thank you for the exciting day. Thank you for the exciting thing you did in sending Jesus to be my Savior. Help us to always remember that Jesus paid the price for ME. Be near me as I **speak up for Jesus*. In his precious name. Amen.

Presenter: Gordy, here is a special card you can keep in your backpack that will help you share Jesus with other people. Our friends here are going to go back to their small groups and make some cards of their own.

Place the "Special Formula" card in Gordy's backpack.

Gordy: Thank you, (presenters name). I am really excited to **speak up for Jesus*.

Gordy exits and the kids go back to small group.

SPECIAL FORMULA CARDS

...For eternal life
...For friendship with Jesus
...For hope and peace
...And so much more.

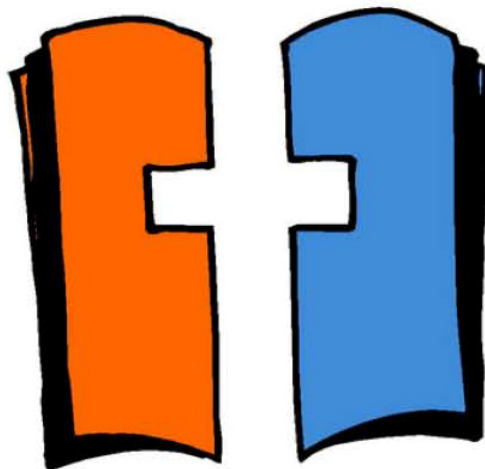


God loved _____ this
way: He gave _____ his
only Son, so that if _____
believes in him, _____ will
not die but _____ will
have eternal life.

John 3:16 (GW)

SPECIAL FORMULA CARDS

...For eternal life
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...And so much more.

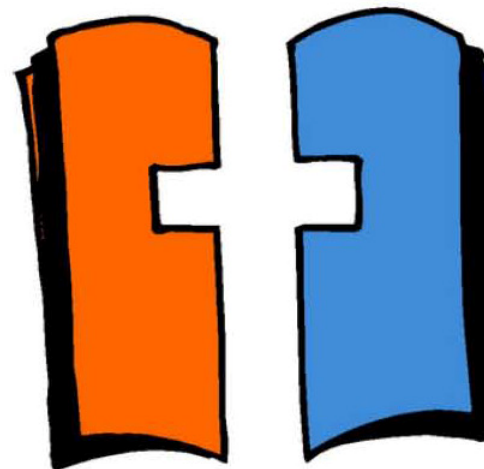


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