



Paul Made Much of Jesus

Bible Story: Paul Made Much of Jesus, Colossians 1:15-2:3

Bottom Line: Jesus is better than anyone or anything else.

Memory Verse: ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:20-21 NIV

Christ Connection: Paul encouraged believers by reminding them that Jesus is great. Jesus is God's Son, and He died on the cross to rescue people from sin. The gospel is true, and Jesus is all we need.

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Scribble pictures

What You Need: paper, pencils,

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to sit in a circle, around a table if possible.
- Provide each kid with a piece of paper and a pencil. Instruct the kids to make a quick squiggle or scribble shape on their paper, then pass it to their left.
- Each kid should now try to turn the scribble into a new picture of her own.
- Encourage kids to include the scribbled shape into their new drawings.

What You Say "At first, it might have looked like we were ruining perfectly good paper by scribbling on it, but when you passed the paper each of you found a way to turn someone's mess into a new picture. Today we will learn about a man named Paul and hear what God did to make his life beautiful, even in the midst of messy situations. "

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

GAME, SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

Game- This Blows

What You Need- 1 balloon per player, 15 empty plastic cups per player, table, Game instruction video, countdown clock

What You do- Set up 15 cups and give each player a balloon. Each player must blow up their balloon and then use the air to move the cups off the table. They may have to inflate their balloon multiple times.

What You Say- We use balloons to celebrate birthdays, holidays and just fun days. Paul used his words to celebrate all that Jesus had done to change his life. Let's learn from Paul today how we can share what Jesus has done for us.

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

Today's Passage

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of ^{fa} your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. **Colossians 1:15-23**

Context

When Paul wrote the Book of Colossians, he was in prison in Rome. Do you remember how he got there? Paul obeyed God's call to tell people about Jesus, but the Jews made a plan to stop Paul. They tried to kill him, but when Paul was arrested, God protected him so he could preach about Jesus.

Then Paul stood before rulers who tried to decide if he had done anything wrong. Paul wasn't afraid of people with power; in fact, Paul preached about Jesus to governors and kings. This was part of God's plan for Paul's life! Paul was on his way to Rome to see Caesar when a storm caused the ship to wreck. God protected Paul in the shipwreck so he could stand before Caesar.

Paul made it to Rome, but he was still a prisoner. Last week we learned about a letter Paul wrote to the believers in Philippi. While he was in prison, Paul told the Philippian church to be joyful. Let's find out what Paul had to say in his letter to the Colossians.



Today's Takeaways

- If we want to get to know who Jesus is, we look in the Bible.
- In the Book of Colossians, we discover today's bottom line.
- **BL:** Jesus is better than anyone or anything else.
- Because Jesus is better than anyone or anything else, He can be trusted.
- Because Jesus is better than anyone or anything else, we can tell others about Him.

TOC & Prayer

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus, and tell others about Him.

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

- When should we tell others about Jesus?
- What is one thing about Jesus that you wish everyone knew?
- Who would you like to tell about Jesus?
- How can we pray for you this week?

Activity: Gospel travel cards

What You Need: Gospel Travel Cards (1 set per kid), scissors, pencils, hole punches, string or ribbon

What You Do:

- Print "The Gospel Travel Cards" on heavyweight paper, one copy per kid.
- Provide scissors for kids to cut apart their cards.
- Demonstrate how to hole punch the corner of each card.
- Distribute string or ribbon for kids to attach to their cards.
- Call on kids to read each card aloud.
- Remind kids that they can use these cards to tell other people about Jesus.
- Suggest they practice sharing the gospel so they will be prepared when an opportunity comes.
- Encourage them to read the referenced Bible verses at home.

What You Say "Paul was always ready and willing to share the hope he had in Jesus. He taught that Jesus is better than anyone or anything else. Take home these gospel travel cards and put them on your backpack and ask God to give you a chance to share the gospel with someone who needs to know Jesus. God calls us to make much of Jesus too."

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, foam ball

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to stand in a circle.
- Show the memory verse poster and lead kids to read Philippians 1:20-21 aloud.
- Give a foam ball to one player in the circle.
- Explain that the player with the ball will say the first word in the key passage and then toss to ball to another player, who will say the next word, and so on until kids say the entire key passage and reference.
- Allow kids to refer to the key passage poster if they need help remembering the words.

What You Say "This is a bold statement made by Paul, but he could say this because he believed firmly in the love of Christ and trusted Him with his life."

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Say:

"Pray, that boys and girls would grow to know and love Jesus, treasuring Him and His glory more than anything else."

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to use their Gospel Travel cards to talk to 3 people this week about what it means.