

THE  
**GOSPEL**  
**PROJECT**  
FOR PRESCHOOL

**All Things New**

*Preschool Worship Guide*

VOLUME 12



# THE GOSPEL PROJECT<sup>®</sup> FOR PRESCHOOL

## Table of Contents

### UNIT 34: FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

—	1: Paul's Third Journey .....	6
—	2: Paul Was Arrested .....	16
—	3: Together in Jesus .....	26
—	4: Running the Race .....	36

### UNIT 35: FINISHING STRONG

—	1: Paul Before Rulers .....	48
—	2: Paul's Shipwreck .....	58
—	3: Brothers in Christ .....	68
—	4: Children of God .....	78
—	5: Defending the Faith .....	88

### UNIT 36: COME, LORD JESUS

—	1: John's Vision of Jesus .....	100
—	2: Letters to the Seven Churches .....	110
—	3: Before the Throne .....	120
—	4: Jesus Will Return .....	130



Write the dates for each session here! —

*The Gospel Project for Preschool:  
Worship Guide*

## All Things New

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# Unit 35: Finishing Strong

## Unit Description:

Paul's life is evidence that God is faithful, and He keeps His promises. Throughout his ministry, Paul encouraged believers facing hardship to stand strong in their faith as brothers and sisters in Christ.

## Key Passage:

Philippians 1:6

## Big Picture Question:

What will happen for all Christians in the future? One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.

## Session 1:

### Paul Before Rulers

*Acts 24–26*

**Story Point:** Paul told rulers about Jesus.

## Session 2:

### Paul's Shipwreck

*Acts 27–28*

**Story Point:** Paul trusted God to keep him safe.

## Session 3:

### Brothers in Christ

*Philemon*

**Story Point:** Paul wanted to make peace between his friends.

## Session 4:

### Children of God

*1 John 2–3*

**Story Point:** People who are God's children love one another.

## Session 5:

### Defending the Faith

*Jude*

**Story Point:** Jude said to remember what is true about Jesus.



## **Paul Before Rulers**

Paul told rulers about Jesus.



## **Paul's Shipwreck**

Paul trusted God to keep him safe.



## **Brothers in Christ**

Paul wanted to make peace between his friends.



## **Children of God**

People who are God's children love one another.



## **Defending the Faith**

Jude said to remember what is true about Jesus.

Use Week of:

## Unit 35 • Session 3

# Brothers in Christ

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

Philemon

### STORY POINT:

Paul wanted to make peace  
between his friends.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Philippians 1:6

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What will happen for all Christians  
in the future? One day, all  
Christians will see Jesus in His  
glory and live with Him forever.

**TEACH THE STORY**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 72**



**EXPERIENCE THE STORY**  
(25–30 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 74**



**REVIEW THE STORY**  
(10+ MINUTES)  
**PAGE 76**



**Leaders, grow on the go!** Listen to session-by-session training every week on  
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## LEADER Bible Study

Paul was a prisoner under house arrest in Rome when a man named Onesimus (oh NESS ih muhs) came to visit him. Onesimus was a slave who had run away from a wealthy man named Philemon. As it turned out, Paul was a friend of Philemon. So when Paul told Onesimus the good news about Jesus and Onesimus believed, Paul desired reconciliation between Onesimus and Philemon—now brothers in Christ.

So Paul wrote a letter and told Onesimus to take it to Philemon. The Book of Philemon is the letter written by Paul to Philemon. Though Onesimus had become dear to him, and Paul wanted Onesimus to stay with him in Rome, Paul sent him back to Philemon with his letter.

In the letter, Paul urged Philemon to show kindness to Onesimus and treat him as a fellow brother in Christ. Paul even offered to pay Onesimus's debt for him. Though Paul could have used his authority as an apostle of Christ to force Philemon to do what he wanted, Paul instead appealed to him as a friend and a fellow believer. He urged Philemon to treat Onesimus as if he were Paul himself—with love and kindness.

Paul offered to pay Onesimus's debt to make peace between him and Philemon. In this way, Paul acted like Jesus, who makes peace between God and humanity. Jesus took the punishment we deserve for our sin, paying our debt so that we can be forgiven and welcomed into God's family as brothers and sisters of Jesus. (See Heb. 2:11.)

Paul's letter serves as a reminder to us that everyone is equal before Jesus. People from completely different backgrounds—like Paul, a former Jewish leader; Onesimus, a runaway slave; and Philemon, a Gentile slavemaster—are brought together by the gospel under the lordship of Jesus Christ. In light of God's love for us, we can be loving, kind, and forgiving to our brothers and sisters in Christ for the glory of God.



# The BIBLE Story

## Brothers in Christ

### *Philemon*

When Paul was a prisoner in Rome, he met a man named Onesimus (oh NESS ih muhs). Onesimus was a servant. He had run away from his master, Philemon. Philemon was Paul's friend.

Paul told Onesimus the good news about Jesus, and Onesimus believed. He helped Paul, and Paul wanted Onesimus to stay with him. First, Paul wrote a letter for Onesimus to give to Philemon.

"Dear Philemon, I am writing to you because I love you. I am in prison because I tell people about Jesus. I met Onesimus and told him about Jesus, and he believed. I want him to stay with me, but I want your permission first.

"Onesimus is a believer now. Maybe this is why he left you for a little while—so that he could come back to you as a brother instead of a servant. He is our friend and brother in Christ. Please welcome him like you would welcome me. If he owes you anything, I will pay it.

"Philemon, I would be so happy if you agree to do this. I know you will do what is right. Please get a room ready for me. I know you are praying for me. I hope God will answer your prayers so I can visit you soon."



*Christ Connection: Paul asked Philemon to show kindness to Onesimus and treat him like a brother in Jesus. He wanted to make peace between his friends. In this way, Paul acted like Jesus. Jesus came into the world to make peace between God and people. He died on the cross for our sin so we can be part of God's family forever.*

## **Bible Storytelling Tips**

**Play it out:** Invite a couple of leaders to mime the roles of Onesimus and Philemon as you tell the story from Paul's perspective.

**Sign it:** Look up ASL for *brother* and teach children how to sign it. Invite preschoolers to listen for the word *brother* in the story and make the sign each time they hear it.



# TEACH the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Brothers in Christ

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Philemon

**STORY POINT:** Paul wanted to make peace between his friends.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 1:6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What will happen for all Christians in the future?

One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.

## Welcome and worship with song

- "The Gospel Is for Everyone" song
- "Keep On Keeping On" song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as "The Gospel Is for Everyone" to engage and welcome them. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in the theme song "Keep On Keeping On."

## Watch or tell the Bible story

- family picture
- Bible
- "Brothers in Christ" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster
- Giant Timeline

Display or pass around a picture of your family from home. Identify each person in the picture.

**SAY** • My family is full of people I love and who love me too. Did you know that God says when we trust Jesus to save us from our sins, we become part of His big family? Today we will learn about two men who started out as servant and master but became brothers in Christ!

Open your Bible to Philemon. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

## Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- Bible
- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- "He Who Started (Philippians 1:6)" song

Place the key passage marker at Philippians 1:6. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Form pairs. Lead each pair to repeat the key passage after you, phrase by phrase.

**SAY** • Philemon and Onesimus became brothers in Christ when Onesimus trusted in Jesus. If you and the person next to you become followers of Jesus, you will be brothers or sisters in Christ!

Sing the key passage song “He Who Started” together.

## Learn the big picture question and answer

**SAY** • Paul taught Onesimus about Jesus, and he became a Christian. That means that Onesimus will one day see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.

*What will happen for all Christians in the future?  
One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory  
and live with Him forever.*

• Big Picture Question  
Poster

## Respond through song and prayer

**SAY** • Paul wanted to make peace between his friends.

Paul asked Philemon to show kindness to Onesimus and treat him like a brother in Jesus. In this way, Paul acted like Jesus. Jesus came into the world to make peace between God and people. He died on the cross for our sin so we can be part of God’s family forever.

• Story Point Poster  
• “Keep On Keeping On” song  
• “Children of the Kingdom” song  
• “Wherever I Go” song  
• offering basket

Sing “Keep On Keeping On” and “Children of the Kingdom” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “Wherever I Go.” Collect an offering.

**SAY** • God, thank You for this example of two people becoming brothers in Christ. Help us understand what it means to turn from sin and follow You, trusting in Jesus to save us from our sin through His death and resurrection. We want to be part of the family of God! Amen.

## Transition to experience the story

• countdown video  
(optional)

# EXPERIENCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Brothers in Christ

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Philemon

**STORY POINT:** Paul wanted to make peace between his friends.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 1:6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What will happen for all Christians in the future?

One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.

## LOW PREP

### Play out conflicts

Tell preschoolers that you will pretend to argue with another adult leader. Play out a minor conflict, such as a dispute over a favorite toy or accidentally bumping into each other. Ask preschoolers for ideas on how to make peace between the two of you.

**SAY** • Because of sin, people sometimes fight or argue. God wants us to make peace with each other.

#### **Paul wanted to make peace between his friends**

Onesimus and Philemon. Jesus made peace between God and people when He died on the cross for our sin. Because of Jesus, we can be part of God's family.

## LOW PREP

- paper
- markers or crayons

Tip: Be sensitive to family situations.

### Draw family portraits

Provide paper and markers or crayons. Encourage each preschooler to draw a picture of his family. Praise each preschooler for his effort. Offer assistance as needed.

**SAY** • Great family pictures! Our families are very important. God's family is most important. All Christians everywhere are part of God's family and will one day see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever. ***What will happen for all Christians in the future? One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.***

## Follow Onesimus's path

Place a stack of paper on one side of the room. Line up preschoolers on the opposite side. Invite preschoolers, one at a time, to walk across to the room, pick up a piece of paper, and return back to the line. Form two lines and hold a relay race for older preschoolers.

**SAY** • You followed the path of Onesimus! Onesimus ran away from his master Philemon and traveled to Paul. **Paul wanted to make peace between his friends**, so he sent Onesimus back to Philemon with a letter.

**LOW  
PREP**

• paper

## Take a long walk

Lead preschoolers on a long walk around the church, either outside or inside. As you walk, guide preschoolers to think about the people of all ages who attend your church. Remind preschoolers that all the people who attend your church and who trust in Jesus are part of God's family.

**SAY** • A lot of different people are a part of our church. Everyone who trusts in Jesus is a part of God's family. ***What will happen for all Christians in the future? One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.***

**LOW  
PREP**

• walking rope  
(optional)

Tip: Follow your church's security procedures for leaving the classroom.

## Play "Mother, May I?"

Play "Mother, May I?" according to the traditional rules.

**SAY** • You had to ask mother permission to move. **Paul wanted to make peace between his friends**. Paul wanted Onesimus to stay with him, but he asked Philemon's permission first. He believed Philemon would do what was right.

**LOW  
PREP**

• countdown video  
(optional)

## Transition to review the story

# REVIEW the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Brothers in Christ

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Philemon

**STORY POINT:** Paul wanted to make peace between his friends.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 1:6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What will happen for all Christians in the future?

One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.

## Review

Point to the giant timeline as you review today's Bible story.

Ask the following review questions:

1. What did Paul tell Onesimus about? (*the good news about Jesus*)
2. What did Onesimus become? (*a believer in Jesus*)
3. What did Paul send with Onesimus when he went back to Philemon? (*a letter*)
4. What did Paul ask Philemon in the letter? (*to let Onesimus come back and stay with Paul*)
5. Who wanted to make peace between his friends?  
(**Paul wanted to make peace between his friends.**)
6. *What will happen for all Christians in the future? One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.*

**SAY** • Onesimus ran away from being Philemon's servant. After becoming a believer in Jesus, Paul sent Onesimus back to Philemon to ask his permission for Onesimus to stay with Paul. Paul wanted to make peace between Onesimus and Philemon, like Jesus made peace between us and God by dying in our place for our sin and rising again.

Sing the theme song "Keep On Keeping On" or key passage song "He Who Started."

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline
- Story Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "Keep On Keeping On" song (optional)
- "He Who Started (Philippians 1:6)" song (optional)

## Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

**SAY** • God, thank You for sending Jesus to make peace between You and us. Thank You that because of Jesus, we can be part of Your family forever. Help us turn away from sin and follow Jesus. Amen.



## Missions moment

**SAY** • Missionary Jorge Santiago planned to start a new church, but after Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, he knew he needed to help the people who were hurting. He showed Jesus' love by helping them and told them that Jesus could give them hope.

Show the missions video. Close in prayer for the Santiagos.

• "A Changed Plan"  
video

## Make a mural

Place a large piece of paper on a wall and lead preschoolers to make a mural. Ask children for ideas of things friends do together and draw or write their suggestion on the mural. Older preschoolers may be able to draw the pictures themselves.

• large sheet of paper  
• markers or crayons

**SAY** • Our mural shows things friends do together. One thing that friends do is show kindness to each other. **Paul wanted to make peace between his friends** and asked Philemon to treat Onesimus like a brother in Jesus.