



Date: _____
Series: Mission Adventure
Spring Year 3, Lesson 53

Paul Goes to the Gentiles

Take Home Point: *God wants to reach people of all nations – we can help. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Acts 13:44 to 14:28

Key Verse: Romans 10:12-13, "There is no difference between Jews and Greeks. They all have the same Lord, who gives his riches to everyone who prays to him. So then, 'Whoever prays in the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

We will help kids know:

- Paul was a missionary who went to both Jews and Gentiles.
- When the Jews rejected him, he specialized in going to the Gentiles.
- God wants to reach people of all nations—not just the Israelites. God calls us to reach all kinds of people.
- Sometimes suffering and rejection happen when we share Jesus with others—we shouldn't be surprised.




We will help kids feel:

- Compassion for people who are not close to God.
- Conviction in knowing they should share the Good News with those who are different than themselves.

We will help kids do:

- Identify people they are least likely to be friends with.
- Discover how they might open the door of friendship with those whom they are not friends.
- Make a craft, The Door of Friendship, and describe how they can open the door of friendship to new people who need to learn about God.
- Pray for people who may be different from them and may be far away from God.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids talk about friends and those least likely to be their friends. Notice that the door is opened to our friends, but closed to those who are not.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One folded copy of Appendix B snack (optional)
Large Group 	3 6 9 9 11	Overview Puppet Presentation: “Gordy and Purple Percival”—Gordy knows a “purple” person that is not likely to be his friend. Video: <i>The Visual Bible: Acts</i> , Show the clip covering Acts 13:44-14:28. Teaching Point: The presenter shows different items from the suitcase to illustrate the points from the video. Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy and Purple Percival”—Gordy decides to open the door of friendship to Percival because God opened the door of friendship to him.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> video- <i>The Visual Bible: Acts</i>, Order from http://christiancinema.com (Note: If you are showing VHS, both volume 2 and 3 are needed.) Friendship Door appendix attached to Gordy’s hand and taped shut—Percival Poodini written on the backside suitcase dust rag with powder in it rock <i>option:</i> instead of the appendix, use a small toy door
Small Group Application 	4	Kids fill out their own copy of the Friendship Door.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> copy both appendices (A & B) back to back to create a card—one per child pencils markers and/or crayons

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.

Supplies: one folded copy of Appendix A (“Friendship Door”), snack-optional

Today we will talk about friends. What are some things you like about your friends? (Examples might be: playing together, same hobbies, funny, etc.)

As you discuss, write kids’ comments inside the Friendship Door paper.

Think about your class at school or kids in your neighborhood. Who are the people in these settings that are *least* likely to be your friends? Tell us why.

List these on the back of the Friendship Door. Then open and close the Friendship Door.

Notice that the door is opened when I read the qualities of friends we like, but the door is closed when we think about reasons people might not be our friends.

If God had a Friendship Door, would it be opened or closed? Why?
(Take any answer.)

Think about this as we go to our large group. Today we will hear how
****God wants to reach people of all nations and we can help.***

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 Purple Percival”—Gordy knows a “purple” person that is not likely to be his friend.

Video: *The Visual Bible: Acts*, by Visual Bible International. Show Acts 13:44-14:28. Order from <http://www.christiancinema.com>

Teaching Point: The presenter shows different items from the suitcase to illustrate the points from the video.

Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy and Purple Percival”—Gordy decides to open the door of friendship to Percival because God opened the door of friendship to 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 13:44-14:28 in their Bibles.

Why did the Jews throw Paul and Barnabas out of their territory? *(Acts 13:45, 48. They were jealous of the large crowds that came to hear God's word preached. They contradicted whatever Paul said. Because of this, Paul and Barnabas said they would now go to people of other nations with God's word.)*

How did Paul and Barnabas respond? *(Acts 13:51. They shook the dust off their feet and went to the next city.)* **What did this mean?** *(They would not let these people bother them. We might say, "Just let it go.")*

What happened while Paul and Barnabas were in the city of Iconium? *(Acts 14:1-5. They preached to a large crowd of Jews and Greeks. Some people believed and others refused. Some of them even planned to stone Paul and Barnabas to death.)*

To what other cities did Paul and Barnabas go to share the news of Jesus? *(Lystra, Antioch, Derbe, Pisidia, Pamphylia, Perga and Attalia.)*

Which people mostly believed? *(The non-Jewish people.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

The key verse from Romans 10:12-13 says, ***"There is no difference between Jews and Greeks. They all have the same Lord, who gives his riches to everyone who prays to him. So then, 'Whoever prays in the name of the Lord will be saved.'"***

Who then will be saved? *(All who pray in the name of the Lord, regardless of race or status.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

What lessons can we learn from Paul and Barnabas' visits to other cities? *(Some people will always reject the news of Jesus and will often try to keep others from accepting it. We need to continue to share the love of Jesus even if others don't accept it. Some will.)*

Should we let that discourage us? Why not?

Should we close the door of friendship to others even if they close it to us? Why or why not?

Application Activity:

Supplies: Appendices that have been copied back to back—one page for each child, pencils, markers or crayons

Pass out the Friendship Door craft and a pencil to each child.

Open your Friendship Door and please write down some of the people that need your friendship.

Take time for kids to write those names down.

What can you do to open the door of friendship to them? Gordy decided to wear something purple. *(Ask them to come over and play, or go to the park to shoot hoops, sit by them at lunch, talk to them.)*

What can you do or say to share Jesus with others? *(Bring them to Kingdom Quest, or Sunday School, tell them how Jesus has opened the door of friendship to them, too.)*

Have kids decorate their doors by coloring them, if time allows.

Review the take home point:

Today we learned that *God wants to reach people of all nations—we can help.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God that he opened the door of friendship to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Pray that all might keep the door of friendship open to others even if rejected. Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to stay encouraged when rejected. Have kids pray for specific individuals God would want them to be friends with.

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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.

Gordy and Purple Percival

Puppet Presentation

Supplies: A Friendship Door is taped to Gordy's hand with the back page presented to the audience, the door is taped shut and on the back is written "Percival Poodini"

Presenter: Kids, shall we call Gordy?

Kids call Gordy. **Gordy..., Gordy... Gordy...**

Presenter: Hi, Gordy. I see you brought along your group's Friendship Door paper.

Gordy: We had a fun conversation.

Presenter: Gordy, is your door taped shut?

Gordy: That's right!

Presenter: Why?

Gordy: Just look at the name on the back.

Presenter: Who is Percival Poodini?

Gordy: Percival Poodini is the least likely guy I would ever be friends with.

Presenter: So you taped the door shut?

Gordy: You got it!

Presenter: Why wouldn't you be friends with Percival Poodini?

Gordy: Are you kidding? Percival is PURPLE!

Presenter: Percival is purple. What do you mean?

Gordy: Just what I said. Percival is purple.

Presenter: Do you mean his skin is purple?

Gordy: No, his skin is not purple. Percival is purple.

Presenter: Oh, his hair must be purple.

Gordy: Have you ever seen anyone with purple hair? Oh, you know that might be kind of cool! But, Percival is purple.

Presenter: Are his eyes purple?

Gordy: No, well, unless he has a black eye, then it's sometimes purple. But, I am telling you, Percival is purple!

Presenter: Please tell me what is PURPLE about Percival?!

Gordy: His clothes. He always wears purple.

Presenter: What is the big deal about that?

Gordy: This guy wears purple so much that we all call him Purple Percival Poodini. Now, you have to admit that is pretty sad!

Presenter: Well, it may be a bit unusual, but I wouldn't call it sad. It is also not a reason to not like someone.

Gordy: You mean you would like a kid who wears purple every single day, plus his name is Percival.

Presenter: Gordy, you can't judge people by the way they look on the outside or how their name may sound. That is NOT a reason to close the door of friendship.

Gordy: Well, I don't get this thing about a friendship door anyway.

Presenter: Gordy, today we are learning how God feels towards people who have different colors of skin, different languages, and different sounding names. The Bible tells us that God opens doors for them.

Gordy: Doors for them to come in?

Presenter: Exactly! The door is opened so they can be his friends, too.

Gordy: I don't see why that is a big deal.

Presenter: It is a very big deal if you have ever felt left out. I wonder if Percival ever feels left out.

Gordy: You know, he might, especially when we call him Purple Percival.

Presenter: Back in the days of the early church, after Jesus had gone into heaven, many people thought that the message of Jesus was only meant to go to the Jews.

Gordy: Who are the Jews?

Presenter: They were the race of people that God had chosen. They were also called Israelites.

Gordy: Oh, I have heard of them.

Presenter: Many people thought that God's friendship door was only open to the Jews and it wasn't open to the Gentiles.

Gordy: Who are the Gentiles?

Presenter: A Gentile is anyone who is not a Jew.

Gordy: Then am I a Gentile?

Presenter: Yes, you are.

Gordy: But, God opened his friendship door to me.

Presenter: He sure did. This is what we will hear about today. Now, because God opened the friendship door to us, he wants us to open our friendship door to other people who may be different than us.

Gordy: Even purple people?

Presenter: Even purple people. Gordy, I want you to watch this video of Acts. You will see Paul the apostle who was sent out as a missionary. He traveled with his friend, Barnabas.

Whenever they came to a new town, they would first go to the synagogue which was a place the Jews gathered to discuss God. Notice what happened in the video when Paul decided to go to the Jews and the Gentiles or non-Jews.

After the video, come and talk to me.

Gordy: Bye, Mister King. *(Gordy exits.)*

Presenter: Boys and girls, let's watch this video clip. While we watch, we will have a contest. I want to know who can be the first to raise your hand when you hear that God opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. Listen closely and be ready.

Video

Show the video, *The Visual Bible: Acts*, produced by Visual Bible International. Show the clip covering Acts 13:44 to 14:28.

If you are using VHS, this segment goes from the end of volume 2 into the beginning of volume 3. It runs for 8 minutes and 40 seconds.

When the videos are finished, continue with the teaching point.

Teaching Point

Supplies: suitcase, dust rag, powder, rock, door—this could be a paper door or small toy door—the appendix page could also be used

As the video began today, we saw many people gathered to hear God's word. There was one group of people who were jealous when they saw the large crowds. Who were these people? *(The Jews.)*

The Jews rejected what Paul had to say, so Paul turned to other nations. Non-Jewish people were excited about hearing the word of God. This was the first time that they heard the words about having a friendship with God.

As I pull out an object from my suitcase, I would like you to try to guess what it has to do with our story today.

Dust rag:

Pull out a dust rag from the suitcase. Powder can be placed on the rag beforehand so, when it is shaken, it appears as if dust flies out into the audience.

Can anyone tell me what this dust and dust rag remind us of? *(Take any answer.)* It reminds us of the dust that Paul and Barnabas shook off their feet after they were thrown out of the city. They didn't allow themselves to be discouraged, but went on to Iconium and continued to preach.

Rock:

Take out a rock from the suitcase.

Not everyone who hears the message of God's friendship door wants to hear it. In fact, sometimes people can get mad. Who can tell me what in the video this rock might symbolize? *(Paul's stoning.)*

The Jews from Antioch and Iconium came all the way to Lystra. They were very angry with Paul and got other people angry, too. In fact, they were so angry that they tried to kill Paul by throwing stones at him.

Jesus was also persecuted. In John 15:20, Jesus said, *"If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you."*

People do this because they do not know God. We may not face death like Paul did, but kids may laugh at us if we talk about God at school. We shouldn't be surprised if we are persecuted.

Craft—Friendship Door:

Take out a craft Friendship Door (appendix) from the suitcase.

What does this door represent? This is a reminder that God opened the friendship door for those of us who are not Jewish. I, for one, am very thankful that God opened that door for me and gave all non-Jewish people the opportunity to believe.

How about you? Here is an opportunity for you to hear God's wonderful message. We are all sinners. No one does right like God does right. God tells us that we deserve death for all of our sins.

God loved us so much that he made a way for us to be saved from our sin. He sent his Son Jesus to take the punishment of death for me. Jesus died on a cross, was buried in a tomb, rose again in three days and now is in heaven with God.

There is no other way to be saved other than through Jesus. All we have to do is believe in him. God has opened the door for all of us—Jews and Gentiles. We just need to walk through the door and put our faith and trust in Jesus. Have you walked through the door of friendship that God has opened to you?

Gordy's Open Door

Puppet Conclusion

Presenter: Gordy, I noticed that your door is no longer taped shut. What happened?

Gordy: The video got me thinking.

Presenter: What about, Gordy?

Gordy: God opened his friendship door to me.

Presenter: God opened the door of friendship to you and he wants to open that friendship door to Percival, also.

Gordy: How is he going to do that?

Presenter: He will send someone.

Gordy: Like who?

Presenter: Like you, Gordy.

Gordy: I was afraid you were going to say that. Do I have to wear purple?

Presenter: It probably wouldn't hurt.

Gordy: I guess it really doesn't matter what you wear or how you look on the outside.

Presenter: No, what really does matter is that God opens the door and invites you into a friendship with him. God needs us, as the church, to not close the door to people who are different than us, but to open it and invite them in to meet Jesus.

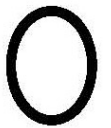
Gordy: You know, that *is* what God wants us to do, isn't it?

Presenter: It sure is. **God wants to reach people of all nations—we can help. Gordy would you please pray for that?*

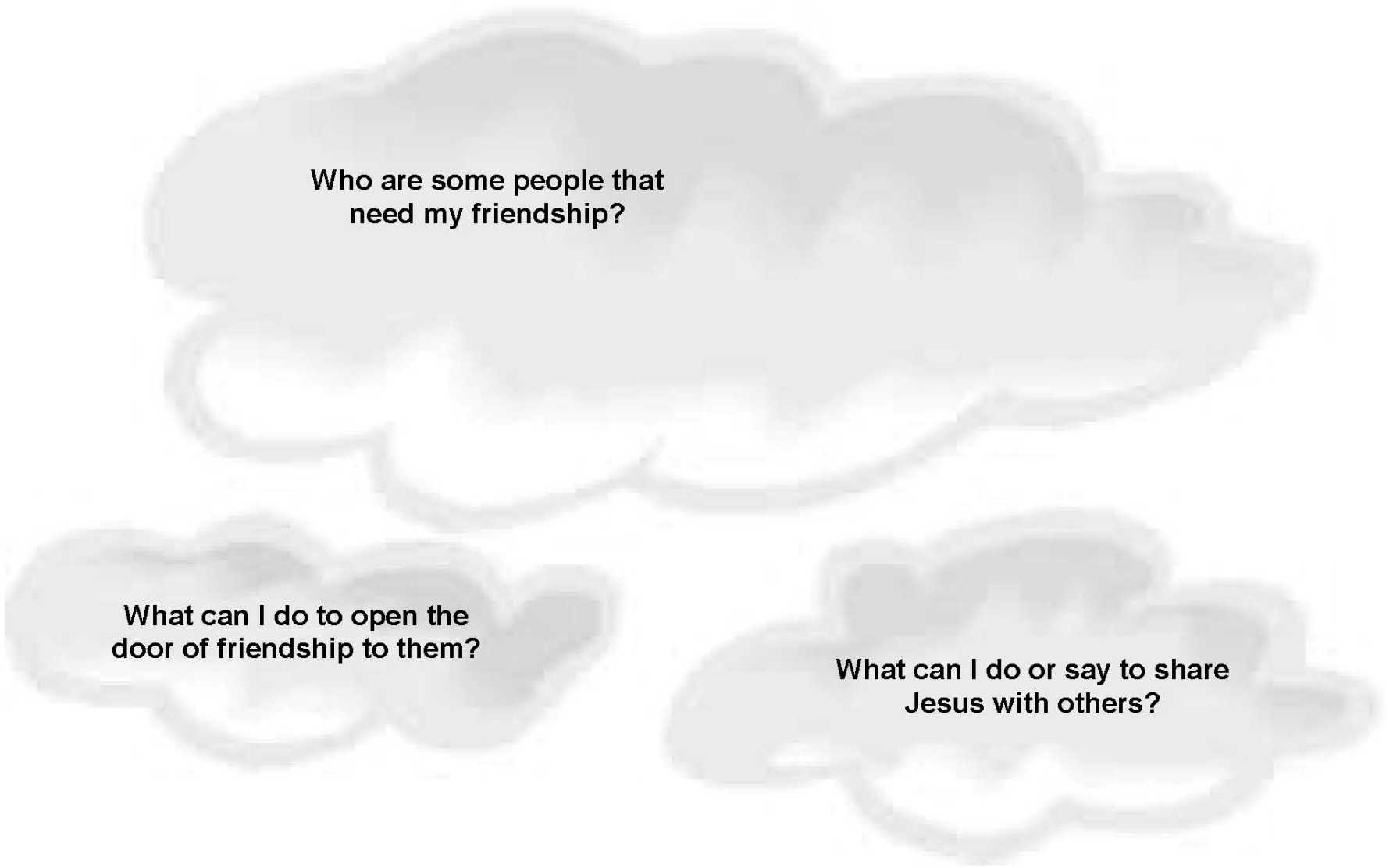
Gordy: Sure. Dear God, sometimes I don't see things quite the way I should and I get messed up. I was thinking that Percival couldn't be my friend because of how he looked on the outside. That's dumb, I know. I know that you love him just the way he is because you love me just the way I am. Thank you for that. Thank you for the gift of Jesus and giving me your forgiveness so you will live in my life and help me open the door of friendship to others. Help Percival get to know you and help me to invite him. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Name someone from your class or neighborhood
that isn't very likely to be your friend.

The Friendship Door



“...especially that he [God] had given people who
were not Jewish the opportunity to believe.” *Acts 14:*
27b



**Who are some people that
need my friendship?**

**What can I do to open the
door of friendship to them?**

**What can I do or say to share
Jesus with others?**