



# Paul's Third Journey

Lesson Aim: To know we can encourage the church.

## THE WORSHIP

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

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Acts 18:23; 20:20-21, 35-38

**What He Has Done:** God sent Paul to encourage the churches he started or visited on his first and second missionary journeys.

**Key Verse:** Acts 18:23

## THE WAY

**Christ Connection:** Isaiah 43:5-7

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

Unit 4: The Promise of Connection			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
17	Paul's Third Journey, Acts 18:23; 20:20-21, 35-38	God sent Paul to encourage the churches he started or visited on his first and second missionary journeys.	To know we can encourage the church.
18	Paul Is Arrested in Jerusalem, Acts 21:27, 33-36, 40; 22:1; 23:11	God gave Paul boldness to tell his story to the people of Jerusalem.	To know God wants us to share our own stories about Him.
19	Paul and King Agrippa, Acts 26:19-31	God made Paul bold to speak about Jesus to King Agrippa.	To know we can pray for others to know Jesus. (Salvation Message)
20	Paul and the Shipwreck, Acts 27:20-26, 29-32, 39-44	God saved everyone on the ship just as He had promised.	To trust that God has a plan for our lives and He will complete it.
21	Paul Imprisoned in Rome, Acts 28:23-24, 30-31	God called Paul to boldly teach the Jews and the Gentiles about Jesus.	To challenge children to serve God faithfully.

## 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
<b>THE WELCOME</b>	Up to 15	<b>Meet &amp; Greet</b>	None
		<b>Game:</b> Starting Churches	Paper, marker, bag, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song
<b>THE WORSHIP</b>	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	<b>Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Neither Death nor Life" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Chosen People" "For God So Loved the World" "I Am the Way" "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is" "You Will Seek Me" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "How Great Thou Art" "Shout to the Lord"
		<b>Worship Scripture Reading:</b> Romans 15:5-6	Bible
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	Lesson 17 Commander Cosmos script or storybook
<b>THE WORD</b>	Up to 10	<b>Read the Word:</b> Acts 18:23; 20:20-21, 35-38	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
<b>THE WAY</b>	Up to 25	<b>Discuss the Word</b>	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, Treasure Treats, large map of Paul's Third Missionary Journey (available at ResourceWell.org), pencils
		<b>Christ Connection:</b> Isaiah 43:5-7	
		<b>Golden Bowl</b>	
<b>GOT TIME?</b>	Up to 10	<b>Snack:</b> Church at Home	Square or rectangle-shaped crackers
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Return Visits	12 index cards (or sheets of paper)
	Up to 10	<b>Craft:</b> Paul's Letter Keeper	Map of Paul's third missionary journey (available at ResourceWell.org), notebook paper, envelope, star sticker, hole punch, glue, crayons or markers
	Up to 15	<b>Discussion:</b> Who Is Our Paul?	None
	Up to 10	<b>Discussion:</b> Riot in Ephesus	Bible
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Love Shuffle	Two sets of Love Shuffle cards (available at ResourceWell.org), Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster (or Bibles)
	Up to 5	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Do the Wave	Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 5	<b>Bible Timeline Review</b>	Date with story title or name printed on card

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



Getting started

## THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

**Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite thing to do at church?**

### **GAME: STARTING CHURCHES**

**Purpose:** Children will play a game which will introduce Paul's third missionary journey.

**Supplies:** Paper, marker, bag, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song

**Prepare:** In six different places in the play area, place a sign with one of the following locations: Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, and Rome. Write each location on a small piece of paper and place them in the bag.

**Today, we will talk about Paul's third missionary journey. He didn't visit new cities and regions. Instead, he returned to some of the churches he had started or visited on previous journeys to help them grow and to encourage them. Along the way, Paul wrote letters to the churches to help them remember what he had taught them about Jesus. Let's play a game and pretend Paul is deciding where to visit.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Choose one child to be Paul.
2. Paul stands in the center of the play area and holds the closed bag.
3. The other children move around the play area as the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse is played.
4. Stop the music. Children quickly choose and stand in one of the six locations designated by a sign.
5. Paul closes his or her eyes and removes a piece of paper from the bag.
6. Paul walks to the location on the piece of paper and says, **"I am going to start a church in location name."**
7. The children in that location sit down for the rest of the game. Remove the sign and the piece of paper chosen by Paul from the game.
8. Repeat steps 3-7 until all six locations are chosen.

**Limited space?** Instead of signs, make several cards for each location. Place one set of cards in the bag. Give each child except Paul a card. Paul sits in the center of the circle with the bag. While the music plays, children pass the cards. When you stop the music, Paul pulls a card from the bag and reads the location on it. Children holding the location cards that match the one Paul pulls from the bag keep their cards and sit out for the rest of the game. Repeat until all six locations are chosen.



The Spirit who connects us

## THE WORSHIP

**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 music as children move to the designated area.

**Today, we will worship the Holy Spirit who connects us. He connects us to each other and to Jesus. Because of the Holy Spirit, Paul's visits and his letters encouraged believers to grow closer to Jesus and to each other.**



**Our new Bible Memory Verse Song comes from a letter Paul wrote to the Roman believers while he was on his third missionary journey. Paul was convinced that nothing could separate us from the love of Jesus; we are connected to Him forever. Paul wrote to the Romans about this to encourage them. Let's listen to that promise from Paul's letter to the Romans as we give our offering to God's church.** Play: "Neither Death nor Life" as background music while collecting the offering.



**Paul wanted believers to be united so they might glorify God together.** Let's read what Paul wrote about that. Read Romans 15:5-6.



Perform Commander Cosmos script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 4, Lesson 17.



You may also choose to sing songs that focus on unity in the body of Christ.



Paul encourages the church

## THE WORD

**Teacher Tip:** As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

**Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."**

**Paul's first missionary journey was with Barnabas. His second journey was with Silas. They started many churches and encouraged believers in many cities and regions.**

**Today, we will hear about Paul's third journey.** If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Paul's Third Journey (Circa 54-58 A.D.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **On his third journey, Paul visited and wrote letters to the churches he started or visited on previous journeys. He wanted to help these new churches connect and grow closer to Jesus and to each other.** If available, show the children a map of Paul's Third Missionary Journey (available on ResourceWell.org).



**If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others.** Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Acts 18:23; 20:20-21, 35-38.

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us?** Child prays aloud. **Be seated.** Read Acts 18:23.

**Then Paul traveled to Ephesus, where he stayed for over 2 years. Every day while he was there, he led discussions about following Jesus. Paul even did miracles in Jesus' name!**

**Paul left Ephesus and traveled through Macedonia and Greece. He stopped in many places on his way to Jerusalem. From a city called Miletus, he asked the leaders of the church in Ephesus to come and meet with him so he could tell them goodbye. He knew he was headed to Jerusalem and would never see them again. Let's read what Paul told the leaders that day.** Read Acts 20:20-21, 35-38. **It was very hard for Paul to say goodbye. His third journey ended when he was arrested in Jerusalem.**



Encouraging the church

## THE WAY

**On his first two journeys, Paul told people about Jesus and helped them start churches. On his third journey, Paul went back to those places to visit and teach them more about how to live together as followers of Jesus. He spoke to large groups, traveling from house to house. He also wrote letters to many churches to encourage them. Paul taught the believers about praying, obeying God, caring, and loving one another. Why were the Ephesian leaders so sad to say goodbye to Paul?** (They loved him and knew they would not see him again.)

**There are people all over the world who believe in Jesus. We can encourage them even if we are not able to travel like Paul. Let's brainstorm ways we can help other churches and ministries as Paul did.** Examples: Write a letter of encouragement to a pastor, missionary, or other ministry leader. Collect money to help a church or ministry. Help through a service project. Pray.

### **GAME: MARK THE MAP**

**Purpose:** Children see the places Paul visited by tracing a map of Paul's Third Missionary Journey.

**Supplies:** Treasure Treats, large map of Paul's Third Missionary Journey (Treasure Treat and map are available at ResourceWell.org), pencils

**Paul started all three of his missionary journeys from Antioch. Let's find Antioch on the map and track Paul's travels on his third journey.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Using the large map, show the children each place Paul visited. Children mark the journey on their own maps by drawing a line from location to location in the order below.  
Antioch, Galatia, Phrygia (Acts 18:23)  
Ephesus (Acts 19:1)  
Macedonia, Greece (Acts 20:1-2)  
Philippi, Troas (Acts 20:6)  
Assos, Mitylene, Chios, Samos, Miletus (Acts 20:13-15)  
Kos (Cos), Rhodes, Patara (Acts 21:1)  
Tyre, Ptolemais, Caesarea (Acts 21:7-8)  
Jerusalem (Acts 21:17)
2. Discuss the long distances Paul traveled on foot and by boat.
3. Ask children about their travel experiences.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

## CHRIST CONNECTION

**Paul knew God wants people from all over the world to believe in Jesus and follow Him. Over 700 years before Paul's journeys, God promised to bring people to Himself.**



**Everyone, place your Bible on your lap.** Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Isaiah 43:5-7. **Let's find this scripture.** Read Isaiah 43:5-7.

**God brings us close to Him by helping us believe in Jesus. Paul saw this in many lands.**

# THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

## **GOLDEN BOWL**

**Teacher Tip:** Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

**Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.**

**Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.** Read names in Golden Bowl.

**Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**TREASURE TREAT:** Today, your Treasure Treat is the map you traced of Paul's third missionary journey. (Paul's Third Missionary Journey Map Challenge Treasure Treat is available at ResourceWell.org.) **Take it home and show someone all the places Paul visited to encourage churches and help people grow closer to Jesus.**

**DAILY WAY CHALLENGE:** Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 17 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

**Teacher Tip:** Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

**OFFERING OF ART:** Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Paul saying goodbye to the Ephesians.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write their prayer requests in a prayer notebook.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Neither Death nor Life," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.





If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## **GOT TIME?**

### **SNACK: CHURCH AT HOME**

**Purpose:** Children will eat a snack while personally connecting to the story.

**Snack Suggestion:** Square or rectangle-shaped crackers

**Your crackers are shaped like bricks. Use your crackers to build a small building.**

**Paul visited many cities and regions. What did he start in the places he visited?** (Churches.)  
**The churches met in people's homes. Many years later, people started to build churches.**  
**Does it matter where we meet for church?** (No.) **When we meet together to worship God, we are the church. The church is not just a building, it's the people who follow Jesus—wherever we meet!**

#### **Directions:**

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Children create a building before eating their snack.
4. Ask each child to answer this question: **"What is your favorite thing about the place where your church meets?"**

### **GAME: RETURN VISITS**

**Purpose:** Children play a matching game to review the names of some of the places Paul revisited on his third missionary journey.

**Supplies:** 12 index cards (or sheets of paper)

**Prepare:** Print each of the following 6 locations on two index cards: Macedonia, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Caesarea, Jerusalem.

**On Paul's third missionary journey, he encouraged the churches he had started or visited on earlier journeys. Let's see if we can find the match for some of the places Paul went.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Shuffle the cards and place them face down on the floor or a table.
2. Choose a child to turn over two cards.
  - If the cards match, the child reads the location. Leave them face up.
  - If the cards do not match, turn them back over, leaving them in their original places.
3. Children take turns until all the cards are matched.
4. Encourage the children to help each other.
5. Play again, as time allows.



# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **CRAFT: PAUL'S LETTER KEEPER**

**Purpose:** To create a collection of verses from Paul's letters as the children learn of Paul's travels and his writings.

**Supplies:** Map of Paul's third missionary journey (available at ResourceWell.org), notebook paper, envelope, star sticker, hole punch, glue, crayons or markers

**Prepare:** For any children who did not begin the craft in Lesson 12, provide materials for a cover (See lesson 12.) and a map of Paul's second missionary journey (available at ResourceWell.org). Display the following text for all to copy (or preprint for younger children):

**Dear friends in Ephesus,  
"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power." Ephesians 6:10  
Your friend, Paul**

**Teacher Tip:** This craft is designed to continue through Units 3-4 (Lesson 12-21). For each lesson, children add a new letter to their Letter Keeper. They can take their Letter Keeper home and bring it back for each lesson, or the teacher can collect them after each lesson and give them their completed Letter Keepers at the end of Unit 4.

**Option:** Each of Paul's letters in the Letter Keeper craft can be created as an individual craft instead of part of a collection.

**Paul started many churches while on his journeys. He also returned to visit the same churches many times. He wrote letters to help them know how to love God and follow Jesus. We can find many of Paul's letters in the New Testament of the Bible. Let's imagine we are helping Paul collect copies of his letters. With each story we learn, we will add an envelope containing one of his messages.**

**Today, we discovered some of the places Paul visited on his third missionary journey. He visited churches he had started on earlier visits to those cities and regions. He also wrote letters to help the churches grow in faith and love and connect with each other. Paul spent most of his time on this third journey in Ephesus. Later, he wrote a letter to the Ephesians while he was imprisoned in Rome. Paul wanted the Ephesians to know that God would help them be strong.**

### **Directions:**

1. Copy the words of Ephesians 6:10 onto a sheet of notebook paper. Decorate the paper with a picture of your church.
2. Address the envelope to "The Church at Ephesus." Write "From Paul imprisoned in Rome" as the return address.
3. Punch holes in the envelope to match the holes in your Letter Keeper.
4. Unclasp the binding of your Letter Keeper.
5. Add the map of Paul's third missionary journey and the new envelope and re-clasp.
6. Place the verse from Ephesus inside the envelope.
7. On the map of Paul's third missionary journey, place a star sticker on the region of Ephesus to show where Paul sent this letter.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **DISCUSSION: WHO IS OUR PAUL?**

**Purpose:** To discover how and why your church began.

**Supplies:** None

**Prepare:** Arrange for a pastor, elder, or church leader to share the church's history with the class or research your church's history yourself.

**Paul started many churches in many different cities and regions. He helped them grow in faith, in love, and helped them connect with each other. Do you know how our church began or who started it? (Children respond.) Let's find out!**

### **Directions:**

1. Introduce your guest or explain what you discovered in your research. Include:
  - a. who started the church.
  - b. when, why, and how the church was started.
2. Allow children to ask any questions they may have about the church.
3. Pray and thank God for your church.

**Option:** If you are not meeting in a church or as part of a church, explain how and why your group began. Remind the children that when two or more believers gather in His name, Jesus is there, too!

## **DISCUSSION: RIOT IN EPHESUS**

**Purpose:** Children learn details of the adversity Paul experienced in his third journey.

**Supplies:** Bibles

Read Acts 19:23-30; 20:1. **Everywhere Paul went, he faced challenges from those who didn't want the church to grow. What happened in Ephesus that caused Paul to leave and continue his journey?** (The craftsmen who made idols were losing money because the Christians who believed in the one true God didn't buy their idols. They caused a riot to stop Paul.)

**When this happened, did Paul give up and stop helping churches? (No.) When Paul was sad about leaving his friends in Ephesus, did that stop him from going to Jerusalem to help the church there? (No.) Paul put God's plan first, before his own feelings.**

**Through the Bible, God encourages His church today as they read about Paul's challenges and choices. How can remembering Paul's choices on his third missionary journey encourage you when you feel discouraged about helping others grow closer to Jesus?** (Children respond.)

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

### **GAME: LOVE SHUFFLE**

**Purpose:** Children learn the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Two sets of Love Shuffle cards (available at ResourceWell.org), Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster (or Bibles)

**Prepare:** Print two sets of Love Shuffle cards (available at ResourceWell.org) or using sturdy paper, create two identical sets of cards with each of the 50 words from the Bible Memory Verse printed on a separate card.

**As we sing (or chant) the Bible Memory Verse together, think about the correct order of the words. That will help you in our game.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Children recite or sing the Bible Memory Verse (Romans 8:38-39) together.
2. Divide children into two teams.
3. Shuffle each set of 50 cards.
4. Deal the first set of 50 cards to the children on one team and the second set of 50 cards to the children on the other team. Give each child approximately the same number of cards.
5. On your signal, the two teams race to put their cards in the correct order. They may use the Bible or the Bible Memory Verse poster as a reference.
6. The first team to place all 50 cards in the correct order wins.

### **GAME: DO THE WAVE**

**Purpose:** Children learn the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse (Romans 8:38-39).

**Supplies:** Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

#### **Directions:**

1. Assign one phrase from Romans 8:38-39 to each child or group.
2. Direct each child or group to quickly stand, say the assigned phrase while raising both hands up to the sky, lower their hands down to their thighs, and sit down.
3. Repeat three times, saying the verse faster each time.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part One studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Acts through Revelation. Specific dates and a confirmed chronological order of all events covered in Lessons 1-21 are not available. Events will be ordered as they appear in the Bible. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

**Paul and Silas in Prison (Circa 48-49 A.D.)** After staying in Lydia's home, Paul and Silas were unfairly thrown into jail. What did the other prisoners hear them doing that night in the prison? (Praying and singing hymns.) After God sent the earthquake, the prisoners could have escaped, but they stayed. Paul told the jailer about Jesus. What happened to the jailer? (He and his family believed and were baptized.)

**Priscilla and Aquila (Circa 49-54 A.D.)** God gave Priscilla and Aquila many ways to serve Him. In Corinth, they served God by helping Paul. How did they help Paul? (They made tents with him, gave him a place to stay, and traveled with him to Ephesus.) They helped Apollos by inviting him to their home to learn more about God's ways. They also served God by having the church meet in their home.

**Paul's Third Journey (Circa 52-57 A.D.)** On Paul's third missionary journey, he visited and encouraged many churches he had started or visited on his first and second journeys. He spent much of his time in Ephesus. The leaders from Ephesus were sad to say goodbye to him because they knew they would never see him again. How can you encourage believers? (Children respond.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Acts through Revelation:

1. Download and print the Bible Timeline for Prophets & Promises (available at [www.resourcewell.org](http://www.resourcewell.org)).
2. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
3. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
4. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.
5. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

**Acts – Revelation:** Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.) > Jesus Ascends (Circa 33 A.D.) > The Holy Spirit Comes (Circa 33 A.D.) > Peter and the Lame Man (Circa 33 A.D.) > The Stoning of Stephen (Circa 33 A.D.) > Philip and the Ethiopian (Circa 33 A.D.) > God Changes Saul's Heart (Circa 33-34 A.D.) > Saul Escapes from Damascus (Circa 33-34 A.D.) > Peter and Tabitha (Circa 34-37 A.D.) > Peter Visits Cornelius (Circa 38 A.D.) > Peter Escapes from Prison (Circa 41-44 A.D.) > Barnabas and Paul (Circa 46-47 A.D.) > Paul Visits Macedonia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Paul and Lydia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Paul and Silas in Prison (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Priscilla and Aquila (Circa 49-54 A.D.) > Paul's Third Journey (Circa 52-57 A.D.) > Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem (Circa 57-59 A.D.) > Paul and King Agrippa (Circa 57-59 A.D.) > Paul and the Shipwreck (Circa 60 A.D.) > Paul Imprisoned in Rome (Circa 62 A.D.)