

## WEEK 4 LESSON GUIDE

WHAT'S  
NEXT?

### **BIG IDEA**

We can share  
the good news.

### **BIBLE**

**Paul in Macedonia:**  
Acts 16:6–15

## **ABOUT THIS WEEK**

Once you have finished a great puzzle, the next step is to share it with others so they can have a similar experience. This week, we'll hear about how Paul shared the good news, and how Lydia decided to follow Jesus. Paul's life was completely different because of what God was doing, and he helps us see that **we can share the good news.**

## **WELCOME TIME**

### **ACTIVITY | Relay The Good News!**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, roll up two newspapers and tape them closed, like batons. Split the group into two teams. Each team will have to take their baton and race to the other side of the room, come back, and pass it on. As they run, they must shout "I've got good news! I've got good news!" Once they have run back and forth, have them take a seat so you can see who still needs to race. The first team to have everyone on their team spread the good news wins.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Remember that toddlers may need a break from the activities just to play independently. Incorporate free play during your ministry time so that every toddler can choose what they feel like doing. Have favorites like cars, dolls, and books available throughout their time with you.
- Newspapers tell us about what's going on in the world. God gave us big news that we should share with everyone, too. **Do you know what it is?** We're gonna hear more about it in today's story.

### **ACTIVITY | Pass The Yarn**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, have everyone sit with you in a circle. Start by holding a ball of [purple yarn](#). Call the name of someone in the circle, preferably across from you. That kid has to come to you and take the ball of yarn from your hand, while you hold on to the end of the string. There should be a length of string between the two of you. Then that kid calls someone else's name. They have to hold on to the string connected to you while the next kid takes the ball of yarn away. You may want leaders to help out if kids let go of their piece of string or don't know which part to hold. Keep going until everyone has a piece of the yarn and a large web has formed in the circle.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** You can make this activity more fun for toddlers by placing some six-inch lengths of purple yarn or ribbon around the room for them to discover. Remember that longer pieces of string may pose a strangulation hazard for toddlers.
- **What do you do when you get good news?** We pass it on. We share it with someone else. That's what's

happening in today's Bible story.

- I'll give you another hint about today's story. **What color is this ball of yarn?** Purple! In today's Bible story, Paul meets someone who works with the color purple.

## STORY TIME

### SCRIPTURE | Acts 16:6–15 (Paul in Macedonia)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this Scripture passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible storybook, or using the talking points provided below.
- The Bible is a lot like a puzzle. Each Bible story is like a puzzle piece. The more we learn from the Bible, the more we can know about God.
- In today's Bible story puzzle piece, we learn about what happened to Saul after he decided to follow Jesus.
  - Saul used to be someone who chased Jesus followers and put them in jail. He did not believe the good news of Jesus dying, coming back to life, and going up to heaven.
  - But one day, Jesus talked to him through a bright light, and from then on, Saul started telling other people about Jesus, too!
- Saul was also known as Paul. Paul traveled to many different places to tell everyone about Jesus' love for them.
  - One night, Paul had a vision of someone from a place called Macedonia. The man in the vision begged for his help. Paul knew this was a message from God. So he and his friends traveled to Macedonia right away.
  - **Let's pretend to row a boat.** We're sailing with Paul and his friends.
- When Paul and his friends got to Macedonia, they made their way to the river to pray.
  - There was a group of women there already. So Paul and his friends started to talk with them about Jesus.
  - One of the women was named Lydia. She was a dealer in purple cloth. That meant she dyed fabric purple and people bought it from her.
  - **What colors do you mix to get purple?** That's right blue and red.
- When Lydia heard Paul's message, she was ready to follow Jesus, too.
  - So she and her whole family made the choice to follow Jesus.
  - Afterward, Lydia invited Paul and his friends to her home. She knew that they had an important job telling the world about Jesus, and she wanted to help.
- God sent Paul and his friends to Macedonia so Lydia, her family, and her town could all hear the good news. When we know about Jesus, telling others about him is *what's next!*

### BIG IDEA | We can share the good news.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the puzzle pieces you used in previous weeks and add on more if you'd like. Write each word of the Big Idea on strips of painter's tape, and attach these to the pieces before hiding them. You may want to have a sample to show kids what they're looking for. Once all of the pieces are found, bring them together and fit them with one another. Then read the Big Idea aloud. Have the kids repeat after you once, then say it a few times using the motions below.
- Paul, or Saul, changed when he met Jesus. He went from someone who hated Jesus followers to becoming a Jesus follower himself. Once he heard the good news, he couldn't help but share it with everybody.
- Our Big Idea tells us what's next after we follow Jesus, pray for others, and love them like Jesus does.
  - **We can** (Flex both arms.)
  - **share** (Cup hands around mouth.)
  - **the good news.** (Two thumbs up.)

**VIDEO | What's Next?, Episode 4**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

**ACTIVITY | What's The News?**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, have everyone stand together in a circle. Whisper "Jesus loves you" to the kid nearest to you. Have that kid whisper it to the next person. Let that continue all the way around the circle until the message returns to you. Play a few times, starting at different points in the circle, with other phrases like, "Jesus is your friend," "Jesus cares about you," and all the Big Ideas from this series.
- Great job sharing so many important messages! We can say it softly, or we can say it loudly. Everyone needs to hear about Jesus.
- **We can share the good news.**

**PRAYER**

- Jesus, the good news is you are alive, and you love us. Help me to share the good news with everyone I meet. Amen.

**SHARING TIME****SNACK | Grape News**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Serve up purple-colored snacks to help kids remember Lydia from today's Bible story. You can serve purple grapes in purple cups, grape juice, purple JELL-O, or yogurt.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Pre-cut grapes in half or replace the grapes altogether with purple-colored cereal mixed with oat cereal. You can sort out some purple pieces from a Froot Loops box.
- Lydia was able to hear the good news because Paul and his friends obeyed God and went to where she was.
- **If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you want to go?**

**ACTIVITY | Circle Time**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the [sensory bottles](#) you made in Week 1 using [puzzle-shaped confetti](#) and oil or sand and jigsaw puzzle pieces or [plastic puzzle pieces](#) to help kids calm down and focus on reviewing the Bible story together. You can allow kids to pass the bottle around and shake it as they answer the questions together.
- **What is Saul's other name?** Paul.
- **Where did Paul and his friends travel to?** Macedonia.
- **Who did Paul and his friends meet in Macedonia?** Lydia.
- **What did Lydia do when she heard the good news?** She and her family chose to follow Jesus. She invited Paul and his friends to her home.
- **What can we share with everybody?** We can share the good news.

**ACTIVITY | Go Around The World**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, give each kid a paper plate. Have them draw blobs of green on the plate, then paint over it with blue watercolor paint to resemble earth. Once the plate is mostly dry, provide a transparent [magnetic chip](#) on which they can draw a smiley face with a permanent marker. Allow kids to take turns using a [magnetic wand](#) (or make your own using magnetic washers and jumbo popsicle sticks) underneath the plate to move their smiley face "around the world" on their paper plate. See a worked example [here](#).
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Lay down a [world map](#) (or draw a simple globe on butcher paper), and allow toddlers to drive toy cars or airplanes "all around the world."
- We may not see the whole world anytime soon, but we don't have to wait to go anywhere else to share the good news. We can start right here. Tell someone you know about Jesus. **We can share the good news!**

**MEMORY VERSE | Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words and the Scripture reference to the tune of "[Brahms' Lullaby](#)." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say it using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.
- **"In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."**

**PLAY TIME****ACTIVITY | Coloring Page**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute the [coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.

**ACTIVITY | Mixing Purple**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this free play activity, prepare paper or plastic plates with a small dollop of washable blue paint on one side and red paint on the other. Give kids small sponges or sponge brushes to mix the colors together. Give them a small piece of fabric or a piece of cardstock paper they can paint with their newly created purple paint. Make sure you protect your surfaces with tablecloths or tarps and provide ponchos or aprons for kids.

**ACTIVITY | Fingerprint Mazes**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this free play activity, print out copies of the [printable](#) and have kids solve each maze using finger paints to follow the trail. For a reusable option, laminate the printables and provide dry-erase markers.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Provide a variety of finger trail board books for toddlers to follow the maze paths with their fingers.