

## TEACHER BIBLE STUDY

### Paul Preached in Europe

*Acts 17:1–18:21*

Paul and Silas traveled to Thessalonica and began preaching in the synagogue about Jesus. Some became believers, but others wanted to attack them. Paul and Silas escaped and went to Berea. The Jews in Berea studied the Scriptures to make sure Paul was telling the truth. Many of them believed! But when the Jews in Thessalonica heard what was happening in Berea, they hurried there and caused trouble. So Paul went to Athens.

The city of Athens was a cultural center. People in Athens loved to hear about and study the latest ideas. Paul spoke with the Jews and the philosophers in the city. Athens was also full of idols to every kind of god. There was even an altar to an unknown god.

Paul began preaching, telling the people that they worshiped a god they did not know. But people can know the Lord God! He made the world and everything in it! God was not like their idols. “We ought not to think that God is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man,” Paul said.

Paul told the people that God wanted them to turn away from their sins. Then Paul told them about Jesus and how He was raised from the dead. Some people made fun of Paul, but others believed.

From Athens, Paul went to Corinth. He tried to persuade the Jews in the synagogue that Jesus is the Christ, but they would not listen. Paul spoke to the Gentiles, and many of them believed and were baptized. God continued working through Paul.

The men of Athens worshiped many false gods. Paul explained to them God’s plan of salvation. He said that only God should be worshiped. Paul talked about Jesus and the resurrection. People can know God because Jesus took the punishment for sin that separates people from God. Only the Lord—the one true God—deserves our worship.

## YOUNGER KIDS BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW

**Session Title:** Paul Preached in Europe

**Bible Passage:** Acts 17:1–18:21

**Big Picture Question:** Who deserves our worship? Only the Lord—the one true God—deserves our worship.

**Key Passage:** Romans 1:16

**Unit Christ Connection:** God chose Paul to be a witness to all he had seen and heard of the risen Christ.

## Small Group Time

Welcome time  
Activity page (5 minutes)  
Session starter (10 minutes)  
Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Bible story review (10 minutes)  
Activity choice (10 minutes)  
Journal (5 minutes)  
Prayer (5 minutes)

## THE BIBLE STORY

### Paul Preached in Europe

*Acts 17:1–18:21*

**Paul and Silas** were in Macedonia when they **came to the city of Thessalonica** (thess uh loh NIGH kuh). **Paul went into the synagogue to meet with the Jews**, as he always did. For three weeks, on each Sabbath Day, **Paul talked with them about the Scriptures. Paul said, “This Jesus I am telling you about is the Messiah.” Some of the Jews believed Paul and Silas, and they decided to join them.**

**But the Jews who did not believe were jealous. They formed a mob and started a riot in the city.** They went to the home of Paul’s friend Jason, looking for Paul and Silas. They were not there, so the mob dragged Jason and some of the other believers to the city leaders. “They say there is another king—Jesus!” the mob shouted. The city leaders were upset. They made Jason and the other believers pay money, and then they let them go.

**That night, Paul and Silas went to another city called Berea** (buh REE uh). **The people there listened to Paul’s message, and they studied the Scriptures to make sure he was telling them the truth. Many people in Berea believed the good news.** But the Jews in Thessalonica heard what Paul was up to in Berea. They followed him there and caused trouble, so **Paul left and went to the city of Athens in Greece.**

**Paul was upset by what he saw in Athens. The people there did not worship the one true God. Instead, they worshiped many idols. Paul talked with the people who lived in Athens and told them the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.**

The men asked Paul to explain what he was talking about. So Paul went to a meeting with them and said, “Men of Athens, I can see that you are very religious. I saw in your city an altar that said: ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ You worship a god that you do not know. This is the God I want to tell you about.”

So **Paul told the people about the one true God. He explained that God made everything**, and that He is bigger than man-made temples. **God is not like the idols in Athens.** He is not made of gold, silver, or stone. **Paul said that God wants everyone in the world to turn away from their**

sin and turn to Him. When the people heard about Jesus being raised from the dead, some of them laughed. Some of them wanted to hear more later. Some of them joined Paul and became believers.

Later, Paul left Athens and went to the city of Corinth. There he met a Jewish man named Aquila (uh KWIL uh) and his wife, Priscilla. They were tentmakers, and so was Paul, so Paul stayed with them and worked with them. On the Sabbath Days, Paul went to the synagogues to preach.

Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching God's message to the people. Then Paul left to go back to Antioch.

*Christ Connection: The men of Athens worshiped a false god whom they did not know. Paul explained to the men God's plan of salvation. He said that only God should be worshiped. Paul talked about Jesus and the resurrection. People can know God because Jesus took the punishment for sin that separates people from God.*

## SMALL GROUP OPENING

**Session Title:** Paul Preached in Europe

**Bible Passage:** Acts 17:1–18:21

**Big Picture Question:** Who deserves our worship? Only the Lord—the one true God—deserves our worship.

**Key Passage:** Romans 1:16

**Unit Christ Connection:** God chose Paul to be a witness to all he had seen and heard of the risen Christ.

**Welcome time:**

**Arriving Activity:** Act it out

- slips of paper
- marker
- bowl or bucket

Write different actions (*quack like a duck, ride a bike, ride a roller coaster, worship God*) on slips of paper and place them in a bowl or bucket. Guide kids to draw a slip of paper and act out whatever is on it. After each child has had a chance to act out a silly action, guide each child to act out one way that he can worship God.

**Say** • There are many different ways that we can worship.

## Activity page (5 minutes)

- “What Does God Deserve?” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils

Guide boys and girls to complete the activity page.

**Say** • What did the code spell? (*WORSHIP*) **Who deserves our worship? Only the Lord—the one true God—deserves our worship.** What does it mean to worship? (*to give God glory, giving God your attention and telling Him how great He is, making God most important in your life*) Today, we are going to learn more about worshipping God.

## Session starter (10 minutes)

### Option 1: Go tell

- slips of paper
- marker
- bowl

Write the following statements on slips of paper and place in a bowl:

- *Sit in a chair and say, “Jesus is alive.”*
- *Walk to the other side of the room and tell people “Jesus loves you” as you walk.*
- *Ask three friends to tell you one thing they know about Jesus.*
- *Tell two friends, “Only God deserves our worship.”* Guide kids to stand in a line and take turns drawing a slip of paper and doing the action.

**Say** • Paul traveled many places, starting churches and telling people about Jesus. Today, Paul had a chance to help people understand our big picture question, **Who deserves our worship?** We’ll find the answer today.

### Option 2: Only one

- pennies, 100
- small sticker

Place a small sticker on one of the pennies and mix well. Guide kids to look for the penny that has the sticker. Explain that many people may choose to worship other things, but there is only one true God who deserves our worship. Congratulate the child who finds the penny with the sticker. Play again as time remains.

**Say** • **Who deserves our worship? Only the Lord—the one true God—deserves our worship.**

There may be lots of things that we could worship, but there is only one true God, and He deserves our worship. In our story today, Paul helps people understand that God is the only One who deserves worship.

## SMALL GROUP LEADER

**Session Title:** Paul Preached in Europe

**Bible Passage:** Acts 17:1–18:21

**Big Picture Question:** Who deserves our worship? Only the Lord—the one true God—deserves our worship.

**Key Passage:** Romans 1:16

**Unit Christ Connection:** God chose Paul to be a witness to all he had seen and heard of the risen Christ.

### Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Slide or Poster
- dry erase board and markers (optional)
- paper plates
- markers
- hula hoop

Make sure the key passage, Romans 1:16, is visible for each child, either as the printed poster or written on a dry erase board. Read the verse together.

**Say** • It is only through the power of God that raised Jesus from the dead that we can be made righteous before God. Everyone who turns from sin and trusts Jesus will be saved. This is great news. There is one true God and He made a way so that we could have a relationship with Him.

Write each word of the verse on a paper plate. Hold the hula hoop and guide kids to toss the plates through the hoop in the order of the verse. Guide kids to say each word together as they toss them through the hoop.

### Bible story review (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Small Group Visual Pack
- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster

Option: Use “Paul’s Journey in Europe Map” from the enhanced CD to show kids where Paul traveled

Encourage the kids to find Acts 17–18 in their Bibles. Help them as needed. Use the small group visual pack to show kids where today’s Bible story is on the timeline. Review all of Unit 35, emphasizing that Paul went from hating Christians to traveling around as a missionary because Jesus changed Paul’s life.

**Say** • On the journey around Europe that we have been learning about today, Paul taught a very important truth. ***Who deserves our worship? Only the Lord—the one true God—deserves our worship.***

Guide kids to stand. Review the Bible story provided using the bolded text, or summarize the story in your own words. Ask kids to move from one side of the room to the other each time Paul and Silas go to a new city.

Show the big picture question slide or poster.

**Say** • Paul taught the people in Athens that they were worshipping a lot of idols, but none of the idols heard the people or could help them. Only the one true God is alive and active, caring for all people. He deserves our worship because He created us, is in control of all things, and sent His Son to take our punishment for sin on the cross. ***Who deserves our worship? Only the Lord—the one true God—deserves our worship.***

## Activity choice (10 minutes)

### Option 1: One true God

- white paper
- white crayons
- markers
- hand wipes or paper towels

Use a white crayon to draw the number *1* largely and boldly on a sheet of white paper for each child. Give each child one of the sheets and guide them to draw all over it using washable markers. Then take a hand wipe and remove the marker over the number.

As kids color, talk about what it means to worship. Explain that worshipping something or someone means that we make it most important in our life. We care more about that thing or that person than we do about anything else. What do some people worship?

**Say** • No one is like our God. Our God created the world and everything in it, including us, and He is in control of all things. He cares deeply for people, even though we sin and choose to live in a way that does not honor Him. Sometimes, we allow other things to become more important than God, and we forget that He should be most important (like coloring over the number *1*). Our sin separates us from God, but God sent Jesus to make a way for us have a right relationship with God. When we trust Jesus, He helps us make God most important again (like when the number *1* was revealed). ***Who deserves our worship? Only the Lord—the one true God—deserves our worship.*** He is the One who sent His Son to take our place and our punishment so that we could have His righteousness before God.

## Option 2: Who am I?

- “Missionary Jobs”

**Say** • Paul went on many missionary journeys to share about Jesus with others. On this journey, Paul went to Europe. He taught many about Jesus and started many churches. He helped many people understand that any other idols that people may worship don't deserve worship. **Who deserves our worship? Only the Lord—the one true God—deserves our worship.** We can take the same message to others.

Give each kid a missionary jobs card. Guide them to hold it facedown so that they do not see it. After each child has a card, ask her to hold it up to her forehead. She will ask yes-or-no questions to other kids to figure out who or what she is. Each card is a job a missionary does or an item a missionary may need to serve the people of a city. Guide each kid to find the other kid who has a card that goes with his or her card.

**Say** • Missionaries go and tell about Jesus. We can tell others every day that God is the one true God who deserves our worship. We can talk to people at church, at school, at home, and anywhere else that we go about Jesus. We can tell them that God deserves all of our worship because He created us, is in control of all things, and sent Jesus to make a way for us to have a right relationship with Him.

## Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

- Journal Page, 1 per kid
- markers or crayons
- Bible Story Coloring Page

Distribute each child's journal page provided with this session. Guide kids to draw one thing they want to worship or thank God for. Writers may make a list. Guide kids to write *Only God deserves my worship.*

**Say** • We can worship God for all of the wonderful things that He has done for us. **Who deserves our worship? Only the Lord—the one true God—deserves our worship.**

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete to coloring page provided with this session. Pray that God will remind kids throughout the week that He deserves their worship because He is their Creator and the One who gives them life. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we could be made right before Him.

**Dismiss to parents – Make sure to check security tags when dismissing children.**





**I am not ashamed of  
the gospel, because it is  
the power of God that brings  
salvation to everyone who  
believes: first to the Jew,  
then to the Gentile.  
Romans 1:16**



**Who deserves  
our worship?**

**Only the Lord —  
the one true God —  
deserves our worship.**



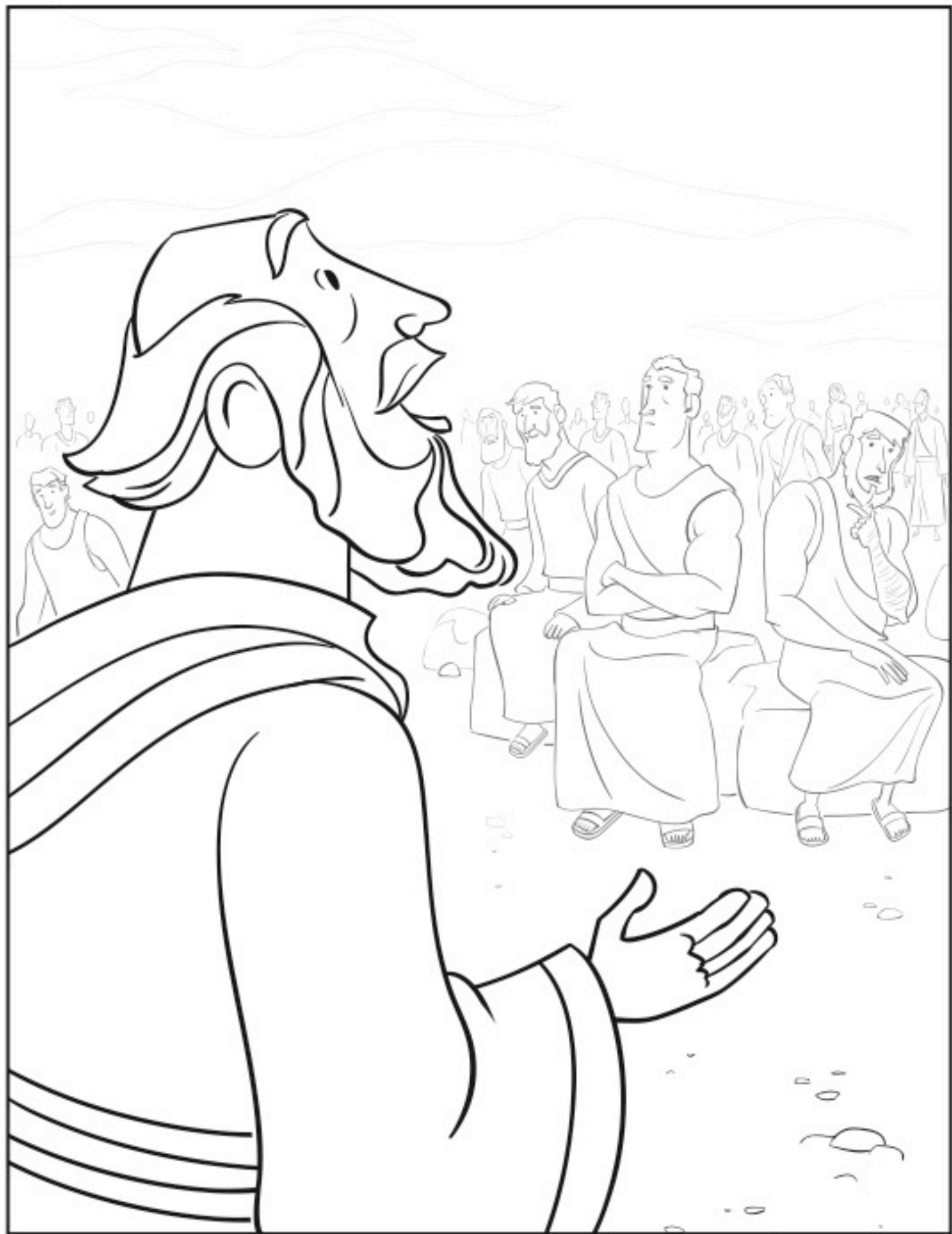
# What Does God Deserve?

**Instructions:** Decide if each statement is true or false. Write the letter next to the answer in the blank below.

1. Paul met Jesus while walking on the road to Emmaus. (Acts 9:2)  
True (G) or False (W)
2. Paul was blind for three days after he heard from Jesus on the road. (Acts 9:9)  
True (O) or False (L)
3. Paul was a Roman citizen by birth. (Acts 22:27-28)  
True (R) or False (O)
4. Paul also worked as a tent-maker. (Acts 18:3)  
True (S) or False (Y)
5. Paul was baptized by Cephas. (Acts 9:17-18)  
True (M) or False (H)
6. Paul sailed many places to tell people about Jesus. He was even in a shipwreck! (Acts 27:4-11)  
True (I) or False (N)
7. Paul was put in jail because he sent out a spirit from a servant girl. (Acts 16:16-24)  
True (P) or False (W)

1    2    3    4    5    6    7





# ALLERGY ALERT

Today we will be tasting/  
touching/sniffing:

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Please notify the leader  
if your child should not  
participate.



**Instructions:** Print this poster. You may laminate it and reuse it throughout the quarter. Use a dry erase marker to fill in the necessary information. Display the poster where parents and kids can see it before class.

the

# GOSPEL

## GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

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



### 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*



### 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*



### 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*



### 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*



### 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*

# Paul Preached in Europe Map

Instructions: Print and use as directed in the leader guide.



## Paul's Conversion and Ministry

*Read to your kids Paul's description of the one true God in Acts 17:24-31. Invite your family members to think of someone at school or in the community who might believe something different about God, or who might believe that there is no God. Set aside time this week to pray for the opportunity to share with that person the good news about Jesus.*

### Paul Preached in Europe

Acts 17:1-18:21

#### Preschool

**Key Passage:** Romans 1:16

**Big Picture Question:** Who deserves our worship?  
Only God deserves our worship.

**Christ Connection:** Paul taught the people in Athens about the one true God. He told them that Jesus died on the cross and is alive! People can know God because Jesus brings us into God's family.

#### Kids

**Key Passage:** Romans 1:16

**Big Picture Question:** Who deserves our worship?  
Only the Lord—the one true God—deserves our worship.

**Christ Connection:** The men of Athens worshiped a false god. Paul explained to them God's plan of salvation. He said that only God should be worshiped. Paul talked about Jesus and the

resurrection. People can know God because Jesus took the punishment for sin that separates people from God.

