

1st-5th Grade Small Group Lesson



Session Title: The Plan to Stop Paul

Bible Passage: Acts 23

Main Point: When Paul was arrested, God protected him so he could preach about Jesus.

Key Passage: Philippians 1:20-21

Big Picture Question: When should we tell others about Jesus? We should always tell others about Jesus even when it is difficult.

Christ Connection: *Even when others threatened his life, Paul continued to obey Jesus. He believed that God, who showed His love for the world by sending His Son to die on the cross and rise again, would help him through hard times. We too can risk everything to share the gospel with courage because we know that God loves us and will care for us.*

Sharing Jesus with Our Friends

Materials– Gospel Plan fill-in sheet (1 per person) and pens/pencils

Remind the group that God wants everyone to know Him and that Jesus died for all of us. The word gospel means good news and we want to go through the plan of salvation for some that may not have Jesus in their heart or have never heard the Good News.

Display The Gospel: The God's Plan for Me poster and read through the five symbols while teaching the kids the following hand motions to help them remember each part. The God's Plan for Me poster and the fill in sheet are attached below.

- God rules [*Place hands in a circle over you, as though setting a crown on your head.*]
- We sinned [*Hold both arms in front of you making a large X with your forearms.*]
- God provided [*Turn your X into a cross by rotating your arms.*]
- Jesus gives [*Hold hands together in front of you as though handing someone a gift.*]
- We respond [*Raise both hands into the air in celebration and praise.*]

Then allow the group to draw the symbols in each of the circles on the Gospel Plan fill-in Sheet. They can put it in a place that will remind them that Jesus died for them and to share the Good News with others by showing them the Gospel hand motions.

Sharing the gospel is not always easy, but it is simple. If you know these steps, you are ready to share the good news of Jesus with anyone! Paul preached about Jesus to everyone because the gospel is for everyone. We are all sinners in need of a Savior to rescue us. I encourage you to share the good news this week with someone who needs to hear it!

the **GOSPEL** **GOD'S PLAN FOR ME**

gos·pel – *noun*. good news. the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.



Gold

GOD RULES.

The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. *Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17*

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." —Genesis 1:1



Dark

WE SINNED.

We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. *Romans 3:23; 6:23*

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." —Romans 3:23



Red

GOD PROVIDED.

God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. *John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9*

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." —John 3:16



White

JESUS GIVES.

He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! *Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9*

"God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." —Romans 5:8



WE RESPOND.

Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. *John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10, 13*

"If you admit with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." —Romans 10:9

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me - Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “**good news**.” It is the message about Jesus Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to kids that God created everything, and He controls everything. Read Genesis 1:1 and/or Revelation 4:11 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

- **Genesis 1:1 - *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.***
- Revelation 4:11 - “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) This is called **SIN**. Because God is holy, **Sin separates us from God** and deserves God's punishment of **death**. (Romans 6:23)

- **Romans 3:23 - *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God***
- Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God provided. Because God loves us he provided THE WAY for us to be saved from our sins. Read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus SAVE us from our SIN and to RESCUE us from the punishment we deserve. As sinners, we could never save ourselves. Jesus alone can save us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

- **John 3:16 - *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.***
- Ephesians 2:8-9 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

Jesus gives. Share with kids that **Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again.** Because Jesus **gave** His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family forever!. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8 (2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:19).

- **Romans 5:8 - *But God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 - God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- 1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus by **FAITH** or **BELIEVING**. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent/Turn from self and sin to GOD and Jesus washes our sins away. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

- **Romans 10:9-10 - *If you admit with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and BELIEVE in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you BELIEVE and are justified, and with your mouth that you admit your FAITH and are saved.***
- Romans 10:13 - Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

RESPONSE:

- Tell kids to bow their heads and close their eyes.
- **Say:** “***Have you ever received Jesus as Your Savior? If you haven't and want to RECEIVE Jesus and be Saved, raise your hand to let us know.***”
- Talk with any child who wants to be saved.
- Offer opportunity to admit they are turning from SIN to GOD and BELIEVING in Jesus to SAVE them.

the **GOSPEL**
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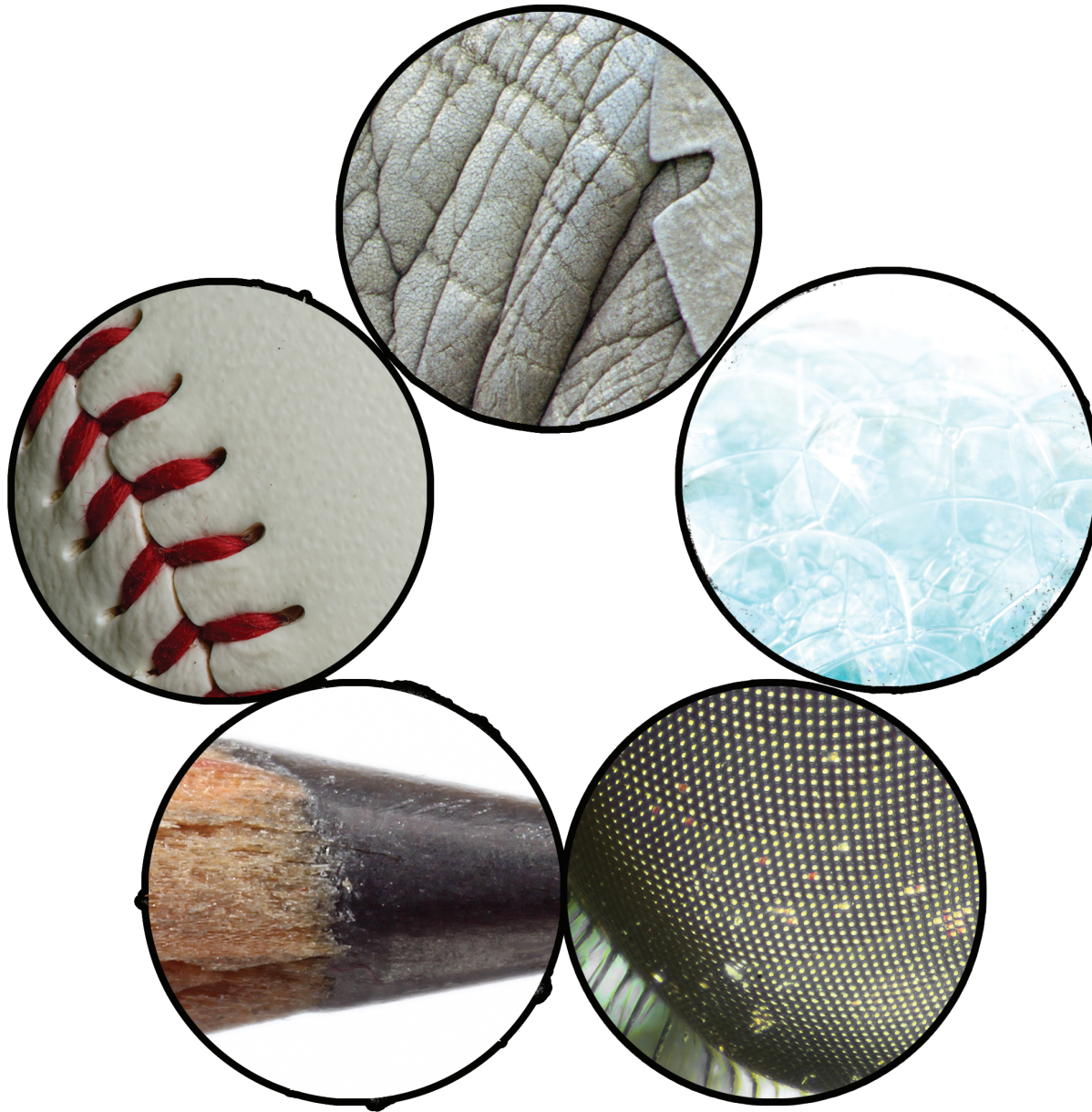
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Microscope Pictures

INSTRUCTIONS: The following pictures are zoomed in. Can you guess what each item is?



DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

KEY PASSAGE:

Philippians 1:20-21

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- When should we tell others about Jesus? We should always tell others about Jesus, even when it is difficult.

BIBLE STORY:

THE PLAN TO STOP PAUL

- Paul preached the gospel.
- Religious leaders hated Paul for talking about Jesus.
- They decided to kill Paul to stop him from preaching.
- When Paul was arrested, God protected him so he could preach about Jesus.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How do you think Paul felt when he was arrested?
- Do you ever feel afraid to speak about Jesus?
- Who can help us have courage to share the gospel?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Use a copy of “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” to help your kids practice sharing the gospel. Speak to your children’s ministry director to get a copy.

Younger Kids Activity Pages
Unit 34, Session 1

But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children."

Matthew 19:14

First name: _____

Last name: _____

Please use this section for Family Discussion Starters:

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____