

Teacher's Guide: Ages 4-5
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts through Revelation

Unit 4, Lesson 17

Paul Visits Ephesus

Lesson Aim: To know we can help 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.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Come together as a church."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Dear friends, let us 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 can help 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, 24-29	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 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."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a church
WELCOME		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Come together as a church."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Love One Another" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Everyone Who Calls" "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "How Wide?" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "We Love" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Jesus Loves the Little Children" "This Is the Day"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	The Adventures of Delbert and Lello puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 4, Lesson 17
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Acts 19:1, 8-11	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 19:1 Visual: Picture of a church
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Our Church	Sturdy white and colored paper, glue, crayons or markers
		Game: Traveling Paul	Backpack or bag, 3 envelopes
		Game: Come Together	None
		Snack: Stick Together!	Marshmallows
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 4, Lesson 17 Color This Story: "Paul Visited Ephesus"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Acts 19:1, 8-11	None
	Up to 10	Game: Let Us Love!	None
	Up to 10	Game: Love One Another	Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "Love One Another"
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about Paul's journeys or about coming together as a church

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



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 sticker of a church help you remember today's Whisper Verse, "Come together as a church." Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.*

<u>SIGN LANGUAGE</u>: "Come together as a church." (For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:

"Come" Point both index fingers out and move hands toward self.

"together" Both hands make a fist with the thumb resting on top of the index finger. Place

the sides of the fists together with the outside edge of the thumbs touching each

other. Rotate both fists together in a small circle in front of the body.

"(as a) church." The right hand makes the letter "C" shape and taps lightly on the back of the left

hand, palm facing down.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time. Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!

Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

*Today's Whisper Verse: "Come together as a church," 1 Corinthians 11:18. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



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.



It's Praise Time-our time to praise God. He is the Holy Spirit who connects us. He brings us together with other believers who love Him. Sing: "We Love."

We can come together as the church. Did you know that the word "church" has two meanings? (Children respond.) Church is the place where we meet to praise God together. Church also means all the people who love Jesus. We are part of the church! That reminds me of today's Whisper Verse today. Let's try it together. Review Whisper Verse together: "Come together as a church." Include sign language.

We give our offering to help the church grow, 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: "Jesus Loves the Little Children" or ""Everyone Who Calls" 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.



People who love Jesus come together as a church. We show each other His love by loving one another. That's what our new Bible Memory Verse Song says. Let's learn it together. Sing: "Love One Another."



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

With my eyes on my teacher; Point to eyes.

My mouth quiet as can be, Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

I will listen to hear, Cup hand around ear.

How God loves you and me. Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned God gave Paul some friends named Priscilla and Aquila to help him work, serve, and teach about God. Today, we will hear how God sent Paul to the city of Ephesus. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 19:1.

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

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a picture of a church. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- > 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 called disciples.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Acts 19:1 from the teacher's Bible.

Everyone who loves Jesus is part of the church. What did Paul help the people in Ephesus do? (Come together as a church.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Come together as a church." Include sign language or hand motions.



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! That's our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with the motions right now! Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.
- ➤ 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: TRAVELING PAUL

Purpose: Children will act out how Paul traveled and wrote letters to help churches start and grow.

Supplies: Backpack or bag, 3 envelopes

Prepare: Print one of the following locations on each envelope: Ephesus, Corinth, Philippi. Put the three

envelopes in the backpack or bag for Paul to wear or carry.

God sent Paul on a long trip to many cities. He helped the people come together as a church. After Paul left each city, he wrote a letter to the church to encourage them and to help them learn more about Jesus.

Directions:

- 1. Choose one child to be Paul and one child to be a mail carrier. Give Paul the backpack or bag with the envelopes.
- 2. Name three corners of the play area as the towns: "Ephesus," "Corinth," and "Philippi."
- 3. Divide the remaining children into three groups of townspeople. Have one group of townspeople sit in each town corner.
- 4. The mail carrier stands in the center of the room.
- 5. Paul stops at Ephesus and says and signs the Whisper Verse: "Come together as a church."
- 6. The children say "We will come together as a church." Paul and the children in Ephesus kneel and fold their hands to pray.
- 7. Paul waves goodbye and walks to Corinth.
- 8. Help Paul pick out the Ephesus letter from the bag and hand it to the mail carrier who takes it back to Ephesus and gives it to the townspeople.
- 9. Repeat steps 5-8 for each city.
- 10. If you have time, play again with a new Paul and a new mail carrier.

GAME: COME TOGETHER

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

Supplies: None

God wants us to come together as a church. Let's see how we can be a church together.

Directions:

- 1. Have children walk randomly around the room.
- 2. Say, "Come together to learn about Jesus!"
- 3. Children quickly form a circle.
- 4. Everyone says and signs the Whisper Verse, "Come together as a church."
- 5. Say: "When we come together to learn about Jesus, we are a 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 the drink.
- 2. Let's sing the "Blessing Song." Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other 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. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - ➤ Who remembers our Whisper Verse? Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "Come together as a church."
 - ➤ 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.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

<u>COMPLETED CRAFT</u>: Take home your "Our Church" craft. Use your craft to tell someone how God sent Paul to start churches and help them grow.

<u>PONDER</u>, <u>PRAY & PLAY</u>: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. Show this card to your family. Talk about your church and how your family can help the church grow.

COLOR THIS STORY: "Paul Visited Ephesus." Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Love One Another," as the children color.



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, (Whisper Verse sign language.)
- > And shared the love of God. (Put hands on heart.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God." 1 John 4:7a

GAME: LET US LOVE!

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Our New Bible Memory Verse tells us to love one another. One way we can love one another is to hug each other. Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together. Each time you hear the word "love," I want you to hug someone in the circle. Hug someone different each time.

Directions:

- 1. Children stand in a circle.
- 2. Say the Bible Memory Verse together very slowly. Children hug each other each time they hear the word, "love."
- 3. What is another way we can love one another? (Smile, help, talk about Jesus, pray for each other, etc.) Choose one of the children's suggestions. Let's think of a motion for that. (Smile, shake hands, pretend to help by sweeping, open a Bible, pray, etc.)
- 4. Repeat step 2 using the motion suggested.
- 5. Play several times using different motions each time.

GOT TIME? continued...

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 and hold hands.
- 2. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song.
- 3. As the song plays, children sing and walk around 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, they lower their clasped hands and return 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.



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's Visits Ephesus

PONDER! Read Acts 19:1, 8-11 with your family. Talk about what happened when Paul visited Ephesus. Who did he find? What did Paul do with the disciples (believers)? Paul helped them start a church. What do you like about church? How many people can you name that you see at your 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! "Come together as a church!" You can have church with your family right in your own home. Sit together and sing songs to God. Then, read your favorite Bible story together. Finally, pray and tell God your praises and prayers together. You can even invite your friends and neighbors over to come together as a church with you!

Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse:

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God." 1 John 4:7a