

LESSON 55

# Paul's Work in Ephesus

ACTS 19:1-12



**BIBLE TRUTH**

THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL MUST BE PROCLAIMED AND PRESERVED

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN

**SUPPLIES:** *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 133)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

**SUPPLIES:** Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN

**SUPPLIES:** snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) . . . . . 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

**SUPPLIES:** coloring page for NT Lesson 55—one for each child; markers or crayons

Puzzle Pieces

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ simple puzzle of a common object
- ✓ (10 to 25 pieces); puppet (optional)

(This is a great object lesson to have a puppet interact with the teacher to help the children guess components of the gospel. Use the puppet to give the children clues so they can guess correctly.)

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

**SUPPLIES:** a dove silhouette cut from white paper or card stock; puppet (optional)

7. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN

**TOTAL 60–75 MIN**

**THE LESSON**

**OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**

In today's lesson the children will learn about Paul's preaching to the people who lived in Ephesus.

Start by telling the children a couple of true things about Jesus: Jesus was a man who lived a long time ago and was a carpenter. Guide a discussion using the following questions:

- Are those things about Jesus true?  
*(yes)*
  
- If that's all we knew about Jesus, would that be enough to really understand who Jesus is?  
*(no)*
  
- What else must we know about Jesus if we're going to really understand who he is?  
*(Take the many correct answers to this question.)*

While knowing true things is very important, sometimes we need to know more than just a few true things. Sometimes, in order to understand the whole truth, we need a lot more knowledge than we have. This was true of the people who lived in the city of Ephesus. So Paul went to teach them more than they already knew.

Take time to pray and thank God for his Word that allows us to know who Jesus really is. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

**BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read story 133, "Paul's Work in Ephesus," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **Why did Paul question the people at Ephesus?**  
*(He wanted to know if they believed in Jesus and if they had received the Holy Spirit.)*
  
- **Who were the men believing and trusting in?**  
*(They believed in God, but had only known the message of John the Baptist—to repent of your sins. They did not know the message of Jesus and the gospel.)*

**Where Is the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_**

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

God used Paul to bring an accurate gospel message to the Ephesians. As a result, the work that began with a small group of disciples, grew into a thriving church. Paul left after working with the Ephesians for three years. After some time, Paul returned and paid a visit to Ephesus. He gathered the Ephesian elders

(Acts 20:17) and reflected back on the time he had spent teaching them. He said, "I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable...testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:20–21).

When Paul first arrived, the twelve disciples of Apollos seemed to be acquainted only with the first half of the gospel, repentance toward God. Paul corrected them by giving them the complete gospel message, teaching them to place their faith in Jesus Christ. It is good to repent of sins against God, but apart from placing faith in Jesus and what he did on the cross there is no salvation. Acts 4:12 says, "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." The result of bringing the gospel to the Ephesians was that many repented and were healed, delivered, and converted.

- Why is it important that we know about Jesus as well as God?  
*(The Bible tells us that it is only through Jesus and his work on the cross that we can be forgiven of our sins and live in fellowship with God.)*

**SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What happened when Paul preached the gospel in the synagogue at Ephesus for three months? Did the people believe?  
*(No, the people argued with Paul and refused to believe.)*
- What did Paul do after the people in the synagogue refused to believe?  
*(Paul left and took his disciples with him and taught in one of the other buildings in town. He did this for two years so that all the Jews and Gentiles who lived in the area heard the word of the Lord.)*
- What happened to show the people that God’s power blessed Paul?  
*(God did amazing miracles through Paul, and even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched Paul were used to heal the sick.)*

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5–10 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

**ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) . . 20–30 MIN**

**Coloring Activity**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 55—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Who did Paul tell the people in the picture about?

*(Paul told them about the Lord Jesus. He told them to believe. They believed and were baptized.)*

- What did Paul do for the people from Ephesus after they were baptized?

*(He prayed for them and laid his hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit.)*

- What happened to them when Paul laid his hands on them?

*(The people Paul prayed for were filled with the Holy Spirit and started speaking in tongues and prophesying.)*

### Puzzle Pieces

#### SUPPLIES:

- ✓ puppet
- ✓ (optional)
- ✓ simple puzzle of a common object
- ✓ (10–25 pieces)

Note: This is a great object lesson to use with a puppet. Have the puppet interact with the teacher and give the children clues so they can answer correctly.

Put enough of the puzzle together to show some of the picture, but leave enough pieces out so that the class cannot tell what the full picture is.

Show the puzzle to the class and ask them to tell you what is in the picture. Point to one of the empty spaces and ask them what they see here. They will of course tell you that pieces are missing.

Read through the story of Acts 19:1–12 and explain to the class that the Ephesian disciples who Paul met only knew a part of the truth about Christianity.

(In Acts 20:21 we read that Paul taught both repentance from sin [the teaching John the Baptist shared] and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ [the gospel of grace]).

Tell the children that the Ephesians only had a part of the puzzle complete. They understood John the Baptist's message that we should turn from our sin, but they didn't understand they needed to turn to and trust in Jesus. Paul gave them the missing pieces of the puzzle, and they believed!

Put the missing pieces into the puzzle one by one. Tell the children that each missing piece represents a part of the gospel. Use the puppet to give the children clues to help them guess the parts of the gospel. Each time they guess a part of the gospel put another piece into the puzzle.

God the Son came to earth and became a man.  
An angel told Mary and Joseph to call him Jesus.  
Jesus never sinned.  
Jesus grew up and taught people about his Father.  
Jesus was rejected by men and was crucified.  
God the Father punished Jesus for our sin.  
Jesus died.  
Jesus rose again on the third day.  
Jesus said that all who believe and trust in him will be saved from their sin.

### Who Is the Holy Spirit?

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ a dove silhouette cut from white paper or card stock
- ✓ puppet (optional)

Note: Like the one above, this too is a great object lesson to use with a puppet. Have the puppet interact with the teacher and give the children clues so they can answer correctly.

Tell the children to raise their hands if they can tell you something about the Holy Spirit. Pass the paper dove around and see how many of the answers below the children can come up with. Give them clues (or use the puppet to give clues) so they can guess some of them. Then tell them the remainder and explain each one.

The Holy Spirit is

- the Spirit of God (The Spirit of Christ).
- the third person of the Trinity.
- God.
- the one who descended on Jesus as a dove at his baptism.
- the one who Jesus and the Father sent when Jesus went back to heaven.
- the one who convicts the world of sin.

- the one who gives us power to be witnesses for Christ.
- the one who lives in us when we become Christians.

**CLOSING PRAYER** . . . . . **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

**Supply alert:** To prepare for Lesson 57 "Sowing and Reaping" object lesson in two weeks, fill three foam cups with potting soil and plant grass seed in each in differing amounts. In the first cup plant three to six seeds. In the second cup plant ten to twelve seeds and in the third plant fifty seeds. Moisten the soil and then cover with plastic wrap, poking a few holes in it for some air circulation. When the seeds germinate, move them to a sunny window.



LESSON 55 - PAUL'S WORK IN EPHESUS

