

LESSON 1

PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Works Through the Holy Spirit

SCRIPTURE: Acts 16

GOD'S BIG STORY: After Jesus goes to heaven, God sends the Holy Spirit to be our helper. God works through the Holy Spirit to lead Paul on missionary journeys to spread the good news.

Activity: Travel Toys

Activity: Pack a Bag

Worship

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Red Light, Green Light

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Activity: Travel Toys

SUPPLIES: variety of toy cars and trucks, blocks or magnetic tiles

Set out the toy vehicles and blocks or magnetic tiles.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! We're so glad you're at church. We're going to learn in our story today about someone who traveled.

Have you been on a trip? Allow the kids to respond. **People can travel in lots of different ways. Some walk or ride bikes. Some ride cars, trains, or buses. Some ride airplanes or boats. In our story today, we will hear more about a person who traveled to tell people about Jesus. Let's drive our cars and trucks around!**

Invite kids to drive the toy vehicles around. You can also help them build towers and buildings from the blocks or magnetic tiles and drive the vehicles around the buildings.

Activity: Pack a Bag

SUPPLIES: cardstock, scissors (prep only), travel bag, assortment of supplies you might bring traveling (clothes, hairbrush, etc.)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: God's Big Story Flame Sheet

Ahead of time, print the God's Big Story Flame Sheet onto cardstock and cut out the flames (you will only use one). Set out the travel bag and supplies to pack for traveling.

Can you help me pack a bag for a trip? What should we put inside?

Allow kids to help you pack and unpack the bag as long as attention holds.

We need one more thing! Hold up one flame cutout. **Should we put in fire? It's OK—this isn't real fire. This reminds us of God's Spirit. We'll learn more about it in our story today. And we'll learn about someone who had the Holy Spirit with him as he traveled to tell people about Jesus.**

You can use the paper flame again for God's Big Story.

Our Wonder Truth today is GOD WORKS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD—Point up.

WORKS THROUGH—Hands up in front of body.

THE HOLY SPIRIT—Wiggle fingers in front of you, like a flame.



Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Holy Spirit Our Helper Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we're learning that God works through the Holy Spirit. Let's sing and thank God for how He helps us!

Play songs from the [Holy Spirit Our Helper Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, cardstock, scissors (prep only)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: God's Big Story Flame Sheet, [God's Big Story Video](#)

Ahead of time, print the God's Big Story Flame Sheet onto cardstock if you haven't already and cut out the flames (you will only use one).

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Paul. Encourage the kids to say, "Paul." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Paul!**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video or read the story from the Bible or use the Script provided.



A man named Paul became a follower of Jesus. The Holy Spirit filled Paul and helped Paul tell other people about Jesus. The Holy Spirit is God's presence. God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside people who trust in Jesus. This flame reminds us of the Holy Spirit. Hold up the flame, and invite kids to repeat after you, "Jesus loves you." **That's what Paul told people! Jesus loves you.**

One time, Paul didn't know where to go. Who needed to hear about Jesus next? The Holy Spirit showed Paul where to go. Paul and his friends got into a boat. They went to Macedonia (ma-si-DŌ-nyuh). Have kids pretend to row a boat with you.

When they got there, they found a lady named Lydia. Paul and his friends talked to Lydia. Hold up the Flame Sheet again and invite kids to repeat after you, "Jesus loves you." **Now Lydia trusted Jesus too!**

The Holy Spirit helped Paul. We can trust the Holy Spirit to help us too. We can remember that God works through the Holy Spirit.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. Thank You, God, for giving the Holy Spirit to help us. Thank You for loving us. Help us share Your love with others! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Now let's sing a song to remind us that Jesus loves us and the Holy Spirit helps us.

Sing this song to the kids, to the tune of Frère Jacques:

Jesus loves me; Jesus loves me.

Yes He does; yes He does.

His Holy Spirit helps me; His Holy Spirit helps me.

Follow God; follow God.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May God work through the Holy Spirit in your life. May God's Spirit help you know that Jesus loves you.

Activity: Red Light, Green Light

In our story today, Paul traveled far away to tell people about Jesus. He went in a boat and traveled to a place where Lydia lived. Let's pretend we're trying to get to Lydia's house. Line up with the kids along the wall. When I say, "green light," we're going to pretend to ride in a boat and go to the other side of the room. When I say, "red light," we'll stop. If you have a young group, you can say, "Stop" and, "Go" instead of "red light" and "green light." Play several rounds.