

PAUL WROTE TO PHILEMON



TRANSITION/GROUP TIME

SNACK

Include the children in the distribution of the snack. Ask for one or more volunteers to pray. Lead the boys and girls to clean up after the snack. Thank them for their help.

MOVE TO GROUP TIME

Ask the boys and girls to tell about the members of their families. Ask if the preschoolers have any friends who feel like family even though they are not. Guide discussion as the children share.

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

PAUL WROTE TO PHILEMON—BASED ON PHILEMON

- » Remark that in today's Bible story, Paul wrote a letter to Philemon. Paul asked Philemon to treat his new friend Onesimus as if he were part of Philemon's own family. Open the Bible to the book of Philemon and encourage the boys and girls to listen to hear the words that Paul wrote.

SUMMARIZE THE BIBLE STORY

- » Paul met Onesimus (oh NESS ih muhs) and told him about Jesus. Onesimus learned to follow Jesus and do what is right.
- » Paul helped his new friend, and he wrote a letter to Philemon for him.
- » Paul asked Philemon to welcome Onesimus and to treat him like a brother.
- » Paul told Philemon that he was sending Onesimus to Philemon's home.
- » Paul told Philemon that he loved Onesimus.
- » Paul gave the letter to Onesimus to deliver to Philemon.
- » The letter Paul wrote is in the Bible.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- » Who was Paul's new friend?
- » What did Paul do to help Onesimus?
- » How did Paul ask Philemon to treat Onesimus?
- » Where can we find and read Paul's letter today?

EMPHASIZE THE LIFE POINT

- » Remark that the Bible helps people know what to do.

ROOM

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER(S)

DATE OF USE

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

The Bible teaches me right and wrong.

LIFE POINT

The Bible helps people know what to do.

UNIT VERSE

All God's words are true.
Psalms 119:160

WEEKLY VERSE

All that the Bible says is from God. *2 Timothy 3:16*

SING TOGETHER

Sing to the tune of “The More We Get Together”:

*The Bible helps people,
Helps people,
Helps people.
The Bible helps people,
To know what to do.*

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Comment that God told Paul what to write in his letter to Philemon and we can read those words in the Bible. Invite a child to help you open the Bible to 2 Timothy 3:16. Read the verse. Say that all the words in the Bible are from God and they teach people what is right and wrong.

PRAY

Lead the boys and girls to bow their heads and think about God as you pray. Thank God for the Bible and the way its words teach people right and wrong. Ask God to help the children know that the Bible is true and learn what the Bible says.

BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Emphasize: The Bible helps people know what to do.

- 1. Play out family life.** Set up a dollhouse and arrange people figures in it. Suggest the children play out living together as a family. Mention that in today’s Bible story, Paul wrote a letter to Philemon and asked Philemon to treat his friend Onesimus like he was part of the family. Remark that the Bible helps people know what to do.
- 2. Sort mail.** Write each word of the Bible verse on the outside of individual envelopes. Make one set with a blue marker, a second set in red, and a third in green. Mix the envelopes and place them in a basket. Lead the boys and girls to sort the envelopes by color into three piles. Open a Bible to 2 Timothy 3:16 and read the verse. Help the children arrange a pile of envelopes to discover the verse. Challenge the children to arrange the other two piles. Read the verse several times as they work.

3. Decorate a booklet. Fold two or three pieces of copy paper in half and bind with staples to make a booklet. Write the Life Point on the cover and give a booklet to each child. Offer colored pencils or other drawing materials and suggest the children draw pictures of ways the Bible helps them know what to do. Prompt the boys and girls to think of times when they were kind, told the truth, or obeyed their parents.

4. Make up a handshake. Lead the children to form groups of two. Suggest they make up an original handshake or pat-a-cake pattern. Give the boys and girls some time to practice and ask them to show their new handshake to the group. Remark that people often greet each other by shaking hands. Comment that Paul asked Philemon to treat Onesimus like he was a brother. Speculate about whether the two men shook hands when Onesimus delivered Paul’s letter to Philemon.

CLEAN UP

Sing a clean-up song using these words to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”: “Clean, clean, clean the room; / Let’s all clean the room. / Work together, everyone, / the job will be done soon.”

MOVE THIS WAY

Draw a large arrow on a piece of heavyweight paper. Gather the children and show the arrow. Instruct the boys and girls to move across the room in the direction of the arrow. Rotate the paper and lead the children to quickly change directions. Occasionally, lower the paper and instruct the preschoolers to “stop!” Increase the speed as play continues. Remark that in the game, the arrow tells the players what to do, but in real life, the Bible helps people know what to do.

DISMISS

Help children gather their papers and belongings. Thank them for coming. Remind parents to review the Bible story on the Kids Activity Page.