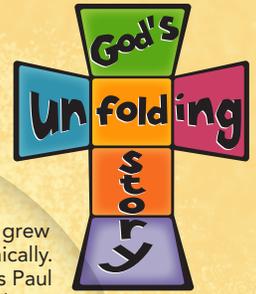


# Unit Overview

## The Church Taught About Jesus



After Peter confessed that Jesus was “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (Matt. 16:16), Jesus commended him for his response and told Him God had revealed this truth to him. Jesus continued, “I...say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the forces of Hades will not overpower it” (v. 18). Peter would have a special role in the early church, but the rock upon which Jesus would build His church would be the truth of who He was and is. Thus the church came into existence talking about who Jesus was, and it grew as it talked about and upheld the truth about God’s Son. In fact, the church grew initially, and it continued to grow, because it taught about Jesus and challenged people everywhere to trust Him and Him alone for forgiveness of sins. Thousands upon thousands did so, and God’s people increased numerically and spread geographically. Here are the lessons in this unit on the expanding and growing church.

**Kingdom Perspective**  
From its inception, the early church grew numerically and expanded geographically. Paul’s missionary journeys, the letters Paul and other apostles wrote to strengthen and edify believers and churches, and the work of the various churches that were established—all these factors and more—contributed to the increasing influence the church would have in the world and in the culture at large. While many received Jesus gladly, opposition to Him and His followers was, and has continued to be, fierce. Despite opposition, God uses His people, and at times even His enemies, to advance His great kingdom.

**Lesson 1: “Paul and His Friends Taught About Jesus” (Acts 18:1-4,18-19)**  
**Bible Truth: People in the church work together to tell others about Jesus.**

**Lesson 2: “Paul Was Shipwrecked” (Acts 27:1–28:2)**  
**Bible Truth: God always keeps His promises.**

**Lesson 3: “Paul’s Letter to Timothy” (1 Tim. 1–3)**  
**Bible Truth: The Bible is God’s letter to me.**

**Lesson 4: “Peter Wrote Letters” (1 Pet. 1:2,22; 3:8-10,15; 4:9; 5:7,14; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 3:9,15-16,18)**  
**Bible Truth: The Bible teaches me how to live.**

### Making the Most of the “The Church Taught About Jesus” Unit from *God’s Unfolding Story for Older Preschoolers*

The lesson plans and related resources for the above lessons can be downloaded from [SundaySchoolZone.com](http://SundaySchoolZone.com). In addition, there are a number of other helpful articles and resources on the website that can help you be an effective teacher and make the most of this unit. Below is a list of helpful articles you can link to or download in “Getting Started with God’s Unfolding Story.”

- The Session Schedule
- God’s Unfolding Story Cube
- Lesson Components
- Who Developed this Stuff?
- Parents Connect
- Scripture References and Bible Phrases
- Why Are We Using Yahweh to Refer to God?
- Materials and Supplies
- What We Believe
- God’s Unfolding Story for Older Preschoolers* Study Plan
- Preschoolers are Incredible People!
- Where Is this Going?