

PAUL'S WORK IN EPHESUS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: ACTS 19:1-12



The STORY

Read about Paul's ministry to the men of Ephesus in Acts 19:1-12.

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

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

- Why did Paul question the men at Ephesus? (He wanted to know if they believed in Jesus and if they had received the Holy Spirit, because He was not just for the Jews but for the non-Jews as well.)
- Who were the men believing and trusting in? (They believed in God but had only known the message of John the Baptist which was to repent of your sins. They did not know the message of Jesus and the Gospel.)
- Why is it important that we know about Jesus and not just know about 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.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Paul's ministry to the men of Ephesus and laying hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit. Engage the children by asking:

- Why did Paul lay his hands on the men from Ephesus? (They had not yet been baptized in the Holy Spirit.)
- What happened to the men of Ephesus when Paul placed his hands on them? (The Holy Spirit came upon them then, they spoke in tongues and prophesied.)
- What message did Paul proclaim to them just before he laid hands on them? (Paul preached the Gospel to them and told them about the Lord Jesus. Paul told the men to believe. The men did believe and were baptized.)

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ASSEMBLY WARM UP

In today's lesson we will see that God is stronger than man and that man can not control God or capture God

Ask the boys if any of them are stronger than their dads. Of course they are not. Use this to help get them thinking of just how weak they are compared to their dads. Then ask them if God is stronger than their dads? Finally make the connection that God is more powerful than any of us even our dads.

Then speak to the issue of control. Ask them what we use to control a river? (A dam to make it into a lake.) Ask them what we use to control wild animals in the zoo? (We put them in cages with iron bars.)

Can we control God? We can not control God because God is all powerful and so much bigger than we are.

Remind the children of the characters of Hophni and Phinehas from last week. (They were Eli's sons.)

Ask the children if they remember what God said about Eli and his sons? (God told Eli they were wicked and did not follow God and were not going to be able to be priests for God anymore. God also said that they were going to die because of their rebellion against God.)

What was the name of the young boy that God gave a message to give to Eli? (Samuel.)

Pray that God would bless the class today.

SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- What happened when Paul went to the synagogue for three months telling them about Jesus and the kingdom of God? (The people argued with Paul and they 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 did his teaching in one of the buildings in town. He did this for two years so that all the Jews and Greeks 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 taken to the sick and they were made well.)

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WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Paul asked the men of Ephesus what baptism they received. The men answered, "John's baptism." Paul realized that this was not sufficient. John's message was for men to repent of their sins but that was only to prepare them to put their trust in Christ. The Gospel is only found through Christ. Salvation only comes by the work of Christ; His death for the payment of our sins and His resurrection signifying His victory over death for all those who believe.

No one can be saved by trusting in John the Baptist or any other teacher. Under John's baptism, there was no infilling of the Spirit of God because there is no regeneration through John's baptism. With belief in Christ came the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the men of Ephesus. Acts 4:12 says it this way: "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."

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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 worker.

