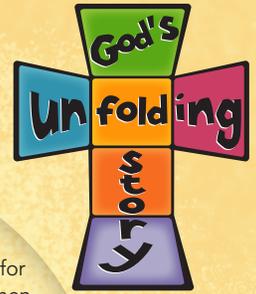


Unit Overview

Jesus Grew the Church



Kingdom Perspective

When Jesus told His disciples to wait for God's Spirit to come upon them and then to take the gospel to the ends of the earth, He had no "Plan B." Yet, empowered by the Holy Spirit and keenly aware that Jesus rose from the dead, the early believers "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6). Cooperating with God to spread His life-giving truth worldwide, believers in Christ have the privilege of helping to further God's kingdom today, effectively turning the world upside down once again.

In John 16:7, Jesus told His disciples they would benefit after His departure because He would send the Holy Spirit to them. Early in Acts we see the birth of the Church; subsequently we observe its growth. Working in and through God's people, the Holy Spirit bore witness—and bears witness—to the truth about Jesus. Jesus' redemptive work was now complete, but without the ever-expanding witness of the Church, people would never know they could have salvation as a free gift from God when they come to Him on His conditions. The Holy Spirit also empowered the Church to be salt and light in an otherwise bland and dark world, upholding God's truth in every area of life. Learning about the growth of the Church in Acts positions believers to effectively aid in its continued expansion today. This is God's unfolding story, a story of which everyone is a part. Even preschoolers can cooperate with God to reveal and uphold His truth, bringing freedom to those held captive by Satan's lies. This unit includes the following five lessons.

Lesson 1: "Paul Learned About Jesus" (Acts 9:1-20)
Bible Truth: God wants me to learn about Jesus.

Lesson 3: "Peter Was Rescued from Jail" (Acts 12:1-18)
Bible Truth: God is with us and helps us obey Him.

Lesson 2: "Paul Escaped in a Basket" (Acts 9:20-25)
Bible Truth: Jesus gives me strength to do what He asks me to do.

Lesson 4: "Paul Taught Lydia About Jesus" (Acts 16:11-15)
Bible Truth: I can tell about Jesus.

Lesson 5: "God Took Care of Paul and Silas" (Acts 16:16-40)
Bible Truth: I will give thanks to God and praise Him at all times.

Making the Most of the "Jesus Grew The Church" 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. 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
- 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?