



YEAR THREE - BOOK OF ACTS

Bible Diggers Leader Booklet

digbiblestudy.com



version 1.2 (10/31/2018)

© Jason Hudson 2018



License Info

Thank you for supporting our DIG ministry by purchasing the Bible Diggers for Kids curriculum.

The purchase of this curriculum grants you a *Site-Wide License*.

What does this mean? You may use and copy this material in the following ways:

- A new license must be purchased for each site/location (one for church, one for school, one for Bible club, one for home, etc.)
- The license grants permission to reproduce as many as needed for each site/location. (For example, buy one license and make 20 copies for leaders at church. Buy another license to make more copies for Bible club, etc.)
- The license has no end date. Once purchased, the site is granted permission to use indefinitely.
- The license may not be transferred to a new buyer unless they are connected to the site at which the curriculum was purposed to be used at originally.
- You may download updated versions of the same curriculum to use at the same site/location without purchasing a new license.

We appreciate your compliance with the license as it helps us be able to continue the DIG ministry.

To purchase additional Site-Wide Licenses, please visit digbiblestudy.com.

For questions regarding the license or the curriculum, please contact us at info@digbiblestudy.com.

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

© 2018 Jason Hudson
digbiblestudy.com





LEADERS GUIDE

Welcome to **Bible Diggers**, where **We DIG the Bible**! You are an important part of leading youth towards Jesus. Thank you!

During Year Three of Bible Diggers we will be covering the Book of Acts. Our teaching sessions use the **DIG Bible Study Method**. DIG consists of 3 easy steps for learning God's word:

1. **Details** (notice words & details in the passage)
2. **Interwoven** (read the passage again)
3. **God** (what did we learn about God in the Bible today?)

Each week of Bible Diggers instruction is divided into two main sessions: The Big Group and The Small Group. The DIG steps and sessions flow like this:

Big Group Session (led by the head BD teacher/pastor)

D



Small Group Session (led by you + assistants)

I



G



Creative learning aids are included each week, such as illustrative helps and memory games. You can best prepare by reading over each week's guide the week prior. Feel free to change these creative aids to best suit your class, or even create your own!

The Youth Group will be with assisting with games for the 2nd - 5th graders. The Youth will also end the evening by helping cleanup and then debriefing with their leader.

Projects is a portion of the evening that rotates week-to-week between activities, such as crafts, service projects, Bible journaling, etc.

Be sure to give positive reinforcement when kids have great insight and correct answers. Additionally, if a child gives a wrong answer, gently steer the whole class toward the true understanding. The best way to do this is to go directly to the words in the Bible passage. Be lively, genuine, and interesting. Mostly, **lean on Jesus to help you**, so definitely pray, pray, pray!

By the end of the evening, both the kids *and you* should have gained a greater understanding of God and His word by being Bible Diggers!



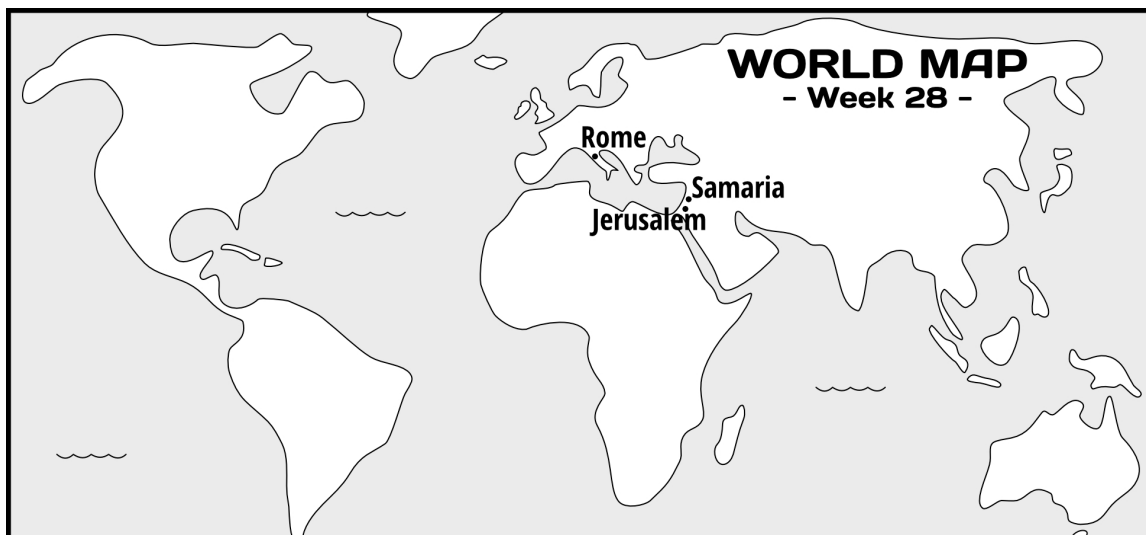
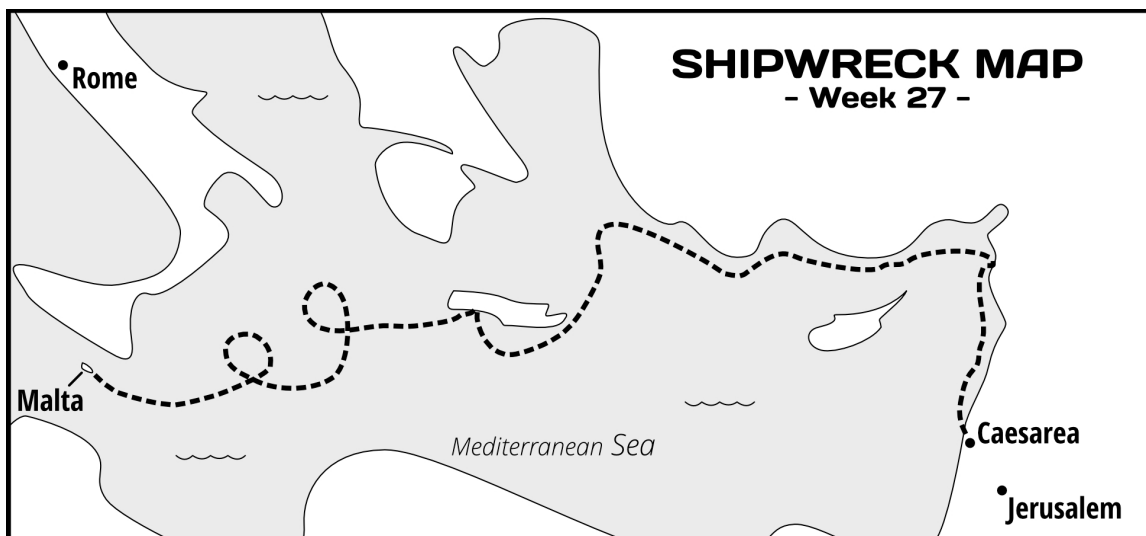
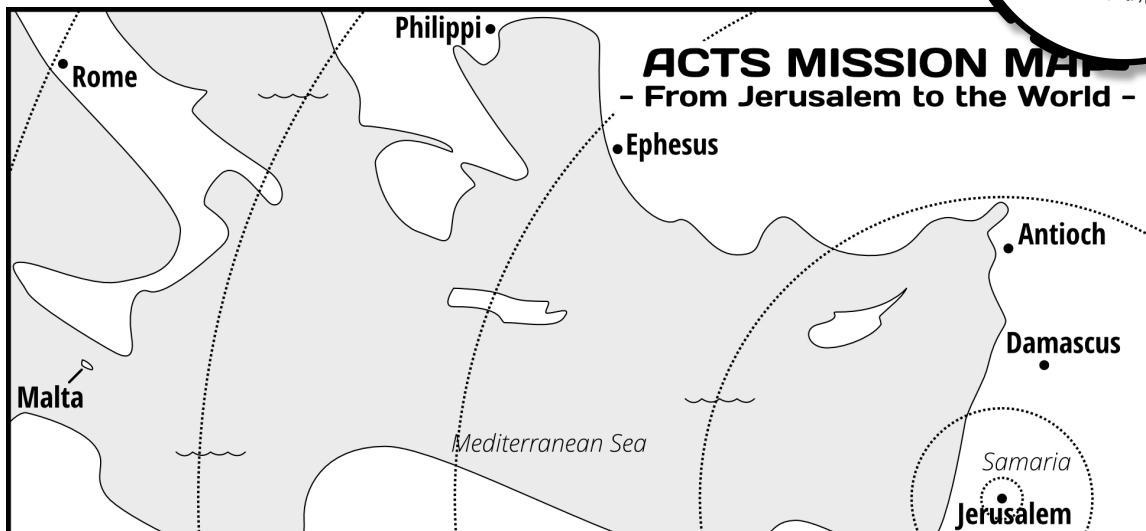


Maps Resource Page

Use these maps for general help in locating places in Acts.

Note: Maps are far from scale and precision.

TIP!
Continue to refer to the Acts Mission Map to show the radiating spread of the Good News from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth!

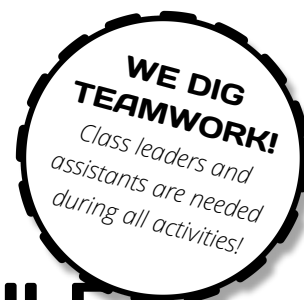




Memory Games

The following Memory Games are provided to help during the Small Group Session in order to review what was learned earlier in the evening during the Big Group Session's study of the Details. These can be adjusted to fit your needs, or feel free to come up with your own!

1. **Photographic Memory:** Write on the white board as many Details the class can remember from the Big Group Session...Challenge them to remember them all! If you took a picture of the whiteboard during the D session, you can check them with the picture you took.
2. **Pictorama:** Using Details from the D session, draw pictures on the whiteboard to see if the class can guess what the words are. You may also have volunteers from the class take turns drawing.
3. **Praying Man.** Remember the game hangman? At Bible Diggers we play Praying Man with words from the passage. Invite volunteers to choose words and lead as well. For younger kids, simply play by asking, "Can anyone remember a word that starts with [certain letter]?" 
4. **Character Line-Up:** On a whiteboard, list characters from the story on one side and their actions/traits on the other side. Have volunteers draw lines connecting the characters to their correct action/trait details.
5. **Easter Egg Anytime:** Before kids enter the classroom, write various words on sheets of paper (one per sheet). Crumple the sheets of paper and hide them like Easter eggs. After all are found, have kids open the sheets to reveal words.
6. **Voice Box:** Jot different voice-types on pieces of paper (robotic, mouse, sloooooow-motion, etc.). Fold the paper pieces and mix in a box, hat or bag. Volunteers draw a piece of paper and share a Detail using the silly voice.
7. **Sweet Tooth:** Write first letter of Detail words on the lower section of lollipops. Hold as bouquet, and have kids randomly choose a lollipop. Challenge the kids to provide a Detail starting with the same letter.
8. **Annnnd...Action!:** Play charades by giving volunteers a word. Without talking or making noise, they must perform using gestures as clues while the class guesses what the word is.
9. **Pie On My Mind:** Draw a simple circle and pretend it's a pie, and draw enough pieces of pie for each kid in the class. Then try to fill each piece of pie with a detail they recall from the story.
10. **Letter-by-Letter:** Choose a detail from the story. Write the first letter on the whiteboard and see if the class can guess. If not, add letters one- by-one until guessed correctly. For younger ages, simply use sounds instead.

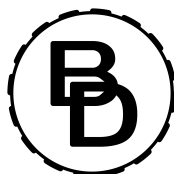


BIBLE DIGGERS SCHEDULE

Let's DIG!	7:00 - 7:05pm	Opening Session All Kids (PreK - Youth Group)			Nursery
Big Group Sessions	7:05 - 7:20pm	Music PreK - 5th		D Youth Group	
	7:20 - 7:35pm	Projects PreK - 1st	D 2nd - 5th	I + G Youth Group	
	7:35 - 7:50pm	D PreK - 1st	Projects 2nd - 5th		
Small Group Sessions	7:50 - 8:05pm	Games PreK - 1st	I + G 2nd - 5th	Prayer + Updates Youth Group	Adult DIG
	8:05 - 8:20pm	I + G PreK - 1st	Games 2nd - 5th	Help Serve Youth Group @ Games	
Let's Go!	8:20 - 8:30pm	Closing Session PreK - 5th		Cleanup & Debrief Youth Group	

Small Group Sessions - Classroom Breakdown:

- Youth Group (6th - 12th)
- 4th - 5th
- 2nd - 3rd
- K - 1st
- PreK





Week 1 – Proof of Resurrection

Scripture: Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-3

Linked Verse: 1 John 1:3 *that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us...*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)



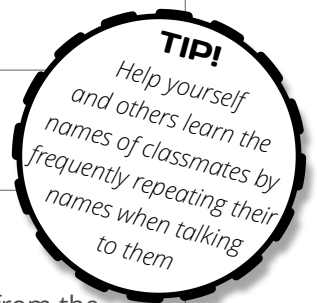
God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. Jesus resurrected from the dead
2. Jesus proved He had resurrected
3. Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God

Illustrative Drawing: Draw a simple outline of a person's body. Ask the class to label areas that could be medically examined to prove the person is alive (e.g. lungs breathing, heart beating, etc.).

(Bring the point back to God. Mark the body with wounds on the hands, feet and side. The wounds proved it really was Jesus and the previous attributes proved He was risen and alive!)





Week 2 – Be My Witnesses

Scripture: Acts 1:4-11

Linked Verse: Romans 10:15 (quoting Isaiah 52:7) *“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)

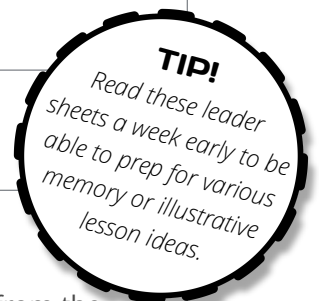


God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. God wants to save people all over the world
2. God sent believers as His witnesses of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and saving power.
3. God empowers His people with the Holy Spirit.

Illustrative Object: Using a piece of paper, roll at an angle to form a megaphone. Speak some words or a verse toward each of the children. (**Bring the point back to God.** The Holy Spirit empowers believers to aim and amplify their testimony of Jesus.)





Week 3 – Prayerfully Preparing

Scripture: Acts 1:12-26 (For younger audiences, shorten to Acts 1:12-16,20-26)

Linked Verse: Ephesians 4:11-12 *And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry...*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)

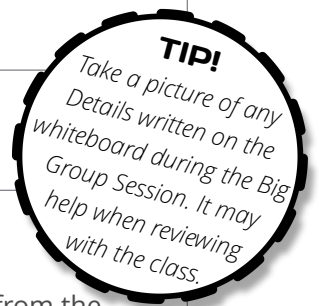


God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. God will always fulfill His promises
2. God will give wisdom for making decisions
3. God appoints us to our service within the church

Illustrative Story: Ask the kids about times when they have waited for something great. How did it feel to wait? How did it feel when the wait was over? (**Bring the point back to God**. God often has us wait. Waiting doesn't mean He is late...it means He is preparing for something great!)





Week 4 – The Church Created

Scripture: Acts 2:1-18,21 (If needed, condense to Acts 2:1-7,12-18,21)

Linked Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:13 *For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)

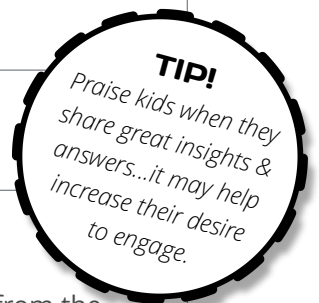


God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. God created the church on the day of Pentecost
2. God pours out His Spirit on all Christians
3. God's Spirit empowers Christians to witness of Jesus

Illustrative Object: Write your name on a paper cup. How useful is the empty cup? Fill the cup with water and drink some. How useful is the cup now? (**Bring the point back to God.** God puts His Spirit in believers, and He empowers us to be incredibly useful to His Kingdom when we are filled to overflowing with Him.)





Week 5 – Souls Were Added

Scripture: Acts 2:32-41

Linked Verse: Acts 2:21 *"And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)

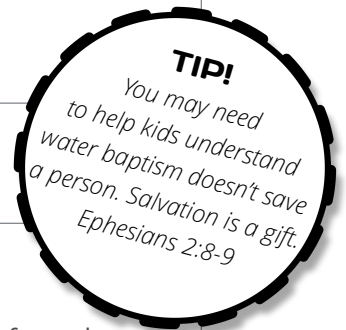


God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. God raised Jesus from the dead
2. The Father exalted Jesus to His right hand
3. God calls people to Himself through repentance and forgiveness of sins.

Illustrative Drawing: Write Jesus' name. Draw a stick figure next to it and an arrow showing the person going away from Jesus and toward sin. Next, add to the arrow to make it a u-turn that points back to Jesus. **(Bring the point back to God.** The Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection beckons us to repent, which means turning away from sin and back to Jesus.)





Week 6 – Devoted As One Body

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

Linked Verse: Philippians 2:3 *Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)



God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. God gave authority to the apostles to teach Scripture, with confirmation through signs
2. God desires selfless devotion, just like that of Jesus
3. The Lord adds saved people to His community of believers

Illustrative Exercise: Have everyone hold hands with you in a circle. While the class continues, fold your arms. What happened to the unity when your hands were kept to yourself? (**Bring the point back to God.** The Scripture speaks about Jesus spreading His hands out, giving selflessly of Himself on the cross, broken so we could be in humble fellowship with God and His believers.)





Week 7 – Complete Healing

Scripture: Acts 3:1-16

Linked Verse: Acts 4:30 “...You stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)



God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. God used Peter to stretch out His hand and heal in Jesus' name
2. God desires to heal our soul as well as our bodies
3. God will use His work in our lives to share about Jesus with others

Illustrative Story: Share a time when the Lord healed you or someone you know. Also relate how it grew your faith in God for all He is. (**Bring the point back to God.** The physical healing God provides serves as a means to know His grace through Jesus and His faithfulness to fulfill His promises.)

TIP!

Use extra time to ask the kids about work He has done in their lives and how it might be used to share about Jesus.



Week 8 – Peter & John Arrested

Scripture: Acts 4:1-31

Linked Verse: 2 Timothy 3:12 *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)



God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. The resurrection of Jesus is fundamental to the Gospel message and our hope
2. God gives His witnesses courage even under duress
3. The Sovereign Lord created everything

Illustrative Object: Fill a bottle with water and be sure it is water-tight. Shake the bottle like crazy. Observe how the air bubbles always come back together at the top. **(Bring the point back to God.** The Kingdom of God “air bubbles” never blend or submit to the water “world” despite being hated and persecuted. Jesus is always on top!)





Week 9 – One Heart and Soul

Scripture: Acts 4:32-5:11

Linked Verse: Psalm 44:21 *Would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart.*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)



God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. God knows everything that is in our hearts.
2. God wants us to live selflessly as Jesus did
3. God uses tragic moments to serve as examples for us

Illustrative Object: Secretly place several small objects of your choice in a paper bag. Let the kids try guessing what is inside. **(Bring the point back to God.** God not only knows everything in the paper bag, He also knows everything in every person's heart — and whether we are with or against Jesus.)

TIP!

Assure the kids God does not strike everyone down for lying. However, sin does have consequences.



Week 10 – All For His Name

Scripture: Acts 5:12-42

Linked Verse: 1 Peter 4:13 *Rejoice insofar as you share in Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed.*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)

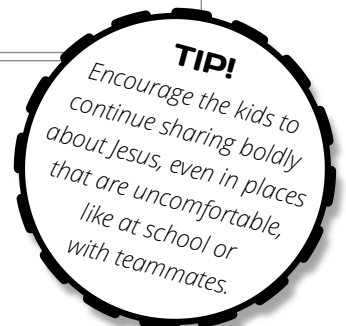


God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. The testimonies of Jesus are words of Life
2. The Good News of Jesus cannot be stopped
3. Jesus' Name is worth suffering for!

Illustrative Story: Share a story about a time when you had such important news you just had to tell others. Ask the kids for stories of their own. (**Bring the point back to God.** The news of Jesus is SO good that it just has to be shared by those who have been rescued by His grace, even if it means rejection or hurt.)





Week 11 – Seven Servant Deacons

Scripture: Acts 6:1-7

Linked Verse: Matthew 20:26,28 *"Whoever would be great among you must be your servant...even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 min)

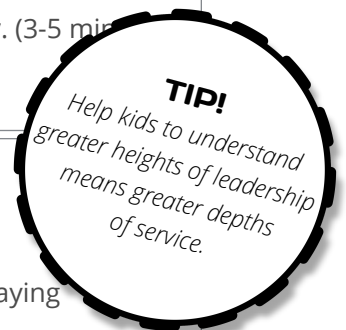


God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. God preserved the teaching of the Scriptures to keep the church from straying
2. God provided servants to help those in need
3. The Word of God continued to increase and multiply disciples of Jesus through believing

Illustrative Drawing: Draw a strong bridge with cars and pedestrians traveling across. Ask the kids which is strongest: The bridge, cars or people? Which supports the others? **(Bring the point back to God.** God is a mighty leader, and Jesus uses His strength to support us. As He strengthens us, He uses us to be servant leaders to those who need help, too.)





Week 12 – Steven Martyred

Scripture: Acts 6:8-8:2 (Consider skipping 7:1-50 — see the Tip! for a summary)

Linked Verse: Mark 8:35 [while being crucified] *Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)



God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. God's wisdom and Spirit empowered Steven to speak.
2. God allowed Steven to die as a martyr for the testimony of Jesus.
3. Jesus often reveals Himself closest when circumstances are the most difficult.

Illustrative Drama: To help emphasize what Steven endured, have kids crumple sheets of paper into "stones." Have them surround you and stone you until you die. Afterward, tell them you still want them to be saved by God. (**Bring the point back to God.** Jesus is so gracious! Not only did He forgive when others mistreated Him, but He helps us to forgive others, too.)





Week 13 – Philip and the Eunuch

Scripture: Acts 8:4-8, 26-40

Linked Verse: Matthew 28:19-20 *Go therefore and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)



God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. God led Philip to the place on the road he would share with the Eunuch
2. The Word of God was used by Philip to explain the Good News of Jesus
3. God desires for people of all races and nations to be part of His Kingdom people

Illustrative Exercise: Have everyone pretend to hold and then violently shake a white dandelion. What happens when they are persecuted? (**Bring the point back to God.** God miraculously uses the persecution of His people to scatter the seeds of the Gospel and spread the message about Jesus.)





Week 14 – Saul's Conversion

Scripture: Acts 9:1-22

Linked Verse: 1 Timothy 1:13-14 *...formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy...and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus."*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)

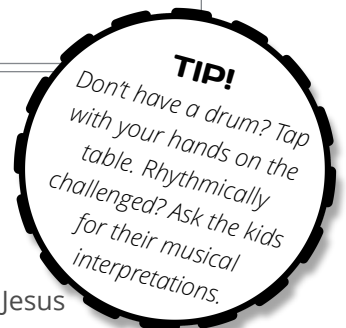


God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. The Lord wants to save us even when we are very wicked toward Him
2. The Lord used Ananias to welcome Saul into the family of God
3. The Lord changed Saul from a persecutor to the persecuted preacher for Jesus

Illustrative Object: Using a drum or another instrument, play an aggressive war-like rhythm or tune. Next, play a relaxing, soft rhythm or melody. **(Bring the point back to God.** Like he did with Saul, God miraculously changes us from being instruments of evil into be instruments used to demonstrate His peace, love and grace.)





Week 15 – Peter on Mission

Scripture: Acts 9:32-43

Linked Verse: Romans 8:11 *If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)

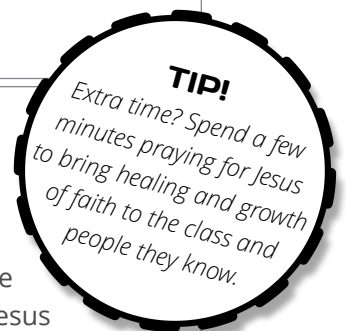


God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. Jesus had power to heal and give life
2. Jesus continues to work in power to help people, often through His people
3. God uses healings to spread His Word and draw people toward belief in Jesus

Illustrative Review: Read Matthew 9:18-26. What similarities can the kids find between the stories in Acts and the stories in Matthew? (**Bring the point back to God.** Jesus performed many miracles, which pointed to His authority and power as God. He continues to perform miracles in and through His disciples to reveal Himself and draw people to faith.)





Week 16 – Gentiles Confirmed

Scripture: Acts 10:1-48

Linked Verse: John 10:16 *And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)

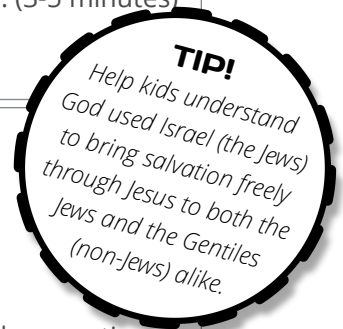


God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. God freely gives forgiveness through His name to everyone who believes
2. God requires Jews and Gentiles to be saved through faith in Jesus
3. The Spirit was also given to Gentiles after hearing the Good News and truly repenting.

Illustrative Object: Create a ticket labeled "FREE" for each child. Pretend the tickets enable them to go to the moon. Based on shirt colors, stipulate some in the class will also need to pay \$10 extra with the ticket to leave. **(Bring the point back to God.** God gave the free gift of salvation through Jesus to all people. We do not have to pay any extra...freedom in Christ is completely FREE to all!)





Week 17 – Christians in Antioch

Scripture: Acts 11:19-30

Linked Verse: Ephesians 4:11-12 *And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)

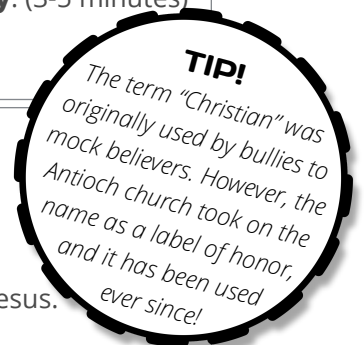


God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. God's people represent Him in name, actions and unity.
2. The Lord's hand was helping those who were preaching about the Lord Jesus.
3. Lord uses Christians to provide for others, even far, far away.

Illustrative Object: Have the kids count how many legs your chair has. How many legs are important for supporting you when you sit? (**Bring the point back to God.** God partners Christians together in many ways to support the ongoing ministry of the Gospel, whether by preaching, teaching, equipping, serving, giving, etc. He works in and through all believers in the Body of Christ.)





Week 18 – Peter’s Prison Escape

Scripture: Acts 12:1-24

Linked Verse: Psalm 91:4 *He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)

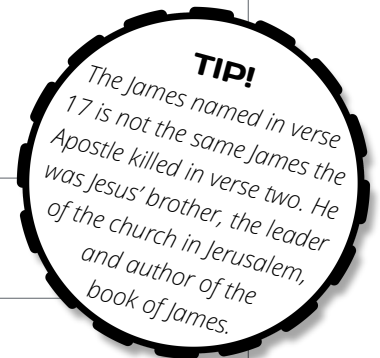


God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. God does not always explain why He allows bad things to happen to believers, such as the murder of James the Apostle.
2. God protected Peter because He still had work for him to do.
3. God was faithful to the earnest prayers of the believers praying at Mary's house.

Illustrative Drama: Have volunteers do a dramatic reenactment of the prison escape. Discuss some other ways people might plan a prison break. (**Bring the point back to God.** God provided an angel — an angel! — to deliver Peter from prison as the church earnestly prayed over the situation. God is our Refuge and Rescuer!)





Week 19 – Sent on Mission

Scripture: Acts 13:1-12

Linked Verse: Acts 1:8 *"...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)

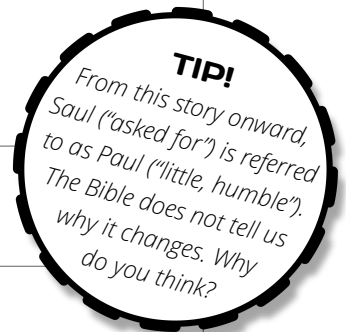


God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. The Holy Spirit set apart Saul and Barnabas for a special mission
2. God used leaders in the church to commission and send Saul and Barnabas
3. The Word of God has power to bring people to faith in Jesus

Illustrative Object: Place some cotton ball "astronauts" into a toilet paper tube "rocket" while the class helps count down from 10. Then blast off! Astronauts are always helped by others on their missions! **(Bring the point back to God.** God is Mission Control and sends us missions. He uses the Holy Spirit and His church to assist in sending us.)





Week 20 – The Jerusalem Council

Scripture: Acts 15:1-21

Key Verse: Acts 15:11 *“But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)

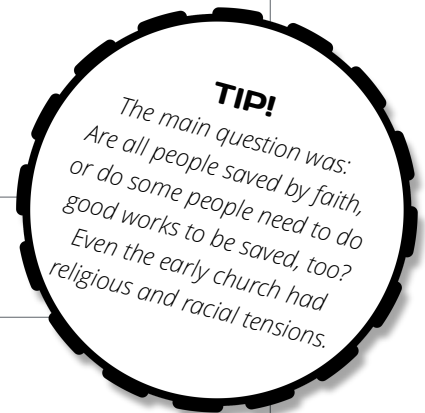


God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. God desires to save people from all races, tribes, and nations (See Revelation 7:9-10)
2. God had a plan to use Israel to bring the message of Jesus to the whole world.
3. God first saves people, then He helps them to grow in faith and live according to His will.

Illustrative Object: Show the kids a globe or a world map. Describe how there is *one* world, *one* human race, *one* problem (sin), *one* consequence (death), and *ONE* plan to save: Through faith in Jesus. **(Bring the point back to God.** God has created and loves every human being. His desire is for all to be saved and made that possible through one way: faith in Jesus Christ. See John 14:6)





Week 21 – In Macedonia & Philippi

Scripture: Acts 16:6-40

Linked Verse: Philippians 4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)

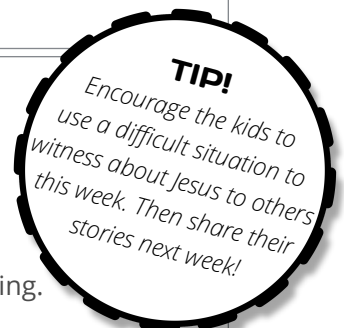


God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. God plans intentional opportunities for the Good News to be shared.
2. God has the power to rescue, even from sin and prisons!
3. God allows His people to experience discomfort for the sake of witnessing.

Illustrative Story: Share a time when God allowed discomfort (sickness, an accident, etc.) but used it to reveal Jesus and to grow you and others in faith. **(Bring the point back to God.** God makes use of every kind of situation to reveal Himself, including hardships. Sometimes the hard times reveal Him in epic ways which may not have the same effect otherwise.)





Week 22 – Paul in Athens

Scripture: Acts 17:16-34

Linked Verse: Colossians 1:15-16 *[Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created...*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)



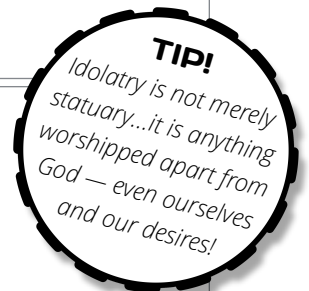
God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. Jesus created everything. Everything! (See John 1:3 and Colossians 1:16)
2. God does not live in buildings such as temples or church sanctuaries.
3. God created each person in an exact time and place so they might seek and find Him.

Illustrative List: Make a list of everyone's birthday and birthplace. Remind them of verses 26-27.

(Bring the point back to God. God put each person — including every child in the class — in their exact time and place in history so they might seek and find Him then and there!)





Week 23 – Riot at Ephesus

Scripture: Acts 19:11-41

Linked Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:14 *Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)



God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. God's power demonstrates He has total authority over everything
2. God does not share His glory with other so-called gods or idols
3. The ways of God will always disrupt our society's idolatrous ways

Illustrative Story: Share a time when God had you remove an idol — a song, a TV show, a sports team allegiance, a relationship, a luxury item, a common item, etc. **(Bring the point back to God.** God is the only god. Nothing is to come before God, and removal of idols can be very hard and disruptive — but is *always* healthy!)

TIP!

A metalworker named Alexander became harmful within the church at Ephesus. He had "shipwrecked" his faith, blasphemed God, and opposed the Gospel! (1 Timothy 1:19-20; 2 Timothy 4:14-15)

TIP!

Idolatry is not merely statuary...it is anything worshipped apart from God — even ourselves and our desires!



Week 24 - Arrested in Jerusalem

Scripture: Acts 21:27-22:29

Linked Verse: Acts 21:13 *Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name for the Lord Jesus."*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)

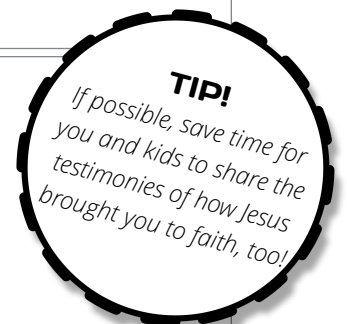


God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. The testimony of Jesus in our lives is a powerful thing to share.
2. God is able to save even the worst of sinners.

Illustrative Example: Pretend to be a vacuum salesperson. What would be the best way to prove the vacuum works? A live demonstration of it cleaning very dirty floors! **(Bring the point back to God.** God demonstrates His power to save through the testimony of Jesus in our lives. Like Paul, what is the story of how He rescued you from sin and death? He did clean us and it should show!)





Week 25 – Paul on Trial

Scripture: Acts 25:1-12

Linked Verse: Acts 23:11 *The following night the Lord stood by [Paul] and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)



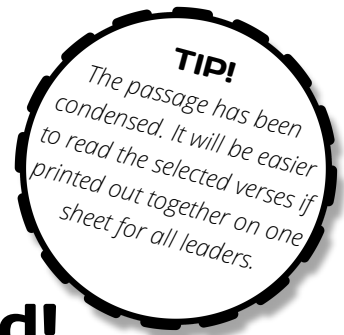
God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. The Lord is with us through all of our trials.
2. God uses difficult circumstances to accomplish His purpose of making Jesus known.

Illustrative Review: Read aloud the Linked Scripture, Acts 23:11. Ask the class why Paul could speak and act with courage during his trials. Follow up by reading Psalm 23:4. **(Bring the point back to God.** God's presence and promises give us courage and hope, even during hardships and trials.)





Week 26 – Paul Shipwrecked!

Scripture: Acts 27:1-2, 14-20, 41-44; 28:1-11

Linked Verse: Acts 27:24 *"[An angel of God] said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' So take heart, men, for I have faith in God..."*

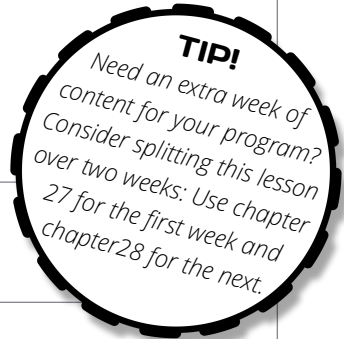
BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION



Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)



God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. God's perfect faithfulness gives us confidence in His promises.
2. God uses difficult circumstances to accomplish His purpose of making Jesus known.
3. God used the shipwreck to bring revelation of God to the ship's passengers and to the people of Malta.

Illustrative Map: Trace the ship's crazy route through the Mediterranean to where it lands on the small island of Malta. Use the Map Resource page for help. **(Bring the point back to God.** God used the journey of a ship — a ship everyone else thought was hopelessly lost at sea — to reveal Jesus to sailors, soldiers, prisoners and even isolated islanders.)



Week 27 – Paul in Rome

Scripture: Acts 28:16-31

Linked Verse: Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

BIG GROUP SESSION

Details

While the passage is being read during the big group session, write down some **key words** you notice. These include names, places, verbs, adjectives...any detail.



SMALL GROUP SESSION

Interwoven

Quickly review the Details from the passage. If time permits, feel free to use a game from the Memory Games page to help kids remember.

Re-read the passage to review how the Details are Interwoven **together as a story**. (3-5 minutes)



God

Ask the class what the Bible story is teaching us **about God**. Some starters:

1. God's message of Jesus and the Kingdom cannot be bound by chains or prisons.
2. God gave the Scriptures to tell us about Jesus and salvation in Him.
3. The message of salvation through Jesus is for all people — both Jews and Gentiles.

Illustrative Map: Using a map of the world, draw a line from Jerusalem to Samaria to Rome and then to your location. Use the Map Resource Page for help. **(Bring the point back to God.** Jesus' plan worked! The Good News of Jesus has been proclaimed throughout the world. Now we continue that mission by taking the Gospel to others. We make more lines on the map!)

