

## INTRODUCTION

There are many people who exemplify boldness in their lives as they witness to others, but none better than the apostle Paul. This lesson uses Paul as an example to encourage the saved child to boldly tell others about Jesus. Teach the children that when they believe on Jesus, they have the power of Christ working in them to help them share about Him.

Witnessing to others is the main theme for this lesson. In the Bible lesson, memory verse and *Wonder Time*, emphasize to the saved child the importance of witnessing with boldness to those around him. The Bible lesson is a **TCE 2 (growth) lesson**. While the Gospel is briefly covered, the main focus is toward the saved child, encouraging them to witness with boldness. Because of this, be sure to teach the Gospel Spotlight somewhere before the Bible Lesson.

*Wonder Time* will further build on the teaching for the saved child. Encourage them to ask God during their quiet time to help them be a bold witness. In the teaching today emphasize these key concepts:

- **God:** Holy Spirit—gives boldness to witness.
- **Witnessing:** I want to show and tell others how Jesus can change their lives like He changed mine.

Demonstrations of the lessons in this series, including memory verse and *Wonder Time* teaching, are available at [www.cefonline.com/freedemos/godschurchexpands](http://www.cefonline.com/freedemos/godschurchexpands). Song demonstrations are included as well. A demonstration of the Gospel Spotlight is provided if there is one in the lesson.



For explanation of lesson types see p. 2.



## SMALL GROUP TIME

### Boldness Discussion

Have you ever been afraid of doing something but did it anyway? Maybe you had to give a speech in school or play in a piano recital. (*Allow responses. Share something from your own life.*) When you go ahead and do something that is right even when it's hard, you are being bold. Can you think of some things God wants you to do that might be hard? (*Allow responses.*) If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior, God wants you to tell others about Him. That can be hard sometimes. God also wants those who believe on Jesus to love others. That's really hard sometimes too. But you can pray and ask God to help you be bold to do what's right. Right now I'm going to pray for all of you—that you will be bold to do what's right. Then some of you can pray if you would like. (*Pray. Then choose volunteers to pray.*)



## MEMORY VERSE

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ." (Romans 1:16a)*

### INTRODUCTION

All of us have done things that make us feel ashamed or embarrassed. (*Share a child-friendly embarrassing moment.*) Does anyone want to share a time you were embarrassed? (*Allow response.*) There is something we never have to be embarrassed to do. That's telling others about Jesus. Let's hear what the Bible says about telling others about Jesus.

The memory verses in this series are taken from the King James Version of the Bible. If you are using another version, you may need to adapt the explanation.

### Preschool Memory Verse

Ephesians 6:10a "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord." Emphasize today that those who believe on Jesus are God's children—brothers and sisters in Christ.

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## Lesson 1

### Materials

Books of the Bible poster  
Visualized Bible Verse Booklet  
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack  
and Resource Pack.)

### Materials

Word-Up! Booklet  
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Show the card and have the children repeat the statement: **“Be bold!”** Tell them that anytime you call out “Word Up!” they are to shout the phrase back. Call it out during transition times, times when they are restless or just anytime!

### Preschool Activity

Add actions to the Word Up! when you are teaching preschoolers. Clench your fists and put them on your hips—one per word.

### Materials

One small object per team

### Preschool Repetition

“Stop and Go”

Have two pieces of colored paper—one red and one green. Explain that the green paper means “go” and the red paper means “stop.” Start by holding up the green paper. Children then begin saying the verse—reference, verse, reference—until you hold up the red paper. Repeat the verse several times, alternating red and green papers. Let children lead the game if desired.

### Preschool Activity

Go on a “journey” with the children by playing a game of “Follow the Leader.” Lead the children all around the room. If desired, have different teachers stationed around the room. Every time the children get to a teacher, they tell them the Good News, “Jesus loves you!” Then lead them back to the teaching area to sit and listen to the story.

## PRESENTATION

God used a man named Paul to do many amazing things. One of those things was writing God’s messages to Christians—people who have believed on Jesus as Savior. Paul wrote letters to believers in different cities and God is still using those letters today. They are included in His Word, the Bible. Those letters are Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon. Can you say them with me? (*Say with children from the Books of the Bible poster.*) We are going to memorize a small part called a verse from the book of Romans in the first chapter, sixteenth verse. I’ll read it from my Bible while you read it from the visual. (*Read Romans 1:16a from the Bible as the children read it from the visual.*)

## EXPLANATION

*For I am not ashamed*—To be ashamed is to be embarrassed or feel nervous. Paul is writing about something you don’t have to be embarrassed about.

*of the gospel of Christ*—*Gospel* is a word that means “Good News.” *Christ* is the title given to Jesus. It showed He is the one who is the Savior. The Gospel of Christ is the Good News that Jesus died and rose again to take the punishment for sin—your sin and mine.

It is good news when you trust Jesus as your Savior. It is nothing to be ashamed of.

## APPLICATION

**Saved:** If you have trusted Jesus to save you from your sins, you can be confident and bold as you live for Him! The Holy Spirit will help you live God’s way and give you boldness to tell others about Jesus, so they can also believe on Him. Say with me, **“Be bold!”** (*Say with children.*)

**Unsaved:** If you have never trusted Jesus, the Gospel is the Good News for you. Jesus died for your sins and rose again. Will you believe on Jesus today to save you from your sin?

## REPETITION

### “The Switcheroo”

(*Divide the children into two teams and have each team sit in a circle. Give one child on each team an object. Then have all the children recite the memory verse while passing the object around their circle every time a word is said. After the last reference is said, the two children holding the objects get up and switch places. Repeat as time allows.*)

## LESSON

### INTRODUCTION

What is the longest journey (trip) you have ever taken? Maybe it was a vacation or your family moved from one place to another. How did you get there? (*Allow response.*) Today you will hear about a man who left his own country to go on a long journey for Jesus. But why would anyone need to go on a journey for Jesus? Let’s find out what Jesus said right before He went back to Heaven.

**PROGRESSION OF EVENTS**

**Slide 1**

It had been 40 days since Jesus died and rose again. Now it was time for Him to go back to Heaven. Right before He went into Heaven, Jesus told His followers to go tell people all over the world about Him. (*Read Acts 1:8-9.*) After He said these things, they watched as Jesus rose up into the clouds! Can you pretend to watch Jesus go up into the clouds? (*Do with children.*) Would you be surprised? (*Allow response and share your opinion.*) The very last thing Jesus told His disciples was to go tell others about Him. That is why some people today go on journeys for Jesus—to tell people around the world about Him! People who tell others about Jesus are called *witnesses*. Some people tell others about Jesus as their full time job. We call these people *missionaries*.

Jesus knew His followers needed help telling others about Him after He went back to Heaven. God sent His Holy Spirit to live in them and give them power and boldness to tell others. Boldness is overcoming fear and doing what is right with courage. The Holy Spirit helped Jesus' followers be bold in telling others about Him. At first His followers preached to the people in Jerusalem, where they lived. More and more people believed and became part of the Church. When the Bible talks about the Church, it is not talking about a building. The Church is God's family—all the people who believe on Jesus and follow Him. When people in Jerusalem heard the preaching about Jesus, thousands of them became part of the Church.

**Slide 2**

The religious leaders, the very same people who demanded Jesus be killed, were doing all they could to stop His followers from preaching about Jesus. They wanted to stop the Church from growing! One of those leaders was Saul. He thought he was doing God's work by stopping those who believed on Jesus. But is that what God wanted him to do? (*Allow response.*) No! Saul wanted to throw them in jail and even kill them! But God had a better plan for Saul's life.

One day Saul was on his way to a city called Damascus, where he was going to arrest some followers of Jesus. But while he was traveling, something extraordinary happened. Some men were traveling with him and one of them is here to talk with us!

**"Traveler" skit**

**Teacher:** Thank you so much for being here today. Would you please tell us what happened when you were on the road with Saul?

**Traveler:** It was the strangest thing. I was traveling to Damascus with Saul and some other men. Saul was excited because he had permission from the leaders to arrest people there who followed Jesus. He thought he was pleasing God by hurting these people. Anyway, we were traveling on the road when all of a sudden a bright light appeared. It was brighter than anything I had ever seen before! It was so bright we all fell to the ground. Then we heard a voice. We didn't understand it but Saul knew the voice belonged to Jesus!

**Teacher:** But didn't this happen *after* Jesus went back into Heaven?

**Preschool Activity**

Preschoolers would enjoy seeing a calendar to visualize how long 40 days is.

**Preschool Activity**

Repeat the words *witnesses* and *missionaries* with the children.

**Preschool Activity**

When explaining boldness to preschoolers, you can say, "You are bold when you do what is right, even when it's hard." When you say "bold," stand/sit up straight and put your fists on your hips. When you say "what is right," put your thumbs up. When you say "when it's hard," clench your fists and pound your knuckles together. Repeat phrase and actions with children multiple times during the Bible lesson and teaching hour.

**Preschool Activity**

Have children show you their worried faces and say "Oh no!"

**Materials**

"Traveler" skit reproducible  
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

## Lesson 1

### Preschool Activity

Preschoolers would enjoy closing their eyes tightly, then opening them on your count of three and exclaiming, "I can see!"

### Materials

Time Line  
Time Line Additions  
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack and Resource Pack.)

### Preschool Song

"I Can Know God" (v.2)

The first biblical mention of Saul also being known as Paul is Acts 9:13. Paul was on his first missionary journey and was speaking to Elymas on Cyprus.

### Materials

Word Up! Booklet  
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

**Traveler:** You're right. It did. That's why this was so strange. The light disappeared and we all got up again. The rest of us were okay but Saul was blind. We had to lead him by the hand to Damascus. After the light and the voice, Saul stopped eating for three whole days. Then one of the Jesus followers named Ananias (*an-uh-NYE-us*) went to the place where Saul was staying. Ananias had courage and was bold! Saul's original plan was to throw people who followed Jesus, like Ananias, into jail! Ananias prayed for Saul then it looked like fish scales fell off Saul's eyes. He could see again! Saul believed and became a Jesus follower too. The excitement he had about arresting followers of Jesus was reversed. Now he's excited about telling others about Jesus!

**Teacher:** That's amazing! Thanks for sharing with us.

**Traveler:** You're welcome. (*Exits.*)

Wow! When Saul met Jesus on the road, his life was completely changed. (*Place "Saul believes on Jesus" on the Time Line.*) God's power is so amazing! The men with Saul didn't know what Jesus said but we can look in the Bible to find out. (*Read Acts 9:4-6.*) Before, Saul was killing and arresting Christians, but now he listened to Jesus and became a Christian himself! Jesus completely changed Saul's life.



Jesus can change your life too. Like Saul, we have all sinned—said, thought or done things that go against what God wants. For example, God wants you to respect and obey the people in charge of you. So if you whisper to a friend in class when you're supposed to be quiet, that is sin. If you lose your temper and say hurtful things to your parent, that is sin. Because God is holy, your sin keeps you apart from Him. But Jesus, the Son of God, came so He could save you from the punishment of sin. That is the Good News! (*Read Romans 5:8.*) Even though you've gone against what God wants, God loves you so much He sent His Son Jesus to Earth. The reason Jesus came was to pay for your sin. He did that when He died on the cross and rose again. Why did Jesus take the punishment for your sin? Because He loves you and wants to change your life!

Saul was changed forever when He turned to Jesus.

### Slide 3

Saul, who was also called Paul, spent the rest of his life boldly telling others that Jesus is the Savior!

### Slide 4

Say with me, "**Be bold!**" (*Say with children.*) Boldness is doing what is right with courage.

### Slide 5

Paul went to many countries to boldly tell others about Jesus. Do you remember what we call people who spend their lives telling others about Jesus? (*Allow response.*) They are called missionaries. Paul was a missionary! Being a missionary

for Jesus is not easy. The followers of Jesus were being thrown into jail, mistreated and even killed. Now it was *Paul's* life that would be in danger as he started out on his first missionary journey!

### Slide 6–9

Another missionary, Barnabas, joined Paul as they traveled by land from Antioch (*AN-tih-ock*) to Seleucia (*suh-LOO-shuh*). Then they sailed on a boat to a large island named Cyprus (*SIE-pruhs*). By the end of this trip they had gone all the way to Galatia (*guh-LAY-shih-uh*). But first they began to preach the Word of God on the large island of Cyprus. (*As you mention each city, place it on the Bible Map. Then place the Paul figure near Cyprus.*)

Day after day they preached and traveled throughout the island.

### Slide 10

Paul and Barnabas walked from city to city—about 90 miles altogether—and finally reached the capital city of Cyprus. How would you feel if you had to walk that far? Stand up and show me how you might look after walking so many days. (*Do with children.*) As they arrived, they met a man named Elymas (*EL-ih-mas*). He was a false prophet—someone who wanted to turn people away from God. He used magic and witchcraft to try to get people to listen to him. God's Word says witchcraft is evil (against God). The governor of the island was a very powerful man. He paid Elymas to help him so Elymas had power and made lots of money from his witchcraft.

### Slide 11

The governor sent for Paul and Barnabas so he could hear what they were telling the people about the Word of God. Elymas was strongly against the governor hearing about Jesus. He argued against what Paul was saying. What if the governor believed on Jesus? Then he would no longer listen to Elymas. Elymas was determined to turn the governor against Jesus. He tried to make it hard for Paul and Barnabas to share God's truth with the governor.

### Slide 12



After you've believed on Jesus as your Savior, it might not be easy to share God's truth, even though you know it is what God wants you to do. If you believe on the Lord Jesus, **the Holy Spirit will give you boldness to tell others about Jesus.** Do you remember what boldness is? (*Allow response.*) Boldness is being brave to do what is right. Sometimes people are against God's truth. Perhaps you want to tell someone about Jesus but are worried that the person will not listen to you or will make fun of you. Maybe you want to tell a friend about Jesus but you are shy or not sure what to say. Remember, before Jesus went back into Heaven, He told us that we are to be witnesses for Him. (*Read Acts 1:8a.*) **The Holy Spirit will give you boldness to tell others about Jesus,** even when it is not easy. Say with me, "**Be bold!**" (*Say with children.*) God will help you be bold and share His truth.

#### Preschool Activity

Have different places in the room titled "Antioch," "Seleucia," "Cyprus" and "Galatia." Lead the children in pretending to row a boat as you "travel" to the different "cities." Have the children sit near "Cyprus" as you tell about the events that happened there.

#### Materials

Bible Map  
Bible Map Additions  
Paul Figure  
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack and Resource Pack.)

#### Preschool Activity

Preschoolers would enjoy watching the interaction between Paul, Elymas and the governor played out in a skit. Have one teacher narrate while three others silently act out the story.

Give the children an example of two towns near you that are about 90 miles apart.

#### Preschool Activity

Have children repeat the name "Elymas."

#### Preschool Song

"Hear God's Word"

#### Materials

Word Up! Booklet  
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

## Lesson 1

If the subject should come up, help the children understand that generally, blindness is not a punishment from God.

### Preschool Activity

Preschoolers would enjoy closing their eyes tightly, pretending to be blind.

### Materials

Word Up! Booklet  
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

### Preschool Song

"I Will Trust"

### Preschool Activity

Preschoolers would enjoy clapping for Jesus because He saved the governor from his sin!

### Preschool Activity

Preschoolers would enjoy repeating the activity you did as the introduction at this point of the story. It would help tie the concepts together. Have a teacher stationed at different parts of the room that are labeled as cities in Paul's missionary journeys. As you lead the children to the different "cities," have them say "Jesus loves you!" to the teacher stationed there.

Paul needed God's boldness too. Elymas was trying to make it hard for Paul and Barnabas to share God's truth with the governor. He kept arguing with them. Do you think Paul gave up? (*Allow response.*) No, he didn't!

Paul knew that God is greater than anyone or anything that opposes Him! God is all-powerful. He did a miracle—something only He could do.

### Slide 13

Paul told Elymas that because he was arguing against God, God would make him blind for a short time. Immediately, Elymas could not see! God showed His power and stopped Elymas. God did a miracle to make sure His true message would be heard.

Paul knew that God was helping him. He often prayed for God to give him the words to say. The Holy Spirit helped Paul be bold! You can be bold too!

### Slide 14

Say with me, "**Be bold!**" (*Say with children.*)



If you have believed on Jesus, **the Holy Spirit will give you boldness to tell others about Jesus.** You can depend on God to help you witness. You may want to tell someone about how Jesus saved you from your sin. What if you are not sure what to say? Even Paul prayed and asked God to give him the words to say so he could boldly share the Gospel. (*Read Ephesians 6:18-19.*) You can also ask God to give you the words to say. You can even have other believers pray for you! What if you are afraid you will be embarrassed if someone does not believe or makes fun of you? God promises to give you boldness. Do you remember what the word *Gospel* means? (*Allow response.*) It means "Good News." The Bible says you do not have to be embarrassed or ashamed because the Good News is God's power and will save everyone who believes. (*Read Romans 1:16a.*) This really is good news! So you don't have to be embarrassed or ashamed. You can rely on the Holy Spirit to help you boldly share the Good News. Say with me, "**Be bold!**" (*Say with children.*)

Paul relied on the Holy Spirit to help him share the Good News with the governor.

### CLIMAX

The governor was amazed when he heard the teaching about Jesus. He believed on Jesus!

### CONCLUSION

### Slide 15

Now that their work in Cyprus was done, Paul and Barnabas had many more adventures as they traveled and preached for more than a year on their first missionary journey. In every place they visited they were bold to tell others about Jesus.

## CHALLENGE

### Slide 16



You can be bold too! If you have believed on Jesus, **the Holy Spirit will give you boldness to tell others about Jesus**, even when it is not easy. Say with me, **“Be bold!”** (*Say with children.*) Think about someone you know who needs to hear the Good News that Jesus can save him. You can ask God to give you boldness to say what He wants you to say. You can also ask other believers to pray for you. Remember that Paul also asked others to pray for him. (*Read Ephesians 6:19.*) This week will you look for an opportunity to tell a friend that Jesus saved you from your sin? Tell your friend that Jesus can do the same for him. Come back and tell me about it next week.

## INVITATION



Maybe you have never believed on Jesus to save you. God wants you to know Him. He loves you so much He sent Jesus to take the punishment for your sin by dying on the cross and coming back to life on the third day. The Bible says, (*read Romans 10:13*). To call on the name of the Lord means to put all your trust in the Lord Jesus—to believe He died and rose again to save you from your sins. When you are willing to turn from your sin and call on Jesus, God will be with you to help you live in a way that pleases Him. Will you call on the Lord Jesus today? Please close your eyes. If you have called on Jesus today or if you have questions about that, show me by looking up at me. (*Acknowledge responses.*) You may open your eyes. If you looked up at me, please meet me (*designate time and location*) and we can talk more about it.



## WONDER TIME

Today we heard about God's plan for Paul's life—to be a missionary by spending his life telling others about Jesus. God has a purpose and a plan for your life too. What do you want to be when you grow up? A firefighter? A police officer? A teacher? A missionary? A sports hero? If you have believed on Jesus to save you, God wants you to be a bold witness to those around you, even if He doesn't ask you to be a missionary.

In your Quiet Time this week, talk to God about how you can be a witness for Him. Here are some things to remember as you spend time with God this week:

1. Think about what Jesus said before He went back into Heaven—we are to tell others about Him.
2. Pray and ask God to help you know the words to say and to help you be bold as you talk to people about Jesus. You could tell your mom or dad about the Bible lesson you learned today or you could tell a friend the memory verse and what it means. There are all kinds of ways you can be bold in talking to others about Jesus.

### Preschool Song

“Tell the Story True” (vv.1-2)

### Preschool Invitation

Present the invitation using Acts 16:31a and “believe on” terminology. Ask those who believed on Jesus during club that day or who have questions to stay with you while the others move on to another activity.

*Child Evangelism Fellowship* uses five steps when inviting children for counseling. Each invitation should include the following:

1. Review the need and the way.
2. Read and explain condition/promise verse.
3. Bow head, close eyes.
4. “Show me by...”
5. “Meet me...”

Give children a *Wonder Devotional Book*, available from *CEF Press*. Encourage them to use it in their Quiet Time each day. You may wish to offer a reward to children who complete a certain number of lessons and a special reward for children who complete the book.

Tell the children about *God's Word: Hide It!*—a fun and interactive app for smartphones and tablets that encourages children to memorize scripture. Users are able to explore verses through puzzles and songs! Furthermore, children between the ages of 7 and 17 can earn a Bible from the *Truth Chasers Club* with their name engraved on the cover when they complete two series of lessons. See p. 00 for more information.

- Think about why you do not have to be ashamed or embarrassed to share the Gospel—it is the Good News!
- Think about a friend you can talk to about how God saved you from your sin. Tell your friend that Jesus can do the same for him.

Remember, God wants you to be a witness for Him today!

### Review Game

"Missionary Trek"

Divide the children into teams and assign each team a ship. Ask questions alternating between teams. When a child answers a question correctly, he gets to move his team's ship next to Jerusalem on the Bible Map. With each correct answer, the ship moves to the next city in Paul's first missionary journey—Antioch, Seleucia, Cyprus, Galatia then back to Antioch. Whichever team finishes the journey first wins!

#### Materials:

Bible Map

"Mission Trek" game piece reproducible  
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack and Resource Pack.)



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

- What is a missionary? (*Someone whose full-time job it is to tell others about Jesus.*)
- Who did God send to help those who follow Jesus? (*The Holy Spirit.*)
- Before Paul (Saul) met Jesus, how did Paul treat Christians? (*He wanted to throw them in jail and kill them.*)
- What happened to change Paul's mind about Jesus and change his life? (*Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus.*)
- What is an example of sin? (*Answers will vary.*)
- What was the name of the other missionary who joined Paul? (*Barnabas.*)
- What was the name of the false prophet who argued against Paul? (*Elymas.*)
- What is boldness? (*Boldness is doing what is right with courage.*)
- What is something you can do to help you have boldness to tell others about Jesus? (*Pray; have other believers pray for you.*)
- What does Gospel mean? (*Good News; the Good News that Jesus died and rose again to take the punishment for sin.*)
- What did the governor do after he heard Paul and Barnabas' teaching about Jesus? (*He believed!*)
- Why did Jesus die on the cross? (*To save you from the punishment of sin.*)

### Preschool Review Game

"Mission Trek"

Play the game as written above, but do not divide into teams. Play with one ship representing the whole class.



## PRESCHOOL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- What is something boys and girls do that is sin? (*Answers will vary.*)
- What was the name of the man who argued against Paul? (*Elymas.*)
- What did the governor do after listening to Paul? (*He believed on Jesus!*)
- Why did Jesus die on the cross? (*To save you from the punishment of sin.*)

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