

### Unit 1: Paul's Testimony

LESSON 1	<b>God Works through Us</b> Paul's Nephew <b>Bible Lesson:</b> Acts 23:11–24 <b>Bible Point:</b> God uses us to complete His plan.	<b>Study:</b> Acts 23:11 <b>Examine:</b> What was God's plan that the angel shared with Paul? How was Paul's nephew used in God's plan to get Paul to Rome?	<b>Apply:</b> Write ingredients and instructions for a cookie recipe on slips of paper, and then distribute among family members. Everyone gathers ingredients and completes tasks when needed. As the cookies bake, compare how everyone was used to complete the recipe to how God uses us to complete His plans. As you eat the cookies, discuss the sweet rewards of being a part of God's plans. <b>Life Application:</b> I will work for God.
LESSON 2	<b>God Gives Us Each a Testimony</b> Paul Gives His Testimony <b>Bible Lesson:</b> Acts 24–26 <b>Bible Point:</b> God wants us to share our testimonies.	<b>Study:</b> Acts 26:22 <b>Examine:</b> Discuss Paul's testimony and what people thought about it. How did the three different leaders respond to Paul's testimony?	<b>Apply:</b> Gather for a family meal. Pass serving bowls around one at a time. As members take a serving, they share something positive about their day. Compare how the plates became full of food with how our lives become full of God's blessings. Discuss ways we can share our testimonies of God's love with others so they can enjoy the fullness of His blessings too. <b>Life Application:</b> I will share my testimony.
LESSON 3	<b>God Speaks to Us</b> Paul's Shipwreck <b>Bible Lesson:</b> Acts 27:1–44 <b>Bible Point:</b> God speaks to us in our storms.	<b>Study:</b> Acts 27:24–25 <b>Examine:</b> Let the children share what happened during the storm Paul experienced while he was a prisoner on the ship. What helped Paul and the others get through the terrors of that storm?	<b>Apply:</b> Have a family meeting about what to do in emergencies, such as a fire, blackout, missed school bus, and so on. Discuss why emergency plans are needed. What about spiritual emergency plans? Discuss how to contact God and hear from Him in spiritual storms. Create a family plan for spiritual preparedness that includes prayer, Bible reading, devotions, and church attendance. <b>Life Application:</b> In my storms, I will listen for God.
LESSON 4	<b>God Loves Us and Forgives Us</b> Onesimus <b>Bible Lesson:</b> Philemon <b>Bible Point:</b> God wants us to model His love and forgiveness.	<b>Study:</b> Philemon 6 <b>Examine:</b> After the children tell what Philemon did, discuss what Paul did to help Philemon and Onesimus get back together.	<b>Apply:</b> Cover a cookie sheet with a layer of sugar. For round one, each person draws a simple picture. For round two, members write their names, but first clear the board by gently shaking the cookie sheet. Compare this to forgiveness. If you don't forgive, you're the one who can't move on. For round three, write, "Thank You, Jesus," and identify ways to model His love and forgiveness. <b>Life Application:</b> I will love and forgive others.

### Unit 2: The Body of Christ

#### LESSON 5

##### Jesus Brings Us Together

Zacchaeus

**Bible Lesson:** Luke 19:1–10;  
Ephesians 2:1–22

**Bible Point:** God brings us together as His body.

**Study:** Ephesians 2:6

**Examine:** Let children retell the story of the sinner, Zacchaeus. Why did Jesus want Zacchaeus to join His group of believers?

**Apply:** Distribute three slips of paper to each family member and tell them to write something special or unique about themselves on each one. Fold the papers and put them in a bowl. Members select a paper (not their own), read it, and guess who it describes. Discuss how interesting your family is because of everyone's differences. Compare this to how God brings different people together as His body.

**Life Application:** I will help God bring people together.

#### LESSON 6

##### Jesus Wants Us to Work Together

The Early Church Works Together

**Bible Lesson:** Acts 6:1–7;  
Ephesians 4:1–16

**Bible Point:** Jesus expects His body to work in unity.

**Study:** Ephesians 4:11–13

**Examine:** Discuss why the church leaders needed to assign jobs to people. How did the new plan work?

**Apply:** Send family members to their rooms to retrieve an article of clothing and return. Do the collected pieces complete an outfit when put together: at least a top, a bottom, and shoes? If not, try again, but this time tell everyone the goal. Did they coordinate their efforts? Were they successful? Discuss how working together toward a common goal helps everyone complete the task. Compare this to the body of Christ working in unity.

**Life Application:** I will work together with other members of God's church.

#### LESSON 7

##### Jesus Is the Head of the Church

The Great Commission

**Bible Lesson:** Matthew 28:1–10, 16–20;  
Colossians 1:15–20

**Bible Point:** Jesus Christ is the head of the body.

**Study:** Colossians 1:18

**Examine:** Discuss what showed that Jesus was a good leader. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do that would make them good leaders?

**Apply:** Give each family member a plate with mini marshmallows, toothpicks, and one large marshmallow. Allow a few minutes for members to create a marshmallow person. The only rule is that the large marshmallow must be the head. Vote on which is the most realistic, scary, crazy, and so on. Discuss how Jesus is the head of the church body and why we must always keep Him at the top of all we do.

**Life Application:** I will show others that Jesus is the head of the church and my life.

#### LESSON 8

##### Jesus Gave His Life for Us

Easter

**Bible Lesson:** Matthew 27:27–37, 45–60;  
28:1–8; Philippians 2

**Bible Point:** Jesus gave His life for the body.

**Study:** Philippians 2:8

**Examine:** Discuss the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Why did Jesus give His life like that?

**Apply:** Make s'mores. Explain how Jesus' plan all along was to live inside of us, which could only happen after He died and rose again. When a marshmallow comes through the fire—like Jesus came through the cross and grave—and is placed inside the graham crackers, something new is created: s'mores. Like the transformed graham crackers, we become new creatures when we receive God's Spirit. Thank Jesus for giving His life for us.

**Life Application:** I will surrender my life to Jesus.

### Unit 3: The Christian Life

#### LESSON 9

##### God's Spirit

The Day of Pentecost

**Bible Lesson:** Acts 2:37-47;

Ephesians 5:15-21

**Bible Point:** God's Spirit helps us make right choices.

**Study:** Ephesians 5:17

**Examine:** Ask the children to describe what happened on the Day of Pentecost. How did the people respond to the message Peter preached? How were their lives changed?

**Apply:** Hide a piece of candy in one hand. Everyone takes turns guessing which hand holds the candy. After a few rounds, stop and ask if there is a way they could be correct every time. Position someone behind you to help the guessers know which hand to choose. Discuss how God can help us make right choices if we are willing to listen to Him and follow His directions.

**Life Application:** I will allow God's Spirit to help me make right choices.

#### LESSON 10

##### God's Armor

The Armor of God

**Bible Lesson:** Ephesians 6:10-18

**Bible Point:** God provides what we need to stand against the devil.

**Study:** Ephesians 6:11

**Examine:** What are some ways the devil fights against us? After reading Ephesians 6:11, discuss each piece of armor and how it works against the devil.

**Apply:** Have the smallest family member step on a balloon until it pops. Place a cookie sheet atop four balloons. Help the largest family member step onto the cookie sheet. The balloons don't pop. The cookie sheet keeps the balloons safe. God is like the cookie sheet. He helps us stand against the devil. Without God, the smallest attack can pop our spiritual balloons, but with God, we can withstand the biggest attack.

**Life Application:** I will use God's armor to stand against the devil.

#### LESSON 11

##### God's Love

Ruth and Naomi

**Bible Lesson:** Ruth 1-2;

Colossians 3:10-17

**Bible Point:** God's love should be at the center of our actions.

**Study:** Colossians 3:14

**Examine:** Review the story of Ruth and Naomi. Because Ruth loved Naomi, she learned to love Naomi's God. God's love became important to Ruth, and God blessed Naomi and Ruth because of their love for Him.

**Apply:** Make cupcakes or cookies. Allow everyone to put something special in the middle of the cupcakes or cookies before baking (e.g., coconut, pecans, raisins, chocolate). As the treats bake, discuss what it means to have God's love at the center of our actions. Identify ways we can put something special—like God's love—in everything we do.

**Life Application:** I will let God's love direct my life.

#### LESSON 12

##### God's Peace

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

**Bible Lesson:** John 20:19-29;

Philippians 4:4-13

**Bible Point:** God wants us to allow Him to work in our lives.

**Study:** Philippians 4:9

**Examine:** Discuss why the disciples were worried. Why did they feel peace when Jesus came into the room?

**Apply:** Set up a water sprinkler. Play in it for a few minutes before crimping the hose to cut off the water. Explain that the water is still on, but it's not coming through this line. Compare that to God's desire to work through us and our ability to choose to let Him flow through us or not. Release the hose. Thank God for choosing to work in our lives, and then resume playing.

**Life Application:** I will seek God's peace.