



# Paul Visits Ephesus

Lesson Aim: To know we are part of the church.

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God Is:** The Spirit Who Connects Us

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Acts 19:1, 8-11

**What He Has Done:** God sent Paul to start churches in different places and help them grow.

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Love one another, for love comes from God." 1 John 4:7a

| Unit 4: The Promise of Connection |  |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|
|                                   | Bible Story  | What He Has Done  | Lesson Aim  |
| 17                                | Paul Visits Ephesus, Acts 19:1, 8-11                             | God sent Paul to start churches in different places and help them grow. | To know we are part of the church.                              |
| 18                                | Paul Speaks to the Crowd, Acts 21:33-36, 39-40; 22:1-11          | God gave Paul boldness to tell his story to the people of Jerusalem.    | To know God wants us to tell our stories about Him.             |
| 19                                | Paul and King Agrippa, Acts 26:2, 13-14, 17-19, 29               | God made Paul bold to speak about Jesus to King Agrippa.                | To know we can pray for others to know who Jesus is.            |
| 20                                | Paul and the Shipwreck, Acts 27:14-15, 18, 20, 23-25, 41, 43b-44 | God saved everyone on the ship just as He had promised.                 | To learn to trust God and help others be brave.                 |
| 21                                | Paul Imprisoned in Rome, Acts 28:16, 30-31                       | God brought many people to visit Paul while he was awaiting trial.      | To know that wherever you are, you can tell people about Jesus. |

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read John 17:22-24. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for connecting us to You and to each other. Help us build Your kingdom as we come together as Your church. Amen."

## TEACHER'S TIP

Talk to the children about their families, being sensitive to the fact that every family is different. Tell the children they are part of a much bigger family; the family of God. Talk with them about what they can do to help others who are part of the family.



**THE WORSHIP  
THE WORD &  
THE WAY**

| Segment     | Minutes  | Activity  | Supplies  |
|-------------|----------|---|---|
| THE WELCOME |          | <b>Welcome</b>  | Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a church  |
|             |          | <b>Coloring Center:</b> Paul Visits Ephesus   | Coloring pages of Paul's Visit to Ephesus, crayons  |
|             |          | <b>Play-Dough Center:</b> In God's Church   | Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools  |
|             |          | <b>Block Center:</b> Build the Church   | Blocks  |
|             |          | <b>Ball Center:</b> The Welcome Game  | Beach ball or other soft ball   |
|             |          | <b>Preparing for Worship</b>  | None  |
|             | Up to 5  | <b>Prepare for Worship</b>  | None  |
| THE WORSHIP | Up to 20 | <b>Worship</b><br>Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.<br><br><b>Additional Song Suggestions:</b><br>"This Is the Day"<br>"This Little Light of Mine" | Praise music, optional: musical instruments<br><b>Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b><br>"Love One Another"<br><b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b><br>"Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled"<br>"Give Thanks to the Lord"<br>"He Is Mighty to Save"<br>"Here Am I"<br>"How Wide?"<br>"Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"<br>"The Lord Is Faithful"<br>"We Love" |
|             |          | <b>Offering</b>   | Baskets   |
|             |          | <b>Worship Illustration</b>   | <i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 4, Lesson 17  |
| THE WORD    | Up to 10 | <b>Paul Visits Ephesus:</b><br>Acts 19:1, 8-11  | Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 19:1<br>Visuals: Picture of the Bible story, pail and shovel, several blocks or other small objects   |
| THE WAY     | Up to 25 | <b>Craft:</b> Our Church  | Sturdy white and colored paper, glue, crayons or markers  |
|             |          | <b>Game:</b> Come and Join Us!  | None  |
|             |          | <b>Game:</b> Come Together  | Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "Love One Another"   |
|             |          | <b>Snack:</b> Stick Together!   | Marshmallows  |
|             | Final 5  | <b>Final Five</b>   | Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 4, Lesson 17  |
| GOT TIME?   | Up to 10 | <b>Say &amp; Do:</b> Acts 19:1, 8-11  | None  |
|             | Up to 10 | <b>Game:</b> Love One Another   | Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "Love One Another"   |
|             | Up to 10 | <b>Game:</b> Show God's Love  | Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "Love One Another"   |
|             | Up to 10 | <b>Story Time</b>   | Any story about Paul's journeys or about coming together as a church  |

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The Spirit who connects us

## **THE WELCOME**

### **WELCOME**

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello \_\_\_\_\_.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a church. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a church help you remember that everyone who loves Jesus is part of His church.**

**Teacher's Note:** These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

### **COLORING CENTER: PAUL VISITS EPHESUS**

#### **SUPPLIES**

Coloring page of Paul's Visit to Ephesus or a church, crayons

#### **DO**

Children color their picture as they talk about today's story.

#### **TALK ABOUT**

**Today, our Bible story is about Paul's visit to the city of Ephesus. Can you say Ephesus? (Eff-uh-suss.) In Ephesus, Paul helped the people come together to worship God. People who love God are part of His church. The church isn't just a building. God's church is all the people who love Him. We are part of God's church.**

### **PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: IN GOD'S CHURCH**

#### **SUPPLIES**

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

#### **DO**

Children play with the play-dough while discussing today's story. Encourage children to make a church with the play-dough.

#### **TALK ABOUT**

**I'm so glad you came to church today. Who can tell me what we do in church? (Children respond.) When we love God, we come to church to worship Him together.**

# THE WELCOME *continued...*

## **BLOCK CENTER: BUILD THE CHURCH**

### **SUPPLIES**

Blocks

### **DO**

Children build a church with the blocks.

### **TALK ABOUT**

**When we love God, we worship Him through praying, singing, reading the Bible, or even just thinking about Him. Today, we came together to worship God here in our church. Can you build a church with the blocks? What song would you like people to sing in the church you build?**

(Children respond.) If possible, sing one or two of the songs children suggest.

## **BALL CENTER: THE WELCOME GAME**

### **SUPPLIES**

Beach ball or other soft ball

### **DO**

Children learn everyone is welcome in God's church.

### **TALK ABOUT**

Children stand or sit in a circle. **Everyone is welcome to be part of God's church. Let's play a game and welcome each other.** Lead the children in saying the rhyme below. At the end of the rhyme, choose and name a child in the circle and toss or roll the ball to them. Continue around the circle until everyone has had their name called.

**Welcome! Welcome! We are all welcome in God's church!  
Welcome! Welcome! We welcome name of child today!**

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## **PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**

**It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away.** Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!  
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com))

**"Love  
one another,**

(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.  
(one) The index finger is held upright. (another) Hold fist in front with thumb pointing out. Turn thumb upward and outward.

**for love  
comes from God."**

(love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.  
(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.

**1 John 4:7a**

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The Spirit who connects us

# THE WORSHIP

**Supplies:** Praise music, optional: musical instruments

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



**Let's welcome each other here today. Can we welcome name?** Lead the children in saying, "Welcome name!" Repeat for each child, helper, and teacher. **God loves when we come together to worship Him. Let's talk to God in prayer.** Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for bringing us together as part of Your church. Amen.**



**Let's praise God for creating us.** Sing: "The Lord Is Faithful."

**We give our offering to help the church grow and to help more people grow closer to Jesus. Jesus loves everyone. Let's sing about His love as we give our money offering to help the church grow.** Sing: "How Wide?" while collecting the offering.



**God sent Paul to help people come together as a church. He went to a town called Ephesus to start a church and help it grow. Let's see if our friends Delbert and Lello know about Paul and the church at Ephesus.** Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 4, Lesson 17.



**God's church is made up of all the people who love Him. We show each other His love by loving one another. 1 John 4:7a says, "Love one another, for love comes from God." That is our new Bible Memory Verse. Let's say it together.** Practice several times.

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>"Love one another,</b>        | (love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.   |
|                                  | (one) The index finger is held upright. (another) Hold fist in front with thumb pointing out. Turn thumb upward and outward.                |
| <b>for love comes from God."</b> | (love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.   |
|                                  | (God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up. |
| <b>1 John 4:7a</b>               | Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.   |



**Let's praise God by singing those words in our new Bible Memory Verse Song.** Sing Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Love One Another."



Paul visits Ephesus

## THE WORD

**Supplies:** Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 19:1, picture of the Bible story, pail and shovel, several blocks or small objects

**Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.**

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>With my eyes on my teacher;</b> | Point to eyes.                               |
| <b>My mouth quiet as can be,</b>   | Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign. |
| <b>I will listen to hear,</b>      | Cup hand around ear.                         |
| <b>How God loves you and me.</b>   | Hug self, point to others, and then self.    |

**Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears.** Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Place a small pile of blocks near you. Choose two children to stand on either side of you. Give the pail to one child and the shovel to the other. **Child with the shovel will you help me by picking up a block with your shovel?** Child places a block on the shovel. **Shovels are helpful when you want to pick things up, aren't they? But, if you want to pick up more blocks, what do you need?** (A place to put the blocks, a pail.) **Child with the pail will you help child with the shovel by allowing him/her to put blocks in your pail?** Have the child with the shovel drop the block from the shovel into the pail. **Now we can pick up more blocks, can't we?** Have the child with the shovel pick up more blocks and place them in the pail.

**When child with the shovel and child with the pail came together, they could pick up more blocks, couldn't they?** (Yes.) **In our story today, we will learn that people who love Jesus can come together and help each other. Let's listen.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 19:1.



### **WATCH THE WORD: ACTS 19:1, 8-11**

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **To reach the town of Ephesus,**
- **Paul traveled on the road.**
- **He helped the followers start a church.**
- **He helped their church to grow.**
  
- **Paul taught them about Jesus.**
- **Some listened; some did not.**
- **Some came together as a church,**
- **And shared the love of God.**

**When Paul got to Ephesus, who did he meet?** (People who followed Jesus.) **Everyone who loves Jesus is part of His church. What did Paul help the people in Ephesus do?** (Come together as a church, share God's love.)



We can help the church

## THE WAY

**Teacher Tip:** Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

### **CRAFT: OUR CHURCH**

**Purpose:** To remind the children that Paul started churches and helped them grow.

**Supplies:** Sturdy white and colored paper, glue, crayons or markers

**Prepare:** On sturdy white paper, print or draw the front of a church with large stones or bricks covering the wall. From sturdy colored paper, cut a cross shape small enough to glue to the top of the church. Above or below the church, print:

**Paul brought the church together.  
Acts 19:1, 8-11**

#### **Directions:**

1. Draw the faces of your friends from church on some of the stones.
2. Glue the cross to the top of the church.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **Who did God send to Ephesus to help the church?** (Paul.)
- **Who did Paul see in Ephesus?** (Some disciples—people who believe in Jesus.)
- **Paul wanted to help the disciples learn about Jesus. Paul wanted to help them praise God. What did Paul start?** (A church.)
- **Paul and the disciples came together as a church!**
- **What friends do you see when you come together at church?** Children share the names of the faces they drew on the stones.
- **We come together as a church to learn about Jesus and to praise Him.**

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: COME AND JOIN US!**

**Purpose:** Children will act out how Paul brought the people together.

**Supplies:** None

God sent Paul to bring the people together in each of the cities he visited. Let's pretend we were some of the people Paul brought together in the city of Ephesus.

### **Directions:**

1. Choose one child to be Paul.
2. The remaining children sit in the play area.
3. Paul stops in front of one child and says, **"Come and join us!"**
4. That child stands and follows Paul.
5. Paul stops in front of another child and says, **"Come and join us!"**
6. That child gets behind the first child and follows them.
7. Continue with each child until all the children are following Paul.
8. **Teacher's Note:** As the group gets bigger, you may want to have them walk around the room before choosing another child.
9. If time allows, play again, choosing a new Paul.

## **GAME: COME TOGETHER**

**Purpose:** Children will see how they are a church together.

**Supplies:** Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "Love One Another"

The church is made up of all the people who love Jesus. God wants us to come together.

### **Directions:**

1. Play the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song.
2. Children walk and dance around the room while the music is playing.
3. Stop the music and say, **"Come together to learn about Jesus!"**
4. Children stop where they are and say, **"We can come together!"**
5. Say, **"When we come together to learn about Jesus, we are part of His church!"**
6. Repeat steps 1-5 substituting the words "Come together to learn about Jesus!" with one of the phrases below:
  - "Come together to pray to God!"**
  - "Come together to worship God!"**
  - "Come together to listen to God's Word!"**
  - "Come together to help others!"**
  - "Come together to praise God!"**
  - "Come together to serve God!"**



# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: STICK TOGETHER!**

**Purpose:** Children will press marshmallows together to remember they are the church when they meet together.

**Snack Suggestion:** Marshmallows

Serve the snack. Show the children how to press their marshmallows together until they stick. **When we come together like our marshmallows, we are the church.**

### **Directions:**

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another familiar tune.  
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,  
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
  - **What are some things we do together at church?** (Sing to God, learn about Jesus, pray, etc.)
  - **What is your favorite thing to do at church?** (Children respond.)



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE**

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>"Love</b>            | (love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.   |
| <b>one another,</b>     | (one) The index finger is held upright. (another) Hold fist in front with thumb pointing out. Turn thumb upward and outward.                |
| <b>for love</b>         | (love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.   |
| <b>comes from God."</b> | (God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up. |
| <b>1 John 4:7a</b>      | Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.   |

### **PRAY**

**Let's pray together.** Say a closing prayer with the children.

### **PLAY**

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

### **DISMISSAL**

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## **GOT TIME?**

### **SAY & DO: ACTS 19:1, 8-11**

**Purpose:** This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

**Supplies:** None

**Directions:** With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **To reach the town of Ephesus,** (Point far away.)
- **Paul traveled on the road.** (Walk in place.)
- **He helped the followers start a church.** (Hold hands with others.)
- **He helped their church to grow.** (Raise held hands high.)
  
- **Paul taught them about Jesus.** (Point to heaven.)
- **Some listened; some did not.** (Cup hands around ears as if listening, then put fingers in ears and shake head no.)
- **Some came together as a church,** (Hold hands with others.)
- **And shared the love of God.** (Put hands on heart.)



### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES**

"Love one another, for love comes from God." 1 John 4:7a

### **GAME: LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

**Purpose:** To help children memorize and review the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "Love One Another"

**We can come together as a church and love one another. Let's do that right now!**

**Directions:**

1. Children stand in a circle, holding hands.
2. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song.
3. As the song plays, children sing and walk in a circle together. Reverse directions each time they sing the word "love."
4. Sing the song again. This time, when they first sing the word "love," children move to the center of the circle, raising their clasped hands above their heads. The next time "love" is sung, lead them in lowering their clasped hands and returning to the original circle position.
5. If you have time, allow the children to suggest other motions you could do together while singing the song.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: SHOW GOD'S LOVE**

**Purpose:** To help children memorize and review the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "Love One Another"

**Our Bible Memory Verse says, "Love one another, for love comes from God." We can show God's love to others by loving them ourselves. When the music stops, I want you to freeze right where you are. Then, listen for how we can show God's love to each other.**

### **Directions:**

1. Play "Love One Another" as the children dance and sing.
2. After a short time, pause the music. The children freeze in place.
3. Say, **"We can show God's love by giving someone a hug. Find someone to hug."** Encourage the children to hug one or more children.
4. Play as long as you like. Periodically change what you have children do when the music stops. Some suggestions are: **We can show God's love by... telling someone 'Jesus loves you,' giving someone a high five, patting someone on the back, shaking someone's hand.**



## **STORY TIME**

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about Paul's journeys or about coming together as a church.

### **PONDER, PRAY & PLAY**

Unit 4, Lesson 17: Paul Visits Ephesus

**PONDER!** God sent Paul to start churches in different places and help them grow (Acts 19:1, 8-11). What do you like about church?

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for the people who started our church. Help us remember that we need to come together as Your church. Amen."

**PLAY!** Have church with your family at home. Sing songs to God. Read your favorite Bible stories. Pray and tell God your praises and prayers together. Invite friends and neighbors to come together as a church with you!

### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE**

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>"Love</b>            | (love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.   |
| <b>one another,</b>     | (one) The index finger is held upright. (another) Hold fist in front with thumb pointing out. Turn thumb upward and outward.                |
| <b>for love</b>         | (love) Fists closed, arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.   |
| <b>comes from God."</b> | (God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up. |
| <b>1 John 4:7a</b>      | Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.   |