

# Spring Unit 5

**Weeks of:** May 2 - May 30

**Bible Focus:** Paul Tells About Jesus

**Bible Verse:** "Jesus said, 'Go and tell the good news.'" Mark 16:15

**Bottom Line:** I can tell the good news that Jesus loves everyone.

## Unit Goals: Children will learn...

- Paul was a missionary. Missionaries are people who teach others about God and tell them that Jesus loves them.
- Paul obeyed God by going to many places to tell people about Jesus.
- Sometimes obeying God was hard, but Paul never stopped praising God and talking about Jesus.
- We can teach people God's Word, the Bible, and tell people that Jesus loves them - just like Paul.



Sunday	Bible Story	Music
May 2	Paul Tells About Jesus Acts 16:9-15	<b>Unit Bible Verse Song:</b> "Go into All the World"  <b>Other Suggested Songs:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell Everyone</li> <li>• Tell It!</li> <li>• We Can Praise Jesus</li> <li>• I Want to Be Like Jesus</li> <li>• Jesus I Will Follow</li> <li>• Yes! Jesus Loves Me</li> <li>• Oh, How I Love Jesus</li> </ul>
May 9	Singing in Jail Acts 16:16-34	
May 16	Paul Obeys God Acts 21:17-22:30	
May 23	A Boy Helps Paul Acts 23:12-35	
May 31	Safe in a Shipwreck Acts 27	

# Paul Tells About Jesus

May 2

## Bible Story

Acts 16:9-15

## Teacher Challenge

After Pentecost, Jesus' disciples traveled all over, preaching the good news that God was reconciling the world to Himself through Christ's death and resurrection. Miracle followed miracle—These were amazing days!

Saul of Tarsus was born spiritually in these astonishing times and began to declare that God's Son had paid the price for sin. A dream from God led him to change his plans and go to Philippi. Paul didn't know what to expect, but he knew it was right to act in obedience to what God told him to do.

- ➔ Who is God nudging you to talk to about Him?
- ➔ What can you do or say to follow God's leading?

As you pray for children in your class, ask God to lead you in class to show Jesus' love with your actions and your words. Each week in class, we don't know what to expect, but we do know that God has plans to use us in leading kids to Jesus.

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'Go and tell the good news.'"  
Mark 16:15

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

## Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.

- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.

- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (1 John 4:10), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus), and the Unit Goals listed on the Spring Unit 5 Overview Sheet.



# Play to Learn

May 2

## Active Game Center: Bowling Families



### Collect

Bible, 10 paper cups, marker, masking tape, small rubber ball.

### Prepare

On each cup, print the following, one name on each cup: mom, dad, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, cousin, grandpa, grandma, friend. Place paper cups in a row. Place a masking-tape line 3 feet (.9 m) away from cups. (Note: Remove masking tape immediately after activity.)

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'Go and tell the good news.'"  
Mark 16:15

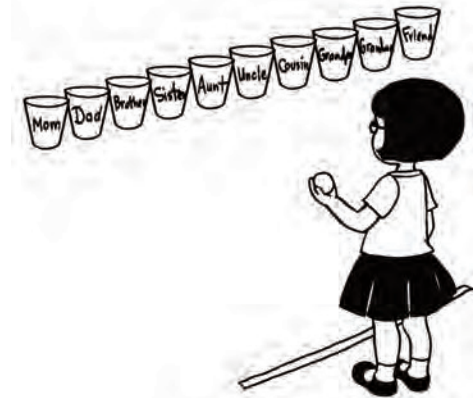
**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

### Do

1. Children stand in a row behind the masking-tape line. Give the first child the ball. Child rolls ball towards cups. Child picks up any cup that the ball knocked over. Teacher reads label on cup; if appropriate, child gives actual name of the person (brother, sister, aunt, uncle, cousin, friend).
2. Child places cups back in their position and moves to the end of the row. Repeat as time and interest allow.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible tells us, "Jesus said, 'Go and tell the good news.'" The good news is that Jesus loves everyone! Let's play a game and tell the names of people who Jesus loves. We can tell these people the good news that Jesus loves them!**
- ➔ **Steven, do you have any good news to tell? You can say to your cousin Thomas, "Jesus loves you!"**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for loving us. Help us to tell others the good news about Jesus.**



### For Younger Children

Children use a large ball or stand closer to the cups.

### For Older Children

After teacher reads label on cup, child says, **I can tell (Aunt Lisa) the good news that God loves her.**



### Puzzle Center:

Give each child a Bible puzzle worksheet. Provide pencils, crayons, or marker. As the children complete the puzzles and color pages, use the conversation suggestions on the page. Remind the children that a copy of today's Bible verse and Bible story is on the back of the sheet so they can share with their families when they go home.

# Play to Learn

May 2

## Art Center: Purple Collages



### Collect

Bible, purple collage materials (scrap paper, yarn, fabric scraps, etc.), glue sticks, white construction paper, purple crayons and markers.

### Do

Children glue collage materials on white construction paper. Children use purple crayons and markers to draw additional designs on paper.

### Talk About

- ➔ **Our Bible story today is about a woman named Lydia. Lydia made money by selling purple cloth. Paul told Lydia about Jesus. Paul told Lydia that Jesus loved her. Let's make a purple collage to remind us of Lydia.**
- ➔ **Paul told Lydia the good news about Jesus. Paige, who can you tell the good news to?**
- ➔ **Adam, who is someone you love? Jesus loves your mommy, too! Jesus loves you and me and everyone!**
- ➔ **Lillian, who tells you stories about Jesus? Your grandma tells you about Jesus because she wants you to know the good news about Him. The good news is that Jesus loves you. You can tell others the good news, too! You can say, "Jesus loves you."**
- ➔ **The Bible tells us, "Jesus said, 'Go and tell the good news.'" Jesus wants us to tell others about His love. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for the good news that Jesus loves us.**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
*"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Jesus said, 'Go and tell the good news.'"  
Mark 16:15*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Help children identify items that are purple as they make collages.

### For Older Children

Along the edges of each sheet of white construction paper use hole punch to make several holes. For each older child, cut three 18-inch (45.5-cm) lengths of purple yarn. To make a needle, wrap a piece of transparent tape around one end of each yarn length. Children weave purple yarn through the holes to create a border for their collages.



# Play to Learn

May 2

## Construction Center: River Blocks



### Collect

Bible, blocks, blue fabric, toy people.

### Do

Children place blue fabric on the floor as the river and use blocks to build the river banks. Children use toy people to act out the story.

### Talk About

- ➔ **One day Paul went to a river. He met lots of people there. He told them about Jesus. Let's build a river.**
- ➔ **The Bible tells us, "Jesus said, 'Go and tell the good news.'" Paul went to many towns to tell the good news to others. Where can you go to tell the good news to others? (Playground. School. Home.) Wherever we go, we can tell others the good news that Jesus loves us!**
- ➔ **Carter, I have some good news. The good news is that Jesus loves you and me and everyone! We can tell others this good news. Maria, who will you tell the good news to?**

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
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1 John 4:10*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Jesus said, 'Go and tell the good news.'"  
Mark 16:15*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.



### For Younger Children

Children play freely with blocks, fabric and toy people.

### For Older Children

Older children use blocks to build Lydia's house.

# Listen to Learn

May 2

Acts 16:9-15

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 48 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2 DVD or CD* and player, strip of purple fabric or paper.

## Greet Each Other

Children sit in a circle. Say, **Tristan, Emily, and Nathan, go and tell the good news.** Named children stand up, walk once around the circle, return to their places, say, **Jesus loves you!** and then sit down. Continue naming children until each child has had a turn to tell the good news. **Today we're going to hear how Paul obeyed and told others about Jesus' love.**

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus said, 'Go and tell the good news.'"  
Mark 16:15

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Acts 16. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 48 pictures.

**What did you dream about last night? Listen to hear about a dream Jesus' friend Paul had.**

Paul was a man who loved God very much. Paul wanted everyone to know about Jesus, God's Son. Up and down the dusty roads Paul would walk. He would stop in towns and tell the good news: "God loves you and Jesus is His Son."



One night, Paul had a dream. In the **dream**, a man asked him to please come to his country.



After Paul woke up, he and his friends got into a boat. They sailed to a big town in that country.



The big town was called Philippi. It was near the **ocean**. Many people came there to buy and sell things. One thing people bought and sold there was cloth dyed a beautiful purple color.

Paul and his friends walked alongside a river. They found a group of women. The women had come together to **pray**. These women loved God.



They wanted to hear all about Jesus and His love. Paul told them about Jesus. Paul's words were good news!



Many women believed Paul's words. One woman named Lydia believed in Jesus. Lydia sold purple cloth. She probably sold the cloth to rich people. She probably had a big **house**. Lydia was baptized. So was everyone in her house. They all showed they believed in Jesus.

Now Lydia was part of God's family, so she wanted to share! Lydia asked Paul and his friends to stay at her house. She wanted to help them. Paul and his friends stayed at Lydia's house. Paul and his friends had come a long, long way to tell people in Philippi about Jesus!

## Talk About the Story

**What did Paul tell Lydia?** (About Jesus and His love.) **Lydia and her friends were happy to hear about Jesus and His love. We can tell others the good news about Jesus' love, too. What are some ways to tell others about Jesus?** (Sing songs about Jesus. Tell Bible stories about Jesus.) **One important thing we can tell others is "Jesus loves you!"**

## Sing to God

**Let's sing a song about telling the good news.** Lead children in singing "Go and Tell" (on DVD or track 11 on CD). **This song says Jesus wants us to tell others the good news. The good news is that Jesus loves everyone!**

## Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Mark 16:15, say verse aloud. **Jesus loves us! And that's very good news that we can tell everyone!** Lead children in repeating the Bible verse several times. Then say the verse, dropping the word "news." Volunteer(s) say the missing word. Repeat the verse several more times, omitting a different word each time.

**Option:** Vary the manner in which you and the children say the verse (loudly, softly, whispering, high, etc.).

## Pray to God

Pray, **Dear God, help Ryan and Lauren and Tariah tell the good news about Jesus' love.** Repeat until you have named all the children.

## Praise to God

Children sit in a circle. As you play "Go and Tell" (track 11 on CD), children pass a strip of purple fabric or paper around circle. When you stop the music, child holding purple fabric or paper quickly names someone he or she can tell about Jesus. Repeat several times.

## CD Note:

All cd references included as part of the Bible curriculum refer to the **Gospel Light Music CD 2**. You may use this cd and activities in addition to the suggested Bible unit songs on your **Dawson Preschool Worship Favorites** and **Growing with God** cds.

# Singing in Jail

May 9

## Bible Story

Acts 16:16-34

## Teacher Challenge

Is anything more frustrating than not having a chance to tell your side of the story? It certainly feels like injustice!

When Paul and Silas were beaten and falsely accused, they were not allowed to speak. Instead, they were locked into stocks and then left in the depths of a jail! Frustrating! Unfair! We might have wondered, Where is God? But Paul and Silas were sure God WAS in it. So they began to pray and sing! The results? Conversions everywhere!

- ➔ When have you felt you were treated unjustly? How did you respond?
- ➔ How might the promise of God's presence reassure you in similar circumstances?

Just as we see only a small part of light's full spectrum, so we can see only a tiny portion of what God is doing in any situation. God invites us to overcome the pain of injustice by praising Him! In the most difficult thing you face, with the most trying person—thank Him for His presence and His ability. Praise Him—and expect startling results!

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Sing to God; tell of all his wonderful acts."  
Psalm 105:2

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

## Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.

- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.

- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (1 John 4:10), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus), and the Unit Goals listed on the Spring Unit 5 Overview Sheet.





# Play to Learn

May 9

## Active Game Center: Balloon Bounce



### Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music #2* CD and player, balloons.

### Prepare

Blow up several balloons before class.

### Do

1. Children spread out in the playing area. While you play “Go and Tell” (track 11 on CD), toss three balloons to children, who bat balloons up to keep them in the air.
2. When you stop the music, children allow balloons to float to the floor. The children nearest the balloons name things God has made, something they knew about God, or what He has done. Repeat game as time and interest allow.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Sing to God; tell of all his wonderful acts.” God has made many wonderful things in the world. God has done many wonderful things for people. We read about who God is in the Bible. Let’s play a game and remember all the good things God has made and done.**
- ➔ **Tricia, what is a wonderful thing God made? You’re right! God made dogs!**
- ➔ **Richard, what do you know about God? (God loves everyone.)**
- ➔ **The most wonderful thing God did for us was send His Son, Jesus. We are so glad God sent Jesus. We can sing songs about Jesus! Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for all the wonderful things You have made and all the wonderful acts You have done! Thank You for Jesus.**



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Psalm 105:2

**God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

For safety, young children should not play with balloons. An adult blows bubbles for children to pop while the music plays.

### For Older Children

If children start crowding each other, have children sit down in a circle to play this game. Add an extra balloon each round.

# Play to Learn

May 9

## Art Center: Cup Shakers ★

### Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music #2* CD and player, shaker items (dried beans, rice, jingle bells, etc.), bowls, spoons, paper cups, foam shapes, masking tape.

### Prepare

Place shaker items (dried beans, rice, jingle bells, etc.) into separate bowls. Place a spoon in each bowl.

### Do

1. Children use foam shapes to decorate cups. Children spoon shaker items you provide into one of their cups.
2. Assist children in taping second cup on top of first cup (see sketch). Play "How Good It Is" (track 17 on CD) as children use shakers in a praise parade.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story, two men, Paul and Silas, sang songs when they were put in jail for something they didn't do. Other people heard about Jesus because of the songs they sang. Let's make shakers to use when we sing about Jesus!**
- ➔ **Bailey, what part of our bodies do we use to sing? We use our mouths to sing. We can use our hands to clap and our feet to move! When these shakers are ready, we will use our hands to shake them up and down.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Sing to God; tell of all his wonderful acts." One of God's wonderful acts was sending Jesus. Singing about Jesus is a way to tell one of God's wonderful acts.**
- ➔ **There are many ways to tell others about Jesus. Dominic, what is a way you can tell others about Jesus?** (Tell someone "Jesus loves you." Tell a Bible story about Jesus. Sing songs about Jesus.) Pray briefly, **Dear God, help us to sing songs and tell others about Jesus.**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Sing to God; tell of all his wonderful acts."  
Psalm 105:2

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Provide just one item to put in cups.

### For Older Children

Children also use markers to decorate cups.

# Play to Learn

May 9

## Construction Center: Earthquake Shake



### Collect

Bible, several towels, blocks.

### Do

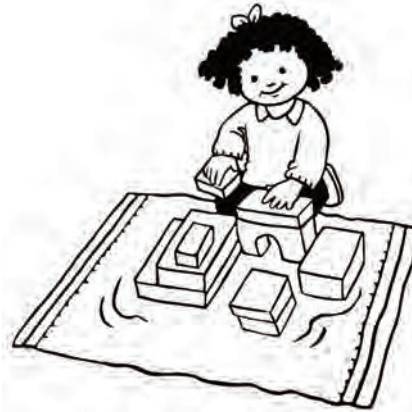
1. Give each child a towel. Children spread out towels on the floor and use blocks to build constructions of their own choice on towels.
2. Children move to the edges of the towels. On your signal, children take edges of towels and pull gently to pretend there is an earthquake, knocking down their constructions. Repeat as time and interest allow.

### Talk About

➔ **In today's Bible story, Paul and Silas told others about Jesus. But one day, they were put in jail, even though they did not do anything wrong. While they were in jail, Paul and Silas sang songs to thank and praise God! During the night, there was a big earthquake. An earthquake is when the ground shakes. Let's make some buildings and shake them down like an earthquake.**

➔ **Wherever Paul and Silas went, they told others about Jesus. Christopher, where can you tell others about Jesus?** (Home. Playground. School.) **We can tell others about Jesus wherever we are!**

➔ **The Bible says, "Sing to God; tell of all his wonderful acts." We can tell others about Jesus by singing songs that tell about Jesus. Pray briefly, Dear God, we want to tell others about Jesus. Help us to tell others about Jesus' love!**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
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**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
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Psalm 105:2*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Instead of building constructions on towels, children build walls that they then knock down as if there were an earthquake.

### For Older Children

Children work together to build a wall no higher than their chins. As each child places a block on the wall, he or she repeats the Bible verse. When wall is complete, children tug on towel to cause a pretend earthquake.



### Puzzle Center:

Give each child a Bible puzzle worksheet. Provide pencils, crayons, or marker. As the children complete the puzzles and color pages, use the conversation suggestions on the page. Remind the children that a copy of today's Bible verse and Bible story is on the back of the sheet so they can share with their families when they go home.

# Play to Learn

May 9

## Dramatic Play Center: Songs of Praise



### Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music #2* CD and player, aluminum foil, ruler, craft sticks, rhythm instruments.

### Prepare

For each child, tear off one 6-inch (15-cm) length of aluminum foil.

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Sing to God; tell of all his wonderful acts."  
Psalm 105:2

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

### Do

1. Children crumple foil and mold onto craft sticks to make pretend microphones.
2. Using pretend microphones and rhythm instruments, children sing "Go and Tell" (track 11 on CD). Repeat, giving children an opportunity to exchange instruments.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, "Sing to God; tell of all his wonderful acts." One way to tell others about Jesus is by singing songs about Jesus. Let's sing songs.**
- ➔ **We can tell others about the wonderful things God has made. Claire, what is something God made? God made beautiful flowers! We can thank God for the things He has made.**
- ➔ **Wyatt, who can you tell about Jesus? We can tell our friends about Jesus!**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for all the wonderful things You have made. Thank You for Jesus.**



### For Younger Children

Instead of making microphones, children only play rhythm instruments.

### For Older Children

Children make up motions to do while singing "Go and Tell."



# Listen to Learn

May 9

Acts 16:16-34

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 49 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2 DVD or CD* and player, different-colored sheets of construction paper, large sheet of paper, marker.

## Prepare

On large sheet of paper, print the following:

**I love Jesus, yes I do, yes I do,**

**I love Jesus, yes I do, He \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Sing to God; tell of all his wonderful acts."  
Psalm 105:2

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

## Greet Each Other

Place construction paper in a circle on the floor, one for each child. Children walk around paper circle while you clap your hands. When you stop clapping, children stand on the sheet of paper closest to them. **If you're standing on a red paper, say your name!** Continue game several times, calling different colors each round.

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Acts 16. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 49 pictures.

**When are some times you sing songs? Listen to hear about a time two men sang songs.**



Paul and his friends traveled to different places to tell people about Jesus. One day Paul and his friend Silas went to the city of Philippi. They told people about Jesus. But some of the people in Philippi did not like hearing about Jesus. These men were **angry!** These men took Paul and Silas to the leaders. The men told lies about Paul and Silas. Even though Paul and Silas had done nothing wrong, they were put in jail! The jailer put their feet in pieces of wood called stocks. Paul and Silas could hardly even move!



Paul and Silas probably hurt all over! But they didn't get mad at the jailer or the angry people. They knew God cared about them. So they prayed! They thanked God. Then Paul and Silas **sang!** They praised God. All the other people in jail could hear them!



Suddenly the ground began to **shake**, harder and harder. It was an EARTHQUAKE! The doors to the jail broke open! The jailer was afraid all the prisoners would run away. He was sure that he would be in big trouble.



But Paul called out, "Don't worry! We are all here!" The jailer ran to Paul and Silas. He asked, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas said, "Believe in Jesus!" The jailer and his whole family listened to the good news about Jesus. They believed in Jesus! The family took care of Paul and Silas. They made a big meal together!

In the morning, the leaders told Paul and Silas they were free to leave. Paul and Silas started **walking** to a new town. It was time to tell other people about Jesus! Paul and Silas told about Jesus by talking. They told about Jesus by praying. They told about Jesus by singing! Many people heard God's good news about Jesus.

## Talk About the Story

**Why was the jailer scared?** (He thought all the prisoners had escaped.) **Paul and Silas didn't run away when the earthquake made their chains fall off. Instead they stayed to tell the jailer and his family about Jesus. Who is someone you would like to tell about Jesus? What are some ways to help others learn about Jesus?** (Sing songs about Jesus. Tell Bible stories about Jesus. Invite someone to church to hear about Jesus.)

## Sing to God

**Let's sing a song about something Jesus told us to do.** Lead children in singing "Go and Tell" (on DVD or track 11 on CD). **What is the good news we must tell others?** (We can tell about Jesus. We can tell about Jesus' love. We can tell about the great things God has done.)

**Option:** Provide two or three rhythm instruments for children to take turns using while singing "Go and Tell."

## Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Psalm 105:2, say verse aloud. **One of the great things God has done is send Jesus to us. We can sing songs that tell others about Jesus!** Lead children in saying the verse as a group several times. Then have children sit in a circle. As you lead children to say the verse, point to a child for each word of the verse. Children stand up as you point to them and then sit down. Repeat the verse in this manner several times.

## Pray to God

Lead children to repeat this prayer, phrase by phrase, after you: **Dear God, help us to tell others about Your Son, Jesus. Thank You, God, that we can sing songs about Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Praise to God

Show the large sheet of paper you prepared. **Let's see how many different ways we can end this verse.** Children suggest things they know about Jesus (He loves everyone. He was born at Christmas. He is alive!). **Singing about Jesus is a way to show we love Him!** (Optional: Lead children in singing the verse to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" or "London Bridge" as they experiment with endings.)

**I love Jesus, yes I do, yes I do,**

**I love Jesus, yes I do, He (loves everyone).**

## CD Note:

All cd references included as part of the Bible curriculum refer to the **Gospel Light Music CD 2**. You may use this cd and activities in addition to the suggested Bible unit songs on your **Dawson Preschool Worship Favorites** and **Growing with God** cds.

# Paul Obeys God

May 16

## Bible Story

Acts 21:17—22:30

## Teacher Challenge

We Christians are commanded to love others (Matthew 22:39). Some people make obeying God's command easy! Others make it much harder to love. They may have deeply hurt us; we might feel we have a right not to love them.

We rationalize: "You've never had to deal with them" or "She has never hurt you like she's hurt me." Naturally, we are not able to love these people! But God loves you—and those difficult people in your life. So He offers us supernatural love.

- ➔ What are situations that have hurt you deeply?
- ➔ Are there people you feel you have the right not to love? On what basis?

Paul was able to love those who wanted to kill him. It was not a natural response, but the supernatural love of God! Talk to God about your hurts and memorize a verse (Ephesians 4:32) to help you remember God's forgiveness. God's supernatural love is just what you need when you deal with a difficult person, or a tearful child needs constant comforting or when the energy of young children overwhelms you!

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"I will obey God's Word." Psalm 119:17

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

## Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.
- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.
- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (1 John 4:10), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus), and the Unit Goals listed on the Spring Unit 5 Overview Sheet.



# Play to Learn

May 16

## Active Game Center: Time to Obey



### Collect

Bible, Lesson 37 Time to Obey Pictures 1-3 from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, butcher paper, scissors, marker, glue, beanbag.

### Prepare

Cut a 3-foot (.9-m) square from butcher paper. Use marker to draw a large circle on paper. Divide circle into three sections: morning, afternoon, evening. Glue appropriate Time to Obey Pictures in each section. Place butcher paper on floor.

### Do

1. Children stand several feet from butcher paper. Each child takes a turn to toss a beanbag onto the paper.
2. Children identify the time of day in which beanbag lands and talk about a way to obey God during that time. Repeat as time and interest allow.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, "I will obey God's word." God's Word is the Bible. Let's play a game and talk about ways we can obey God's Word.**
- ➔ **Miguel, your beanbag landed in the afternoon section. How can you obey God in the afternoon? Putting toys away when your mom says is a good way to obey. The Bible tells us to obey our parents.**
- ➔ **We can obey God's Word and tell others about Jesus. Alexa, you landed in the morning section. How can you obey God in the morning? You can tell your friends at school about Jesus.**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
*"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"I will obey God's Word." Psalm 119:17*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Younger children may not be ready to verbalize ways to obey God. Talk about the pictures on which their beanbags land. Children repeat after you, **Thank You, God, for the (morning).**

### For Older Children

Children vary the way they toss the beanbag (over their head, between legs, standing on one foot, etc.).



# Play to Learn

May 16

## Art Center: Door Hanger Art

### Collect

Bible, Lesson 37 Door Hanger Pattern from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, card stock, scissors, yarn, ruler, markers, collage materials (short lengths of ribbon, foam shapes, cotton balls, sequins, etc.), tape.

### Prepare

Copy Door Hanger Pattern onto card stock, making one copy for every two children. Cut out one door hanger for each child. Cut yarn into 12-inch (30.5-cm) lengths.

### Do

Children use markers and collage materials to decorate door hangers. Assist children in taping yarn to back of door hanger.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Paul obeyed God and told others about Jesus. God's Word teaches what God wants us to do. Let's make a door hanger to remind us to obey God.**
- ➔ **We learn to obey God by reading God's Word, the Bible. Chase, who reads Bible stories to you? Telling Bible stories is a good way to tell others about Jesus.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "I will obey God's word." When we tell others about Jesus, we obey God's Word!**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear God, we are glad that we can obey the Bible and tell others about Jesus.**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
*"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"I will obey God's Word." Psalm 119:17*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Provide stickers for children to use in decorating door hangers.

### For Older Children

Children write their names on their door hangers.



### Puzzle Center:

Give each child a Bible puzzle worksheet. Provide pencils, crayons, or marker. As the children complete the puzzles and color pages, use the conversation suggestions on the page. Remind the children that a copy of today's Bible verse and Bible story is on the back of the sheet so they can share with their families when they go home.

## Construction Center: Block Bridges



### Collect

Bible, blocks, toy cars.

### Do

1. Children build roads in various directions that crisscross each other. Children build bridges by following your directions. **Put a short block on the floor.** Give children time to respond before giving each direction. **Put another short block a little way away from the first block. Place a long block on top of the two blocks. Now you have a bridge your cars can travel on. You listened and obeyed!**
2. Children play with toy cars on the roads and bridges.

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
*"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"I will obey God's Word." Psalm 119:17*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, "I will obey God's word." The Bible is God's Word. When we do what the Bible says, we're obeying God! Listen carefully to my directions. We'll build bridges for our freeways!**
- ➔ **God's Word tells us to help others. We can obey God's Word by helping others. Mary, Alejandro needs a long block to finish building his bridge. What is a way you can help him? Thank you for handing him a long block! You know how to obey!**
- ➔ **We can obey God's Word by telling others about Jesus. Sean, who is someone you would like to tell about Jesus? You can tell your brother "Jesus loves you!"**
- ➔ Pray briefly, **Dear God, thank You for giving us Your Word. We want to obey You.**



### For Younger Children

Children simply build roads instead of bridges.

### For Older Children

Children use blocks to build houses and buildings next to roads and bridges. Children dictate names of buildings for teacher to write on index cards (Maria's house). Children tape cards to buildings.

## Dramatic Play Center: Sportswear



### Collect

Bible, sports-related dress-up clothes and items (ski goggles, swim masks, flippers, sports shoes, ski or batting gloves, baseball mitts, team jerseys, etc.).

### Do

Children take turns wearing sports-related dress-up clothes and items.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “I will obey God’s word.”** When we say this verse, it means we want to obey God. We can obey God by showing love to each other. Let’s show love by taking turns wearing these dress-up clothes.
- ➔ **Jada, you are obeying God when you let Jamie have a turn to wear the baseball mitt. Thank you for sharing.**
- ➔ **Blake, I see that you are wearing the flippers. What are you pretending to do? When you are through wearing the flippers, who can you share them with? Sharing the flippers with Bryan is a way to obey God’s Word.**
- ➔ **We learn ways to obey God by reading and listening to Bible stories and verses. Let’s say the words of the Bible verse together.**
- ➔ **One way to obey God’s Word is to tell others about Jesus. Patrick, what is something you can tell someone else about Jesus?** (Jesus is God’s Son. Jesus loves us. Jesus is alive.) **Who can you tell about Jesus?**
- ➔ Pray briefly, **Dear God, thank You for Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for the Bible. We want to obey Your Word.**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
“God loved us and sent His Son.”  
1 John 4:10

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
“I will obey God’s Word.” Psalm 119:17

**God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Young children often do not enjoy trying on dress-up clothes. But they will love playing with the other sports items!

### For Older Children

Place sports-related clothes and items in a large bag. Before you take out each item, give clues so that children may guess each item. **This is something I wear in the snow.**

# Listen to Learn

Acts 21:17—22:30

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 50 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2 DVD or CD* and player, number cube.

## Greet Each Other

Children sit in a circle. Invite a volunteer to roll a number cube and identify the number that shows on the top of the cube when it stops rolling. Lead children to name that many people they can tell about Jesus.

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Acts 21. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 50 pictures.

**Where do we go to listen to Bible stories and learn about God? In Bible times, people went to a big building called a Temple to learn about God. Let's listen to find out what happened when one of Jesus' friends went to the Temple.**



Everywhere Paul went he told people about Jesus. One day Paul went to the Temple. Some people were angry because Paul told about Jesus.

These angry people saw Paul in the Temple. "**Look!**" they shouted. "This is the man we don't like!"



The **angry** people grabbed Paul and dragged him out of the Temple. Some soldiers heard the noise and ran to see what was happening.

The leader of the soldiers thought Paul had done something wrong. He put chains on Paul's hands and feet.

"Who is this man? What did he do?" the leader asked.



Everyone started **shouting** at the same time. The army leader couldn't understand what the people were saying. The army leader told the soldiers to take Paul away from the crowd.

The angry, noisy crowd followed Paul and the soldiers. Paul asked, "May I talk to the people?"



The leader told Paul he could talk. The crowd became quiet. Paul said, "I used to hurt people who loved Jesus. But now I don't. God has told me to tell **all** people the good news that Jesus is God's Son. And I am obeying God."

Even though the people were angry at Paul, Paul obeyed God. Paul obeyed God by telling that Jesus is God's Son.

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"I will obey God's Word." Psalm 119:17

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.



## Talk About the Story

**What did Paul say God told him to do?** (Tell people about Jesus.) **Paul obeyed God, even though some people got angry with him. God helps us obey Him. God gave us His Word, the Bible, to learn how to obey Him. What are some ways to learn about God's Word?** (Listen to Bible stories. Hear and say Bible verses. Sing songs about God's Word.) **Who is someone you can tell about Jesus?**

## Sing to God

**Let's sing a song about telling others about Jesus.** Lead children in singing "Go and Tell" (on DVD or track 11 on CD). **We can obey God's Word, the Bible, and tell others about Jesus.**

## Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Psalm 119:17, say verse aloud. **God loves us and will help us to obey His Word, the Bible. When we obey God's Word, it helps others learn about and obey God's Word, too.** Lead children in repeating the verse, using these motions: Point to self for "I"; point up for "God"; turn palms up and place hands together for "word" (Bible). Repeat several times.

**Option:** On a large sheet of paper, print the words "We can obey God's Word." Ask children to name ways they can obey the Bible. Print children's responses on paper; then place paper where parents can read it when class is dismissed.

## Pray to God

**The Bible tells us to obey God's Word and tell others about Jesus. Let's pray to God and tell Him we want to obey Him.** Ask volunteers to say the words of the verse as a short prayer. Close, asking for God's help to obey His Word.

## Praise to God

Lead children in repeating this poem and holding up fingers to show the appropriate numbers.

**What does Jesus teach us to do?**

**Count them, four or three or two:** (Count on fingers.)

One, be kind.

Two, please share.

Three, give thanks.

Four, do good everywhere.

Repeat, inserting children's name in places of underlined words, shaking hands with each child as he or she is named.

## CD Note:

All cd references included as part of the Bible curriculum refer to the **Gospel Light Music CD 2**. You may use this cd and activities in addition to the suggested Bible unit songs on your **Dawson Preschool Worship Favorites** and **Growing with God** cds.

# A Boy Helps Paul

May 23

## Bible Story

Acts 23:12-35

## Teacher Challenge

It's a delight to hear the story or observe the action of someone making a right choice. A person who does what is right creates a spiritual emboldening in others: If he can do it, I can too!

Whether Paul's nephew was a small child or almost an adult, God had put him in the right place at the right time to find out all about the plot against Paul. More than that, he didn't shrug it off, keep it to himself or even try to become a one-man army. He thoughtfully brought the information to Paul, then to those in authority. Paul's life was protected because of his nephew's right action.

- ➔ Who is someone whose courage and integrity you admire? Why?
- ➔ What is the biggest obstacle to you being more courageous?

It's easier to rationalize a wrong action than it is to do a right one. Because young children absorb our attitudes very quickly, doing what is right with the right attitude powerfully encourages them to do right as well!

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Do good to all people." Galatians 6:10

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

## Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.

- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.

- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (1 John 4:10), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus), and the Unit Goals listed on the Spring Unit 5 Overview Sheet.



# Play to Learn

May 23

## Active Game Center: Helping Out



### Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music #2* CD and player, trash items (crumpled paper, packing peanuts, etc.), dustpan, brush or whisk broom, trash can, masking tape.

### Prepare

Place trash items on floor on one side of playing area, and place broom, dustpan and trash can close by. Place masking-tape line on floor on other side of playing area.

### Do

1. Children line up behind masking-tape line. When you start playing "Cleanup Party!" (track 16 on CD) the first child runs to trash area, sweeps up trash and places in trash can. When you stop the music, the child lays brush and dustpan down and returns to the back of the line.
2. Repeat until each child has had a turn, or as time and interest allow.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, "Do good to all people." A good thing to do is to help clean up. Let's play a game where we see how much trash we can help pick up.**
- ➔ **Amy, how can you help your mom and dad in the house? You can pack away your toys when your mom tells you to.**
- ➔ **Luis, how can you help your mom and dad in the garden? Watering flowers is a way to do good.**
- ➔ **Helping others is a good thing to do. We can ask God to help us do good things. Pray briefly, Dear God, please help us to do good things for others.**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
*"God loved us and sent His Son."*  
1 John 4:10

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Do good to all people."* Galatians 6:10

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Play a game with blocks. Place blocks in a pile in the center of the activity area. Children carry blocks to the block storage area and place blocks where they belong.

### For Older Children

Children have a hard time waiting their turn, so bring a broom, dustpan and trash can for every four children.

# Play to Learn

May 23

## Art Center: Do-Good Bugs



### Collect

Bible, Lesson 38 Do-Good Bugs Poster from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, white card stock, black crayons, watercolor paint and paintbrushes or water-based markers, shallow containers.

### Prepare

Print Do-Good Bugs Poster onto white card stock for each child. Fill shallow containers with water.

### Do

Children use black crayons to color spots on ladybugs. Children use watercolor paints or water-based markers to color ladybugs.

### Talk About

- **The Bible says, “Do good to all people.” We can help other people and do good things. Let’s make a ladybug poster to remind us to do good things at our homes.**
- **Jocelyn, who are the people at your home? What is a good thing you can do for your mom? For your brother?**
- **Thomas, where can you hang your poster? When you see your poster on the refrigerator you can remember to help other people. How could you help your grandma when she is cooking dinner?**
- **Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for the people at our homes. Please show us ways that we can help them.**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
*“God loved us and sent His Son.”*  
1 John 4:10

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*“Do good to all people.” Galatians 6:10*

**God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Instead of using watercolor paints, children color poster with crayons.

### For Older Children

Children write on posters names of people they can do good things to at home. If children ask for help with spelling, write names on Post-it Notes and give to children to copy onto poster.



## Construction Center: Helping Places



### Collect

Bible, manipulative building toys (Legos, Duplos, Lincoln Logs), toy people, toy cars.

### Do

1. Children build places where people help others (hospital, restaurant, police station, fire station, school, church, etc.).
2. Children use toy people and toy cars to act out ways to help others in the places they build.

### Talk About

➔ **In today's Bible story, some angry men planned to hurt Paul! But a young boy, Paul's nephew, heard about the plan. The boy told some people about it so they could help Paul stay safe. There are many places in our town where people help others. Let's build some of those places.**

➔ **Where are some of the places you can go if you need help?** (School, church, etc.) **Where would you go if you were hurt?** (Hospital, doctor's office, etc.) **If there were a fire?** (Fire station, police station, etc.) **Who are some of the people who help you in those places?** (Nurses. Doctors. Firefighters. Police officers. Teachers.)

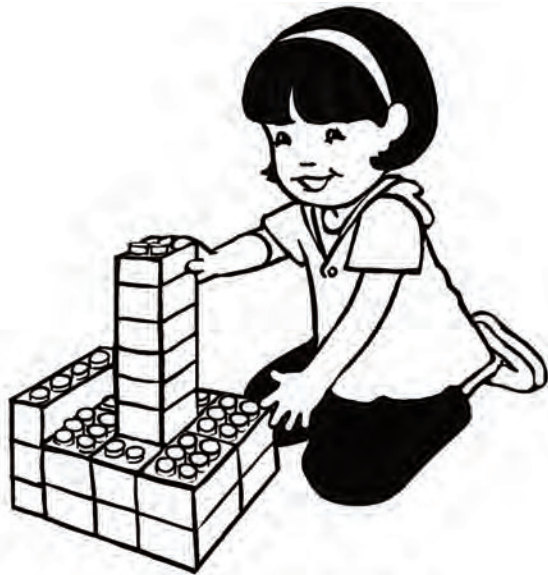
➔ **Who are some of the people who help others in the place you are building? What are some of the ways they help others?**

➔ **Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for loving us. Please show us ways to help others and do good things.**

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
*"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Do good to all people." Galatians 6:10*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.



### For Younger Children

Instead of building with manipulative building toys, children use blocks.

### For Older Children

On a large sheet of butcher paper or on light-colored heavy fabric, draw several streets and intersections, creating a pretend town. Children build fire stations, libraries, stores, schools, homes, etc. along the streets of the town. Or provide a transportation mat on which children can build.

# Play to Learn

May 23

## Dramatic Play Center: Grocery Help



### Collect

Bible, grocery items (canned food, empty cereal boxes, empty milk cartons, etc.), large box, grocery bags (brown paper bags or canvas bags).

### Prepare

Place grocery items in large box several feet from your kitchen area.

### Do

Children pack groceries from box into grocery bags. Children then carry grocery bags to kitchen area and unpack.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Do good to all people.” We can help at home by helping to put away groceries. Let’s unpack these groceries!**
- ➔ **Isabel, thank you for handing Aiden a can to put in the cupboard. You know how to help others!**
- ➔ **Charles, who are the people at your home? How can you help your sister? Playing with your sister while mom cooks dinner is a great way to help.**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
*“God loved us and sent His Son.”*  
1 John 4:10

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*“Do good to all people.”* Galatians 6:10

**God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Give a bag to each child. Children play with bags, filling bags and then emptying items into large box.

### For Older Children

Children set up a store on one side of the playing area. Some children pack grocery items into bags. Other children carry bags to kitchen area and unpack grocery items.



### Puzzle Center:

Give each child a Bible puzzle worksheet. Provide pencils, crayons, or marker. As the children complete the puzzles and color pages, use the conversation suggestions on the page. Remind the children that a copy of today’s Bible verse and Bible story is on the back of the sheet so they can share with their families when they go home.

# Listen to Learn

May 23

Acts 23:12-35

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 51 picture from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2* DVD or CD and player, Places I Go Pictures 1-8 from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, strips of colored paper, paper bag, beanbag.

## Prepare

Place one of every color strip into paper bag (at least four colors).

## Greet Each Other

Children sit in a circle. Give each child a strip of colored paper, repeating colors as necessary. Pull a strip of paper from the paper bag. All children holding that color paper strip stand up. Say, **I can do good to** (name all children standing). Children sit down. Repeat with other colors until all children have stood.

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Acts 23. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 51 picture.

**Who reads you Bible stories about Jesus? We learn about Jesus from Bible stories. In Bible times, people learned about Jesus from what other people told them. Let's hear a story about what some people did when Paul told them about Jesus.**



Everywhere Paul went, he told people about Jesus. But some people did not love Jesus. They did not like Paul talking about Jesus. They got very **angry**. And Paul was put in jail again!



Forty of these people made a plan. They were going to kill Paul! They had a plan to have Paul come out of the jail. Then these 40 men were going to kill him!

But **God** had a plan, too! Paul had a nephew. His nephew heard about the plan to kill Paul. He went straight to his uncle Paul! He told Paul what he had heard.

Paul told a guard, "Take this young man to the commander. He has something to tell him."



Paul's nephew went to the commander and told him everything. The nephew said, "Don't let Paul leave the jail. That's when the 40 men plan to kill him!"

The commander said, "Don't tell anyone what you told me." Then the commander called for many soldiers. He called for men on **horses** and men with spears.

The commander wrote to the governor. He gave the letter to his helpers. During the night his helpers and all those many, many men and their horses started walking and riding out of the city. They left during the night! And Paul was somewhere in the middle of all those soldiers! The 40 men waiting to hurt Paul never **saw** him leave. Paul had escaped!



The next day Paul came to the governor's palace. The governor gave Paul a room to stay in. Now Paul was safe! Now there were more people for Paul to tell about Jesus!

**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Do good to all people." Galatians 6:10

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

## Talk About the Story

**What did Paul's nephew do to help him?** (Told the commander that 40 men wanted to hurt Paul.)  
**Paul's nephew did a good thing and helped Paul stay safe. We can help and do good things for others, too. What is a good thing you can do at your home today?**

## Sing to God

**Let's sing a song about Jesus.** Lead children in singing "Go and Tell" (on DVD or track 11 on CD).  
**Telling others about Jesus is a way to help them. It is a good thing to do.**

## Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Galatians 6:10, say verse aloud. **We can help and do good things for others.** Lead children in repeating verse several times and doing motions for the verse: "Do good" (thumbs up) "to all" (arms open wide) "people" (point to other children).

**Option:** Children name people they know or categories of people (firefighter, store clerk, baseball players, etc.) and insert in place of the words "all people."

## Pray to God

Lead children in prayer, asking for God's help in helping others and doing good things.

## Praise to God

Lay Places I Go Pictures in a grid pattern on the floor. Children stand a few feet away from pictures and take turns tossing beanbag onto pictures. Child who tossed beanbag identifies picture on which their beanbag landed and says a way they can help and do good things for others pictured there.

## CD Note:

All cd references included as part of the Bible curriculum refer to the **Gospel Light Music CD 2**. You may use this cd and activities in addition to the suggested Bible unit songs on your **Dawson Preschool Worship Favorites** and **Growing with God** cds.



# Safe in a Shipwreck

May 31

## Bible Story

Acts 27

## Teacher Challenge

Over days and days of rolling and pitching in endless wind and water, the passengers and crew “gave up all hope of being saved” from the storm-tossed boat.

Paul worked hard to feed the bodies of his friends and the others on board with bread and to feed their souls with encouragement! The only way he could be so positive was by depending on God’s promise. What Paul saw was God’s perspective, not human despair!

- ➔ What is the most nearly-impossible situation in your life today?
- ➔ What encourages you in the face of it? How can you pass that encouragement along to your friends?

What’s the squall on your horizon? A child who can’t sit still? A little one who seems angry with you and the world? Are you weary? Feeling unappreciated? God’s power hasn’t changed. Name every problem and every burden in prayer. Trust Him to do amazing things right in your own class! Then become a genuine encourager and friend to those little ones who need you!

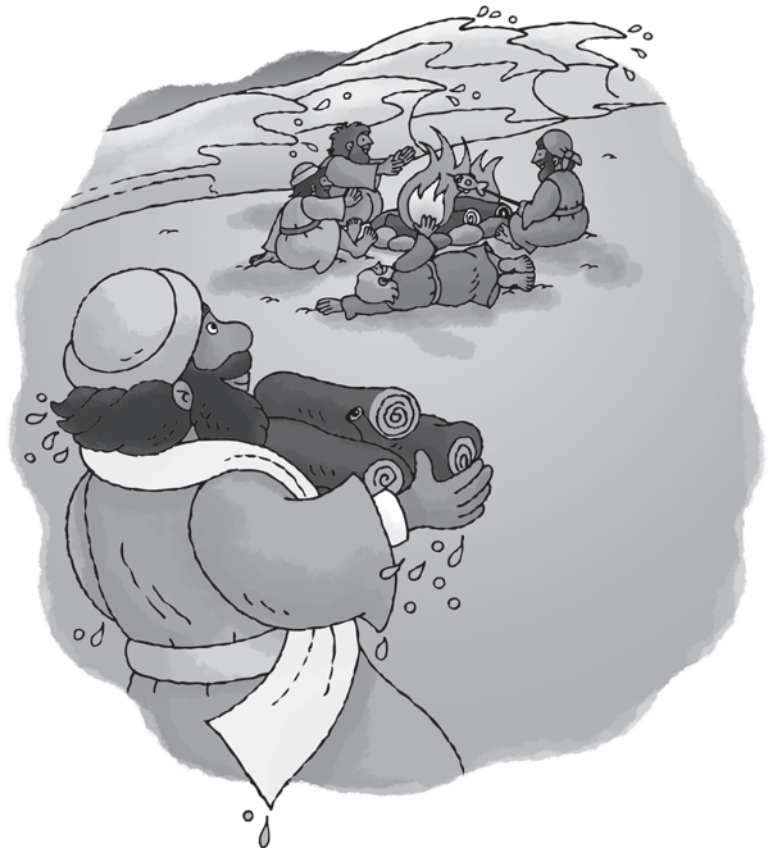
**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
“God loved us and sent His Son.”  
1 John 4:10

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
“A friend loves at all times.” Proverbs 17:17

**God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

## Teacher’s Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.
- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.
- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (1 John 4:10), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus), and the Unit Goals listed on the Spring Unit 5 Overview Sheet.



## Active Game Center: Good Friends



### Collect

Bible, nine index cards, marker.

### Prepare

Print numbers one to four on index cards, one number on a card. Place number cards in a pile. Print the following phrases on cards, one phrase on each card: "Smile." "Wave." "Thumbs up." "Shake hands." "High five." Place action cards in a second pile.

### Do

1. Invite a child to select a number card and an action card. Read number and action aloud. On "Go!" children do appropriate action to that number of children (wave to three children, give a high five to four children, etc.).
2. Repeat until each child has had a turn to select cards.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, "A friend loves at all times." Friends show love to each other by sharing and helping. We are going to show love to our friends by greeting each other.**
- ➔ **Sierra, when do you play with your friends? What games do you like to play? What are some ways you can show love to your friends when you play dress-up with them?**
- ➔ **Adam, you are the last person to select a card. Thank you for waiting so patiently! Waiting your turn is a way we can show God's love to your friends.**
- ➔ **Eric, what are some other ways to show God's love? (Help others. Tell the truth. Be friendly.)**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
*"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Children play game with only the action cards. Teacher calls out action for all to do.

### For Older Children

Children suggest other actions to perform (jump up and down, do jumping jacks, etc.). Print their ideas on additional index cards and use as you play the game.

## Art Center: Whistling Wind

### Collect

Bible, paper plates, scissors, crepe-paper streamers, ruler, markers, tape.

### Prepare

For each child, in the center of a paper plate, cut a hole approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (1.3 cm) wide. For each child, cut three or four crepe-paper strips, 6 to 8 inches (15 to 20.5 cm) long.

### Do

1. Children use markers to draw clouds and skies on paper plates. Assist children as they tape crepe-paper strips above the hole in paper plate. (Note: Make sure hole is not blocked by tape.)
2. Holding plates up to their faces, children blow through holes to make crepe-paper strips move.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, a strong wind blew Paul's boat out to sea. Then a big storm sent rain down on the little boat. The people on the boat were scared, but Paul helped them and prayed to God for help. Let's make something to remind us about wind.**
- ➔ **Trevor, Mia needs to use the tape. How can you help her? Thank you for handing her the tape! Helping our friends is a way to show God's love to them.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "A friend loves at all times." Adrianne, I see you handed Michael a marker. That was a kind thing to do! Being kind is a way to show God's love to our friends.**



**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
*"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Attach crepe-paper strips before class. Children glue cotton balls to paper plates to make clouds and blow through hole to make streamers move.

### For Older Children

Children tape lengths of tinsel or silver ribbon to bottom edge of paper plate to represent rain.



### Puzzle Center:

Give each child a Bible puzzle worksheet. Provide pencils, crayons, or marker. As the children complete the puzzles and color pages, use the conversation suggestions on the page. Remind the children that a copy of today's Bible verse and Bible story is on the back of the sheet so they can share with their families when they go home.

# Play to Learn

May 31

## Construction Center: Block Boat



### Collect

Bible, blocks.

### Do

1. Children place blocks in the shape of a boat, large enough for several children to sit in.
2. Children sit in boat. Briefly retell the Bible story. Children act out being on a boat in a storm. Say, **The wind is starting to blow.** Children make the sound of a strong wind. **The sea is getting choppy.** Children sway back and forth. Continue acting out being in a storm as time and interest allow.

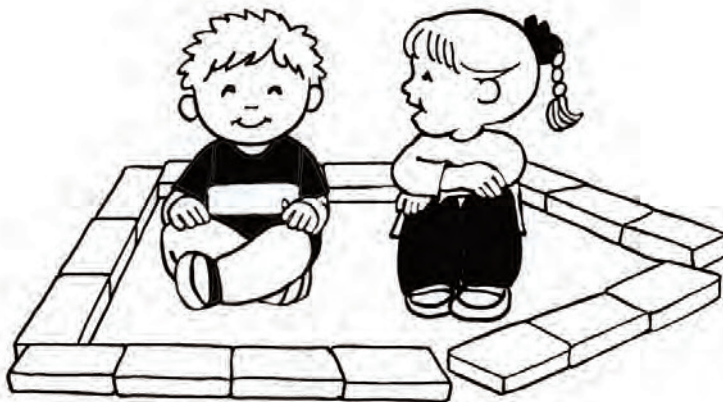
**Spring Unit 4 Bible Verse:**  
"God loved us and sent His Son."  
1 John 4:10

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Paul and his friends were in a boat during a big storm. Paul told his friends not to worry. Paul told his friends that God would take care of them. Let's use our blocks to build a boat.**
- ➔ **Paul and his friends were on a boat when a strong wind began to blow. Whoosh! Whoosh! Let's make the sound of a strong wind.**
- ➔ **Paul showed God's love to his friends by helping them. We can help our friends and show God's love, too! The Bible says, "A friend loves at all times."**
- ➔ **I've seen several of you showing God's love today. Anne handed Mariah a block when she needed one. Curt moved over to give Juan room to build with his blocks. What are some other ways we can show God's love to our friends today?**



### For Younger Children

Instead of building a boat with blocks, children pretend blocks are boats. Bring a blue covering (plastic tarp, blanket, bed sheet, etc.) as pretend water.

### For Older Children

Spray a light mist several times on children. Give children large cups or buckets to pretend to bail out water.



# Listen to Learn

May 31

Acts 27

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 52 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2 DVD* or CD and player.

## Greet Each Other

Play a guessing game. **I'm thinking of a child wearing blue jeans and a red shirt.** Children identify child. Continue until each child has been named.

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Acts 27. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 52 pictures.

**What happens in a very big storm? Listen to hear about Paul and his friends in a boat during a very big storm.**



Paul and many other people climbed onto the big boat. They were going on a long trip across a big sea of water.

While they were on the boat, the wind began to **blow**. It blew the boat out on the sea. For many days and nights the boat sailed.



Then the wind began to blow harder and harder. The **waves** splashed higher and higher. The waves rocked the boat up and down and from side to side. Splash! Splash! The waves splashed high in the air and into the boat. The waves almost knocked the boat over!

Big dark clouds covered the sky. Rain came pouring down. It was very dark. No one could see the stars at night or the sun during the day. Everyone on the boat was afraid. They thought they were going to drown!



Paul cared for the people on the boat. He told them good news. "Don't be afraid," Paul said. "No one will be hurt." The people wondered why Paul said this.

**God** sent an angel to tell me God will take care of all of us. He will keep us all alive. I know that God will do what He says He is going to do." Paul trusted God. He knew that God would take care of them.



Early one morning, the people saw land! They tried to sail to the shore. But the big strong waves pushed the boat into some sand just under the water. Crash! The boat began to break apart.

All the people jumped into the water. Some people started **swimming**. Other people grabbed pieces of the broken boat and floated. They found their way to the land. Every person was safe! No one had been hurt. The people who had been on the boat were glad Paul was a good friend and reminded them of God's care. And everyone was thankful God had kept them safe.

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**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

## Talk About the Story

**What did the angel tell Paul?** (That God would keep him and his friends safe.) **Paul helped his friends by telling them the good news that God would take care of them. Paul showed God's love to his friends. We can show God's love to our friends, too. One way to show God's love is to be kind to our friends. What are some ways you can be kind to your friends when you play together?** (Share toys with friends. Let friends go first on the swings. Let friends choose games.)

## Sing to God

**Let's sing a song about telling others about Jesus.** Lead children in singing "Go and Tell" (on DVD or track 11 on CD). **Telling others about Jesus is a way to share God's love. We can show God's love to our friends.**

## Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Proverbs 17:17, say verse aloud. **We can be good friends by showing God's love to others.** Lead children in repeating the verse two or three times. Then replace the words "at all times" with a time of day. **A friend loves at lunchtime.** Children echo the phrase after you. Repeat several times, using different times of the day, days of the week or seasons of the year. Conclude activity by saying verse with the words "at all times" again.

## Pray to God

Pray briefly, **Dear God, thank You for helping us show love to our friends.** Then invite volunteers to take turns completing the following prayer by naming someone to whom they can be kind: **Dear God, please help me show love to . . .**

**Option:** Tell an age-appropriate example of a time you showed God's love to a friend or of a time a friend showed God's love to you.

## Praise to God

Point to your mouth. Children copy your motion. **How can you use your mouth to show God's love to your friends?** (Speak kind words. Tell friends about Jesus.) Wave your hands in the air. Children copy your motion. **How can you use your hands to show God's love to your friends?** (Hand them a toy. Help them up if they've fallen.) Jump up and down. Children copy your motion. **How can you use your feet to show God's love to your friends?** (Run errands for someone. Kick a ball to them.) **We can use our bodies to show God's love to our friends!**

## CD Note:

All cd references included as part of the Bible curriculum refer to the **Gospel Light Music CD 2**. You may use this cd and activities in addition to the suggested Bible unit songs on your **Dawson Preschool Worship Favorites** and **Growing with God** cds.