

# Adventures with GOD!

## THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY (C.2.SPRING.11)

Biblical Reference	Acts 18-21 (specific sections)
Key Verse	1 Thessalonians 2:4
Key Concept	Living out Jesus' great commission is not an option; it is a part of my life as a disciple of Jesus.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trace the route of Paul's third journey</li> <li>2. Describe some of the different events that occurred on this journey</li> <li>3. Name the different responsibilities we have within the church</li> </ol>

### Life Application

In the example of Paul, we see a person who was committed to carrying out the great commission. It was a huge challenge in his life. We are all called to obedience and faithfulness to God's mission. We are to be faithful until the end. Today we will talk about what faithfulness looks like and we will think about examples of people who are faithful.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Game	Chairs	10 minutes
Group work	Paper, Bibles, pencils	15 minutes
Bible exploration	Bibles, illustrations	10 minutes
Activity	Maps, pencils, mural, markers	10 minutes
Missionary project	Paper, pens, envelopes	5 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute



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## INSTRUCTIONS

**My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review:** As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

**Opening Prayer:** Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

**Bible Reading:** Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read Acts 19:1-10 twice and ask children to respond.

**Question examples:** What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

**Game:** Form a circle with the chairs. Have each child sit in a chair (there should not be any empty chairs). Give each child a name of a city. Use the names of the cities that Paul visited in his first and second missionary journeys. Each child should remember the name you gave them. Stand in the middle of the circle and explain that you are on a boat and you are going on a journey. You will call the names of several cities, for example, "I went out on a trip and I went to Antioch and Iconium." While you say the names of the cities the children who have these names should get up and find a new chair. As you finish the game, you can call out, "The ship is sinking." This means everyone needs to get up and find a new place to sit, including you. The person who is still standing without a chair is the new one to call out the names of the cities.

**Group work:** Divide the class in teams and give each team an information sheet that you will find in the following pages. Have them find a creative way to communicate the information about the events in Paul's journey that they are assigned. Groups could be divided to study the following texts: Acts 19:1-10, 20:1-12, 21:1-16, 21:27-40 with 22:29-30

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**Bible exploration:** Paul's purpose in this new journey is to visit some of the churches that have been started. Even though Paul knew that something bad could potentially happen, he was faithful and continued forward. Before leaving Jerusalem he said good-bye, because he knew that the possibility existed that he might not return. Paul had both good and bad experiences on his missionary journey. Take time for each group to share their findings with everyone.

Paul was a faithful disciple, who lived out Jesus' great commission. His life is an example for us. Who else in your lives is an example of faithfulness? What are the ways God asks us to be faithful in God's mission? Have the children share their ideas. What are ways that we show our faithfulness at church? What responsibilities do we have within the family of God? What responsibilities do we have to share the good news of Jesus?

**Activity:** In their passports, allow them time to work on the itinerary of the third missionary journey. Have them trace the route in the map. Then, as time allows, have them work on the mural adding the events of the day.

**Missionary project:** Allow the children time to pray together for the missionaries they are supporting and to take an offering for them.

## **Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:**

G: God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story)

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead)

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week)

W: Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

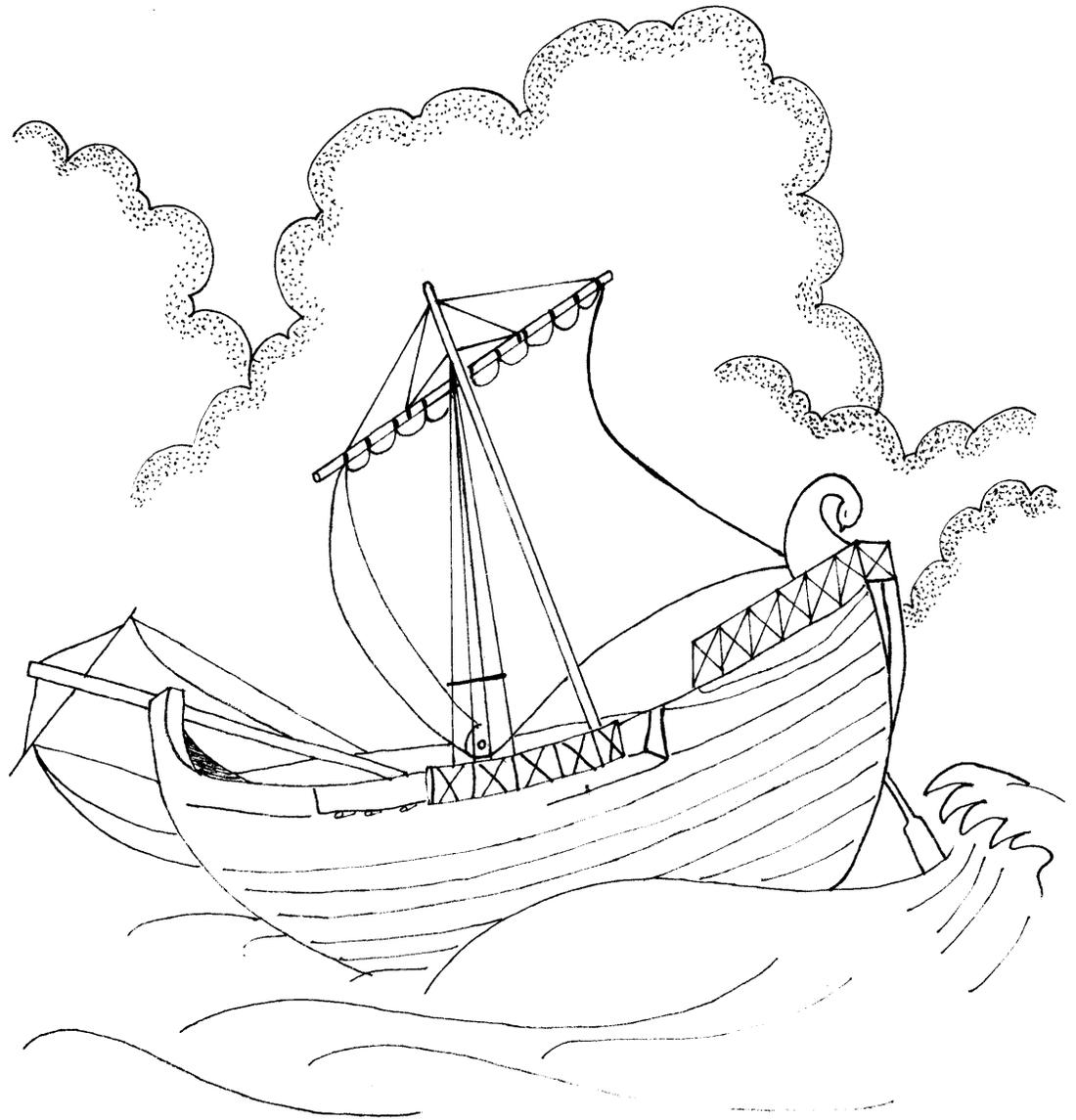
**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen



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ILLUSTRATION



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## Information sheet

Antioch	Starting point
Galatia	Acts 18:22-23 Strengthened disciples
Ephesus	Acts 19 – visited the disciples, received the Holy Spirit, taught the word of God, miracles were performed, grew in the Lord, sent Timothy and Erastus to Macedonia, planted a church, Paul has to leave Ephesus
Corinth	Acts 20:1-3, Passed through on his way to Macedonia, encouraged the believers, he was there three months, the Jews plotted against him
Troas	Acts 20: 3-6, Passed through on his way to Macedonia, taught, stayed 7 days
Miletus	Acts 20:13-38 – Stops there on his way to Jerusalem, gives his farewell speech.
Tyre	Acts 21:1-6 – Paul stays there before going on to Jerusalem. The disciples tried to persuade him not to go.
Jerusalem	Acts 21:7-22:30 – Shared with the disciples everything that had happened. Teaching and the leaders stirred up the crowds against him. Paul was arrested

