

January 12

9:00am & 11:00am

Three and Four Year Olds

WE ARE HERE TO MAKE MUCH OF JESUS

(1 Thessalonians 4-5)

CHRIST CONNECTION: Christians have a special task to spread the good news of Jesus and to live for Him. We love one another and find joy in Jesus as we remember God's promise to one day come back and make all things right.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why should we praise Jesus? We should praise Jesus for all He has done for us.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: *Lord, I will praise your name.* Isaiah 25:1

LEARN

(GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Ask preschoolers questions about your church building such as "What is the name of your church?"; "What does it look like?"; "Where is your church located?"; "Who are some people you know at church?"

SAY *You did a great job describing our church! We have been learning about Paul. Paul traveled to many different places telling people about Jesus. He started many churches. Churches in Bible times looked very different from our churches today, but they all have one common goal—telling the good news of Jesus. Today we will learn about a church in a place called Thessalonica. [Invite preschoolers to repeat "Thessalonica" together.]*

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

9AM Volunteers with 3s in room 125: You will need to combine with room 124 for bible story time.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.

3. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Ask the following review questions:

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (*Preschoolers' answers will vary.*)
2. Who wrote a letter to the believers in Thessalonica? (*Paul*)
3. What are some things Paul told the people to do to live like Jesus? (Work together. Love one another. Be joyful. Be thankful. Pray. Work hard. Do what is right and good.)
4. What is one way you can live like Jesus? (*Preschoolers' answers will vary.*)
5. Why should we praise Jesus? We should praise Jesus for all He has done for us.

SAY In today's Bible story, we learned about a letter Paul wrote to the believers in Thessalonica. Paul had started a church there, but had to leave when people there wanted to hurt him. In this letter, Paul encouraged the Christians to live like Jesus. He told them to love one another, work together, do what is right, always be thankful and joyful, and continue to pray. Paul also reminded them that Jesus would return one day and make all things right again. Christians have a special job to do—we are to tell others about Jesus and do our best to live for Him.

6. LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY *Our big picture question asks, **Why should we praise Jesus? We should praise Jesus for all He has done for us.** Jesus promised to return one day. When He returns, people who believe in Him will meet Him and be together with Him forever. These words brought joy and hope to the church at Thessalonica, and they can bring joy and hope to us too.*

5. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage marker at Isaiah 25:1. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Lead preschoolers to say the verse from memory using motions if possible. If preschoolers are younger, invite them to repeat the verse and motions after you.

SAY *We can praise God for the wonderful things He has done. Paul reminded the believers in Thessalonica to always be joyful and always give thanks. These are ways we can praise God by being joyful and giving thanks for the things He has done. What is something God has done that you are thankful for?*

6. PRAY

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have. Pray for them.

SAY *God, help us live like Jesus. Help us love others, do what is right and good, be thankful, and be filled with joy. Help us tell others about Jesus wherever we go. Amen.*

ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OR ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES BELOW)

MAKE THANKFUL HANDS

Distribute **markers and crayons** to preschoolers. Assist boys and girls in tracing their hands onto the back (the blank side) of the **activity page**. Ask preschoolers to name things they are thankful for and write these on the fingers of the traced hands. Encourage preschoolers to decorate the area around their hands with crayons.

SAY *Paul wrote a letter to the believers at the church in Thessalonica. He told them to be thankful and pray. There are so many things we have to be thankful for! When you look at the hands you decorated, you can remember that God wants you to always give thanks.*

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

As children color, talk about the Christ Connection.

SAY *God wants us to tell about Jesus and love one another because Jesus is coming back. One day, Jesus will come back and make all things right.*

TOSS AND SAY

Gather preschoolers in a circle on the floor. Toss a **beanbag** to a child. Ask her the big picture question, ***Why should we praise Jesus?*** Invite her to respond with, ***We should praise Jesus for all He has done for us.*** Lead her to toss the beanbag to another child. Ask him the big picture question. Continue tossing the beanbag and answering the question as time allows.

SAY ***We should praise Jesus for all He has done for us.*** What has He done for us? **[Allow responses.]** *Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life, died on the cross to rescue us from sin, and came back to life. One day He will return and make all things right again. We can praise Jesus by being thankful and filled with joy.*

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE

Storytelling Props are not included in the blue bin, but you may choose to bring them from home.

Open your Bible to Acts 28. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bold version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Create motions: Create motions for different things Paul encouraged the church to do. Make an “O” with arms when you talk about obeying. Place fist in palm when talking about working hard. Place hands on heart when talking about loving others.

Pause and respond: Pause throughout the story and ask questions based on things Paul encourages the church to do such as, “How can you be helpful?” and “How can you love others?”

WE ARE HERE TO MAKE MUCH OF JESUS

Years after Jesus died and rose from the dead, Paul had started the church at Thessalonica (THESS uh loh NIGH kuh). But Paul had to leave because some people wanted to hurt him. So Paul sent letters to the believers to see how they were doing.

In his first letter, Paul taught the church about how to live as followers of Jesus. Paul wrote, "God wants you to be holy and to live in a way that pleases Him." God can help Christians do what is right and good, like Jesus did.

Paul encouraged them to work hard, too. He wrote, "Make it your goal to live a quiet life. Mind your own business and work with your hands." Paul wanted them to be helpful to others.

Paul also wrote that it is important for Jesus' followers to love one another and get along. Paul said, "Show love to one another as brothers and sisters. Be happy to honor one another." Paul wanted them to treat each other like family.

Then Paul told the believers some happy news: When Jesus returns, people who believe in Him will meet Him and be together with Him forever. These words brought joy and hope to the church.

Finally, Paul told Jesus' followers to be thankful and to pray. "Always be joyful and never stop praying," Paul wrote. "Give thanks always, for this is what God wants for you."

Christ Connection: Christians have a special task to spread the good news of Jesus and to live for Him. We love one another and find joy in Jesus as we remember God's promise to one day come back and make all things right.

DISMISS PRESCHOOLERS

- Release preschoolers to parents by matching up the number on the child's sticker with the guardian receipt.
- Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.
- Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

January 12
9:00am & 11:00am
Two Year Olds

WE ARE HERE TO MAKE MUCH OF JESUS
(1 Thessalonians 4-5)

CHRIST CONNECTION: God wants us to tell about Jesus and love one another because Jesus is coming back.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why should we praise Jesus? We should praise Jesus for all He has done for us.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: *Lord, I will praise your name.* Isaiah 25:1

LEARN

(CIRCLE TIME ON THE RUG)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Invite the children to join you in group time.

Ask preschoolers questions about your church building such as “What is the name of your church?”; “What does it look like?”; “Where is your church located?”; “Who are some people you know at church?”

SAY *You did a great job describing our church! We have been learning about Paul. Paul traveled to many different places telling people about Jesus. He started many churches. Churches in Bible times looked very different from our churches today, but they all have one common goal—telling the good news of Jesus. Today we will learn about a church in a place called Thessalonica. [Invite preschoolers to repeat “Thessalonica” together.]*

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today’s date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

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3. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Isaiah 25:1 Ask children to name ways we can praise God. Prompt the children as needed to encourage them to say things like read the Bible, sing songs about Jesus, give an offering, tell others about Jesus, and come to church. Encourage the children to say the verse two or three times.

ACTIVITIES

SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

To the familiar tune of “London Bridge”:

“Jesus, He is coming back, coming back, coming back.

Jesus, He is coming back for His people.”

SAY *God wants us to be like Jesus. We can love people and help them.*

PLAY BALLOON BADMINTON

Toss an inflated balloon in the air. Encourage children to tap it to keep it in the air. Take turns tapping the balloon to see how long it can stay in the air. For an added challenge, form a circle and try to tap the balloon around the circle, if time and ability permits.

SAY *Did the balloon ever come back to you? One day, Jesus is coming back. We can tell others about Jesus because Jesus is coming back!*

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the GOSPEL GEMS below:

- Paul wrote a letter to the church.
- God wants us to be like Jesus.
- We can love people and help them.

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE:

Open the Bible to 1 Thess 4-5 and tell the following Bible story:

Paul started a church in Thessalonica (thess uh loh NIGH kuh). When Paul was away, he wrote letters to the church. In his first letter, Paul told the church how to follow Jesus. Paul wrote, "God wants you to be holy." God can help Christians do what is right and good, like Jesus did. God wants us to work hard and be helpers too. Paul also wrote, "Love one another like brothers and sisters." Then Paul shared some happy news: When Jesus comes back, people who believe in Him will be with Him forever. Paul wrote, "Pray and say thank You to God. This is what God wants you to do."

Check diapers and release toddlers to parents according to security procedures. Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.