

Welcome and Play Time 10 Min

How exciting it is to train young learners! As teachers the kids we train are to be our apprentices. This means that we need to be modeling what we want them to be learning. We need to watch their lives and help them adjust their behavior to be in line with the training they are receiving. If last week was about what behaviors to look out for and avoid, this week is about what behaviors to seek out and copy! It's important that our kids have models to follow.

Use this time as people are arriving for the kids to get comfortable with each other and settled in so that Mom and Dad can enjoy small group.

Bible Lesson Activities 20 Min

Activity 1 - Follow the Leader Play a game of follow the leader. A long time ago when people wanted to get a job they would live with someone and learn how to do the job by copying what their teacher did. They would watch very carefully and learn from their teachers. Give kids direction on some different jobs that they might be like a farmer, an artist, a mother, a builder, etc. Have one child "teach" or act out being one of these people and have the other children "apprentice" or mimic their actions. Let children take turns being the teacher and the apprentice. Remind the kids that they are learning from their parents every day how to be adults, how to act in relationships, how to do things around the house and how to love God.

Activity 2 - He Kept Going Today's verse reminds Timothy of all of the persecution Paul met in all of his preaching. It lists the cities that Paul went to before he reached Timothy. Today we'll reenact Paul's missionary journey and see what happened to Paul along the way. You'll need one good reader to read the part of the child as you read the part of the parent. Make it exciting as you set up for your "play." Choose a child to act out Paul's part. If Paul is preaching have him silently pretend to preach. If Paul is being run out of town have him silently run for his life! The rest of the children can be the crowds in each story. Encourage them to listen to the story and act along with Paul. You may want to pause during the skit to give them some direction (act excited, be angry, pretend to stone Paul, etc.) You don't have to have props or costumes for this skit, but they always make things more fun. Get creative with sheets or towels. (See attached skit)

Bible Reading Time & Scripture Memory 10 Min

Have a small snack for the kids like pretzels or cheerios to help encourage quiet mouths and listening ears. Pray and thank God for giving us His Words so that we may share it with others. Read the Word straight through and then give yourself time to discuss after you've read the whole passage.

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-16 (NASB) Read from a Bible if you have one available

10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! 12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 13 But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Discuss with the children what the verses mean. Paul is like Timothy's spiritual dad. He is encouraging Timothy that Timothy has followed Paul so far in his life. **What are some things that Timothy has followed Paul in?** (*teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, persecutions, sufferings*) **What happened in the cities of Antioch, Iconium and Lystra?** (*Paul preached and then was run out of town or stoned*) **What did Paul encourage Timothy to do?** (*Keep going! Remain, continue*)

One of our favorite ways to continue in the things we've learned is to hide God's words in our hearts because what we put in our hearts will come out of our mouths! (Luke 6:24) Let's hide some more of God's word in our hearts so that we can keep going when times get hard! Does anyone know the verse from last week? (*2 Timothy 3:5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.*)

Lets learn another one! (*say each phrase 10 times and then connect the phrases*)

Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 2 Timothy 3:12

Coloring Sheet 10 Min

Have older children help the younger children with their coloring sheet. Talk about the Bible reading as you color. Help reinforce the Bible verse and what it means as they color.

Closing/Clean Up 5 Min

Clean up and make sure everyone has shoes on, coloring sheets in hand and everything is put back in the room. Give the kids a hug as they leave. Let them know how proud you are of how they listened and the hard work they have done! Praise them for desiring to learn more about God!



Indeed, all who desire to
live godly in Christ Jesus
will be persecuted.

2 Timothy 3:12

He Kept Going

Child: Was that like their church?

Scene 1: Saul to Paul

Parent: There was a man named Saul who loved to be right. He was very smart and knew SO MUCH about the Bible. He threatened the disciples of the Lord and even approved the stoning of a man named Stephen who loved the Lord.

Child: Oh no. Is he the bad guy?

Parent: It looks like it doesn't fit. He even went from town to town finding people who believed in Christ and throwing them in prison.

Child: I'm confused. I thought Saul and Paul were the same person. Wasn't Paul a good guy? Didn't he write lots of books in the New Testament?

Parent: Yes! Saul was Paul and God used Paul to write many letters in the New Testament.

Child: Well, how did he get good?

Parent: God granted him repentance on the road to a city called Damascus.

Child: What's re-tent-ents?

Parent: Repentance is turning away from sin and turning towards God. This is a wonderful gift that only God can give us. He did this for Saul by blinding him when he was on his way to attack another Church. God sent a man named "Ananias" to, "Go look for a man who has lost his sight. He is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name. I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." (Acts 9:10-16). And then God changes Saul's name to Paul.

Child: Wow! I didn't know that Paul was so bad before he started preaching everywhere! That is cool!

Parent: It wasn't always easy for Paul. Remember how God told Ananias that Paul would have to suffer much for the sake of God's name? Well, as Paul starts preaching he finds out what it means to be God's servant. He expected hard times. **He kept going.** Let me tell you about his first missionary journey...it's a good story!

Child: Where did he go? What did he do?

Parent: Well it all started when Paul and his buddy Barnabas headed out to go preach the gospel of Christ.

Scene 2: In Antioch

Parent: Paul and Barnabas sailed to Antioch and on the Sabbath day they went to the temple where the Jews worshiped.

Parent: Yes it was. And when Paul got there he began to teach the Jews there. He reminded them of how God had chosen the Israelites (who would later become the Jews) from the beginning. He reminded them of how God brought them out of Egypt, kept them alive for 40 years in the desert, gave them victory over the Canaanites, and gave them land. After that He gave them men to watch over the people as judges and then He gave them King Saul and then King David who was a man after his own heart. From the family of David God has brought a Savior to His people. Does this story sound familiar to you? What was the Savior's name? (Acts 13:16-21)

Child: Jesus!

Parent: You are right. The Savior is Jesus! Paul continued to tell the Jews in Antioch about how John the Baptist had said that Jesus would be coming. Paul reminded the Jews there that Jesus was condemned or found guilty even though He did nothing wrong. Those Jews hung him on a cross, and buried him in a tomb, but what happened to Jesus? (Acts 13:23-29)

Child: God raised him from the dead!

Parent: That's exactly what happened. Many people saw him. This was God's plan from the beginning. Paul taught the people that Jesus brings forgiveness for our sins and everyone who believes is freed from everything that the laws couldn't free them from. (Acts 13:30-41)

Child: He told the Jews all of that?! What did they say?

Parent: They were so excited and asked Paul to come back and preach again the next Sabbath! There were crowds who followed Paul and encouraged him to continue teaching in the grace of God. (Acts 13:42-44)

Child: I thought Paul was supposed to suffer for God. Having everyone like you doesn't sound much like suffering.

Parent: You're right. One week later when Paul went to preach again, just about the whole city was there. There were Jews that saw the crowds and they didn't like all the attention that Paul was getting. They started saying evil things against what Paul was saying.

Child: That sounds more like it.

Parent: God is good in everything. Paul and Barnabas turned to people who weren't Jews called "Gentiles" and many of them started believing. And God's word spread throughout the whole area! (Acts 13:46-49)

Child: Wow! Those Jews didn't stop God did they?

Parent: They didn't, but they sure made it hard for Paul and Barnabas. They got some powerful women to get mad at Paul and kick him out of the city. But the Bible says that "the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit." Paul trusted that God would rescue him in hard times. **He kept going.**

Child: So where did Paul go next?

Scene 3: Iconium

Parent: Paul and Barnabas went to Iconium next and did exactly what they did in Antioch. Does it sound like they were worried about what the Jews in Iconium would think?

Child: No. I'd be afraid to try the same thing again! Paul sure wasn't!

Parent: Why do you think he wasn't?

Child: Because he expected hard times. You also said that he trusted that God would rescue him.

Parent: Great listening! Paul and Barnabas do the exact same thing here and Jews and Greeks both believed. Again, there were people who didn't like it and started making people not believe Paul. The Jews and Gentiles together plotted to stone Paul!

Child: What does stone mean?

Parent: Remember at the beginning of our story how Paul had a man named Stephen stoned?

Child: Yes.

Parent: They would have a man stand against a wall and everyone would throw stones at the man until he was dead.

Child: That doesn't sound very fun.

Parent: No it wasn't. But God rescued Paul from this stoning! He found out about it and before they could stone him he escaped and ran to Lysitra.

Child: That was a close one. I'm glad he didn't get stoned!! That would be bad!

Scene 4: Lysitra

Parent: Now what do you think Paul did next?

Child: He kept going?!! He went to the next town and started preaching about Jesus.

Parent: Paul did! He didn't stop doing what God had told him to do. Sure there were hard things, but Paul continued to share the message that God had given him. When Paul got to Lysitra he healed a man through God's power.

Child: Cool!

Parent: That's what the people thought too! They started to worship Paul and Barnabas! What does the Bible say about worshipping anything other than God?

Child: The first commandment is "Do not put any other gods in place of me."

Parent: You're right. Paul knew this and he didn't like it either. He tried to encourage the people to stop worshipping him, but they wouldn't listen. Then Jews came from Antioch and Iconium. Do you remember what those guys wanted to do to Paul?

Child: Stone him?

Parent: Exactly. They talked the people in Lystra into stoning Paul! They stoned Paul in Lystra and then dragged him outside of the city gates because they were sure they had killed him.

Child: How can that happen? I thought God would rescue him?

Parent: God chooses how he will rescue us in each situation. The people had only thought they had killed Paul, but Paul was not dead! **He kept going!**

Child: Phew! I was scared!!

Parent: You don't need to be scared. Paul wasn't. He says later in one of his letters that life is meaningful when you're doing the work of Christ and if we die we get to be with Christ! (Phil 1:21). So what do you think Paul did when he got up?

Child: Hid? Ran away? Went to a hospital?

Parent: The Bible says that Paul got up and went to another city called Derbe and preached the gospel!

Child: Wow! He kept going even after he was stoned?

Parent: Yes he did. **He kept going.** He even went back to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch to encourage those who had believed the message while he was there. Paul met his apprentice in Lystra. His name was Timothy. Paul taught him so much about how to be a great servant of God. That is another great story....do you want to hear it?

Child: I would love to!