

PAUL

WEEK 1 - ACCELERATE

WEEK 2 - GPS

WEEK 3 - PACK YOUR BAGS

WEEK 4 - DETOUR

WEEK 5 - EYE'S ON THE PRIZE

This five-week series follows the life of Paul! On every "Road Trip" there are ups and downs. There is an ultimate destination on any road trip, but it takes the right tools and the right vehicle to get there safely.

Paul's journey is probably one of the craziest of all! He persevered through so many trials. It was far from easy most of the time and even when he was at his lowest of lows, God gave him the strength to keep going. Nothing stopped him from preaching the Gospel and living out the call God had for his life.

Week 1 is about Paul's conversion. An encounter with God will always leave you changed! That's what happened to Paul. He went from persecuting Christians to becoming a Christian and preaching the Gospel.

Week 2 is all about knowing that God has a plan for your life. The only way we will be able to live out the call God has for us, is if we listen to Him and trust that He will guide us.

Week 3 looks at Paul's experiences on his various mission trips. He stopped at nothing to preach the name of Jesus.

Week 4 is about never giving up! Being stoned half to death, and chased out a city, could not stop Paul from continuing the work God had set out for him.

Week 5 teaches us about courage. Even in the midst of a horrific shipwreck, Paul never gave up. In fact, his courage encouraged those around him!

Week 1 Story

Two friends are getting ready to go on a road trip.

Opening Scene: Friend 2 arrives at his friend's house.

Friend 1: Hey! How you doing? You ready?

Friend 2: Bro, I was born ready!!

Friend 1: Awesome, there's just a few more things we need to do...

Friend 2: Cool what is it?

Friend 1: Follow me.

Friend 1 takes Friend 2 to his car...

Friend1: Well, this is our ride for the road trip.

Friend 2: Woah! What happened to it?

Friend 1: I lent my car to my brother and it came back like this.

Friend 2: And your brother? Where's he?

Friend 1: Disappeared shortly after handing the keys back to me...

Friend 2: (Laughs) I don't blame him. I also would have hidden far away if I brought your car back this dirty! (They both laugh.) So... what are we going to do?

Friend 1: (Pulls out a bucket of water and soap and cloths.)

Friend 2: (Takes bucket) When I find your brother... he better run!

The two friends get to cleaning the car. There is mud everywhere. They are soaked and exhausted, but the car is clean.

The next moment, the brother comes out.

Brother: (Walks to the car with an ice-cold coke in his hands) Wow! You guys did such a great job. Thanks so much! (Sarcastically)

Friend 2: Oh no you don't... (Runs after him)

The other friend laughs while his friend chases his brother. They both go out of shot and the friend appears drinking the brothers coke.

Friend 1: Are you happy now?

Friend 2: For now, it'll do.

Friend 1: Well at least the car is clean, and we can get packing!

Friend 2: So keen! It doesn't even look like the same car anymore!

Friend 1: You're right hey! It's a total transformation. We're going to look so lit on the road.

Friend 2: Are you packed by the way?

Friend 1: Um... sort of... Are you?

Friend 2: Bro! My bags are ready to be packed in the car!

Friend 1: Okay... give me 10 minutes and I'll be done!

Friend 2: Don't forget your tooth brush like last time, we are NOT sharing again!

MC WRAP UP:

Let's look at Paul - Just like the dirty car needed a transformation before it could head off on its journey, Paul started his journey with a massive transformation too!

Paul wasn't always called Paul, he used to be known as Saul. Now Saul was rough! He hated Christians and did everything he could to get rid of them. He mocked them, beat them, threw them in prison and even had many killed. Any Christian he came across was in serious trouble because Saul was out to persecute every one of them.

But this all changed one day. Saul was travelling to Damascus to find more Christians to persecute. When he'd almost reached Damascus, a bright light from heaven flashed all around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice: "Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?" Saul asked who just spoke to him and the voice replied saying, "I am Jesus", and then told Saul to go into the city where he would be told what to do.

Saul got up from the ground but couldn't see when he opened his eyes. Someone led him by the hand to Damascus, and for three days he was blind and did not eat or drink. A follower of Jesus, named Ananias was given a vision by God to go find Saul. Ananias knew about Saul and what he did and was quite nervous at the idea, but God told Ananias that he had chosen Saul to preach the Gospel to many people. He was going to show Saul how much he would have to suffer for Him.

Ananias went to find Saul and when he did, he prayed for him, and he could see again! Immediately after that, he got up and was baptized. Saul stayed in Damascus and grew close to the other Christians there. He learnt a lot from them and it wasn't long before he was preaching and teaching people about Jesus. Everyone was amazed! They couldn't believe this was the same person that had hated them so much.

God changed Saul's name to Paul and Paul began walking out the call God had for his life. The name Saul means "asked for" and the name Paul means "small" or "humble". When God changed Saul's name to Paul, He was changing his whole identity. It was only once Paul met Jesus that his life changed. A true encounter with Jesus will always leave us changed. We too get a new name when we give our lives to Christ. Our identity changes from "sinner" to "Christian" - which means "follower of Christ". Have you found your new identity in Christ?

Week 2 Story

The two friends begin packing the car.

Opening Scene: Friend 1 comes out the house with all his bags.

Friend 1: Okay, I think I'm ready to go!

Friend 2: You pack like a girl! What is in all those bags? Where are we going to put them all?

Friend 1: Listen, I've only packed the important things...

Friend 2: How many important things do you have?? I literally have this one bag! (He holds up his one small back pack.)

Friend 1: Don't complain when you run out of clothes or deodorant.

Friend 2: I'm pretty sure you packed enough clothes and deodorant for both of us – and everyone we meet along the way.

Friend 1: Calm down, I'll leave this one behind. (He puts a bag down)

Friend 2: What was in that one?

Friend 1: My X-box...

Friend 2: Why would you need an X-box on a road trip??

Friend 1: You never know.

Friend 2: Okay, well let's get this car packed!

The two friends begin packing the car. They squish bags and things in everywhere! They unpack and re-pack a couple of times to try get everything to fit. Eventually they get everything in.

Friend 1: Please don't kill me...

Friend 2: What is it?

Friend 1: I think my GPS is in one of the bags...

Friend 2: In the bags we just spent an hour packing?

Friend 1: Maybe...

Friend 2: Are you 100% sure?

Friend 1: Yup... I'm sure...

Friend 2: I think I'm going to cry...

Friend 1: Well we could just try go without it?

Friend 2: We get lost trying to find the bathroom in a mall, I don't think we'll get much further than the shop down the road without that GPS.

Friend 1: I suppose that only means one thing then...

Friend 2: We buy a new GPS??

Friend 1: Haha no! We need to unpack the car...

The two friends open the boot of the car and all the luggage falls on top of them. They eventually find the bag with the GPS. They both sit completely exhausted on the floor leaning against the car.

Friend 1: Well at least we have it now.

Friend 2: You owe me big time!

Friend 1: Should we get this thing set up?

Friend 2: Let's do it, I'm so ready to get on the road and go.

Friend 1: Cool, I'll get this set up and you can get the snacks and cooldrinks ready.

Friend 2: (Stares at his friend in silence)

Friend 1: What?... Don't tell me...?

Friend 2: I'm afraid so...

Friend 1 & 2: (They both look at the boot, fall to their knees and cry out)

NOOOOOOO!!!!

MC WRAP UP:

In our story today, we saw how the two friends knew how important the GPS was. Without that they wouldn't be going anywhere. They had a long journey ahead of them and there was no way they'd make it to the end without it. In our Christian walk it's very similar. Without the right guidance, we won't reach our destination and we won't walk into the plans God has for us.

In Acts 13 we see how Paul is called by the Holy Spirit. Paul had been preaching a lot, but on one occasion when Paul and his friend Barnabas, along with other prophets and teachers, were worshipping the Lord, the Holy Spirit told them that the Lord had appointed Paul and Barnabas to do a specific work. Everyone prayed for them and then sent them on their way. From there on out, their ministry spread even further. They left all their comforts behind and set out on the journey God had called them to. It wasn't going to be easy, but the Holy Spirit would guide them.

We too have been appointed for a specific work. We need to ask the Holy Spirit for guidance so that we know where we're going and what we're doing. Without Jesus and the Holy Spirit, we will wander aimlessly through life with very little purpose, but when we listen to His voice and seek Him in all our decisions, we can trust that He will always be with us. No one is saying it will be easy, but it'll always be worth it.

Week 3 Story

The two friends set off on their adventure.

Opening Scene: They're both in the car, ready to go.

Friend 1: I think we're finally ready!

Friend 2: I think so too!

Friend 1: Cooldrinks?

Friend 2: Check!

Friend 1: Speckled Eggs?

Friend 2: Check!

Friend 1: Sour worms?

Friend 2: Check!

Friend 1: Last night's pizza?

Friend 2: Definitely check!

Friend 1: Music playlist?

Friend 2: Of course!

Friend 1: Well then, I think we're all set to go!

The friends begin driving down the road. They're singing along to the music and having a good time. They barely make it to the highway when suddenly, the car begins to jerk and then cuts out.

Friend 1: You have got to be joking.

Friend 2: What do you think it is?

Friend 1: No idea...

Friend 2: It's not like we could have run out of petrol already... unless... you didn't fill up yet...? Please tell me that's not the case?

Friend 1: Of course not. The petrol gauge says... empty... oops.

Friend 2: What do you mean oops?

Friend 1: (Whispers) We're out of petrol.

Friend 2: Now what?

Friend 1: You'll need to run to the petrol station over there and get some petrol to put it in the car.

Friend 2: Me?

Friend 1: Yes you.

Friend 2: Why me?

Friend 1: Because I'm the driver and so I can't leave the car.

Friend 2: I can't believe I'm going to do this.

Friend 2 grabs a container and walks to the petrol station up the road. It's hot outside so he's sweating! When he gets to the petrol station, the attendant asks what petrol he wants. He doesn't know so he walks back to the car. He is dripping with sweat.

Friend 1: (Looks excited) Ah! You're back so soon!

Friend 2: Well not quite... I forgot to ask what petrol the car takes...

Friend 1: Unleaded.

Friend 2: (Looking defeated) Thanks...

He makes his way back to the petrol station, gets the petrol and walks back to the car. They put the petrol in the car and head off to fill up.

Friend 2: Let's hope there are no more hiccups along the way! We do have a spare tyre, right?

Friend 1: (Hesitant) Yes... I'm pretty sure we do...

They drive off and hope for the best!

MC WRAP UP

Without petrol, the car wouldn't go anywhere, and their journey was put on hold for a while. In a similar way, sometimes there are hiccups along our Christian walk, but we can't let these keep us down for too long. There is a journey ahead of us and we need to keep going if we want to walk in the plans God has for us to live a life that glorifies Him. The number one plan for us is to spread the Gospel.

Now Paul knew that without the guidance and strength from the Holy Spirit he would achieve nothing. He had plenty hiccups along his journey, but he never let those get in the way of the Gospel being spread. Paul was chased away from many cities and many times he was lucky to have left alive. He was thrown in prison many times and beaten more times than he could count. He was once stoned so badly that he was dragged out of the city because they thought he was dead. On another occasion, they were shipwrecked. In fact, they were always in danger with rough rivers and robbers. He even got bitten by a snake once! Paul was always in some sort of danger and many times he was in a lot of pain. He didn't always have access to food and water or even clothes for that matter! But despite all these things, nothing could stop him from preaching Jesus everywhere he went! God had a plan for Paul and so He protected him through it all.

Remember, when God has a plan for your life, nothing or no one can drag you down unless you allow them too. No matter what obstacles come your way, you can trust God to give you the strength to keep going and to keep fighting to see the lost saved. And remember, we do all of this through the power of the Holy Spirit. What we can do alone is nothing in comparison to what we can do with the Holy Spirit working in and through us.

Week 4 Story

The two friends continue their journey.

Opening scene: They're driving along, munching on snacks and singing along to the music which is playing loud.

Friend 1: (Trying to shout over the music) Hey! Can you hear that?

Friend 2: Hear what?

Friend 1: That sound?

Friend 2: What does it sound like?

Friend 1: I'm not sure, like a doo do doo do noise?

Friend 2: Nah, I think you're imaging things.

Friend 1: I don't think I am. (He turns down the music and slows down)

Friend 2: Okay, now I hear it... it doesn't sound too good at all.

Friend 1: I'm going to pull over and look.

They pull over to the side of the road. They discover they have a flat.

Friend 1: (Sarcastically) Well this is just fantastic.

Friend 2: You're telling me...

Friend 1: So... Any idea how to change a tyre?

Friend 2: I've changed one once... well, kinda. It can't be too difficult.

Friend 1: We could just call for help?

Friend 2: No ways, we've got this! You did say there was a spare tyre?

Friend 1: Yes... it's just not that easy to get to right now.

Friend 2: Shotgun NOT unpacking the boot this time.

Friend 1: Fine...

Friend 2: Is the tyre there?

Friend 1: I think we may have forgotten it...

Friend 2: WHAT!?

Friend 1: Jokes! Here it is!

Friend 2: And the spanner and jack?

Friend 1: These?

Friend 2: Yup, bring them here and come help me.

The two boys attempt to change the tyre. They get a bit confused along the way but eventually they get it and are proud of themselves. They stand back and look at the tyre once they've changed it.

Friend 2: Now let's just hope it doesn't fall off when we start to drive.

Friend 1: Let's not even joke about that. I'm beginning to think we should just turn back and camp out in the garden for a couple nights?

Friend 2: No ways! We've already come this far, we can't give up now. And besides, we haven't packed and unpacked this boot this many times for nothing!

Friend 1: Good point, let's go!

The friends get back into the car and continue their road trip.

MC WRAP UP:

It seems our two friends ran into a bit of trouble today with their flat tyre. With a journey, you never know what could happen. It's a good thing they were prepared with a spare tyre. What also helped them was their attitude towards it. Even though at one point the one friend wanted to give up, the other friend encouraged him to keep going.

Our Christian walk is very similar, and we see that often in the life of Paul. Things are going to go wrong and sometimes these things are very unexpected too, but we need to choose whether we allow the detours to get us down, or if we will keep our chins up and keep going.

Paul suffered many hardships, and on one occasion, almost died! It started one day when Paul was talking with a man who was paralysed. He asked this man if he knew that Jesus could heal him. The man believed and at that moment, he got up and began walking. When the crowds saw what had happened, they began cheering and started saying that Paul and Barnabas were gods. They insisted on making a sacrifice to honour them. Paul and Barnabas were horrified when they heard this and tried to calm them down. They told the people that they were only human and that it was Jesus who healed the man. But the people refused to listen. When some of the Jewish leaders heard the commotion, they came to the scene and started turning the people against Paul and Barnabas. They began stoning Paul until he was barely alive. They dragged him out of the city thinking he was dead. Some of the Lord's followers gathered around him until he came around. Paul stood up and the next day they left for Derbe, where they continued to preach the Gospel.

Even though Paul was stoned so badly and thought to be dead, he still got up and continued his journey! This is a true example of someone NEVER GIVING UP! No matter what happened to him, he wouldn't let it stop him. How often do we give up so easily? How often do we make excuses for not doing something God has asked us to do? If we look at Paul's life it should encourage us to never give up, no matter how bad a situation might be. Paul understood the call on his life and the only thing bigger than that call was God Himself!

Week 5 Story

They continue their road trip. They enjoy the sights along the way.

Opening Scene: As they're driving along the road, they get pulled over by the cops.

Friend 2: Oh boy, this doesn't look good...

Friend 1: Don't worry, it's probably just one of those general checks.

Friend 2: You've got all that you need right?

Friend 1: Yup, right here! (He confidently pulls out his driver's license)

Friend 2: Okay so this should be pretty chilled then.

Friend 1: Nothing to worry about.

The friends pull over to the side of the road where the cops are. The cop asks the driver to step out of the vehicle.

Cop: Sorry Sir, I need you to step out of your vehicle.

Friend 1: Um, okay, is something wrong? Here's my driver's license.

Cop: Please Sir, anything you say or do can be used against you in a court of law.

Friend 1: I don't understand what's happening here?

Friend 2: (Talks to the cop) Sorry Sir is something wrong?

Cop: Be quiet.

Friend 1: What's happening?

The cop makes him stand facing his car as he hand cuffs him.

Friend 1: I really don't understand what's going on? I haven't done anything wrong? I've stuck to the speed limit and my license is in order.

Cop: Don't try act all innocent here. The camera footage showed your face robbing the sweet shop down the road.

Friend 1: I know I like sweets a lot, but I didn't rob a sweet store. My friend and I are just going on a fun road trip, we don't mean trouble.

Cop: You can tell that to the boss when we get to the station.

Friend 2: Wait, you can't leave me here!

Cop: Don't worry, you're coming with. You were his side kick.

Friend 2: This is so messed up.

Cop: Alright, let's not waste any time boys, into the car.

The cop leads the boys to his police car. As they are about to get in, someone calls the cop on his radio. He talks with them for a couple moments and then looks back at the boys.

Cops: Well, it seems there has been some misunderstanding here. You boys are free to go. They caught the real suspect.

Both friends sigh in relief as the cop takes off the hand cuffs and sends them back to their car.

Friend 1: Well that was fun...

Friend 2: I'm so glad they found the actual guy or else we may have taken a massive detour and spent a night in prison!

Friend 1: That would have been super scary! Can you even imagine!

Friend 2: You ready to get back on the road?

Friend 1: So ready! And let's hope its smooth sailing from here on out. I don't think I can take another thing going wrong!

Friend 2: Me neither, let's go!

MC WRAP UP:

These two friends have certainly had their fair share of ups and downs! Paul and Barnabas are no different! In today's story, we see how they were shipwrecked and yet still didn't give up! In fact, Paul was shipwrecked 3 times.

At the time of this shipwreck, Paul had been a prisoner for two years in Caesarea. He and some other prisoners were put on a boat going to Rome to stand before Caesar. When they passed the island of Crete, a terrible storm hit them. For many days they were lost out at sea and most of the people on the boat had lost hope. Paul said to them that no one would lose their life; only the boat would be lost. He told them that an angel told him that God would save them all. At about midnight on the 14th day after the storm began, the sailors noticed that the water levels were dropping! They feared the boat might smash into some rocks and so they dropped their anchors. The next morning, they saw a bay and decided to sail the boat to the beach there.

When they got closer to shore, the boat hit a sandbank. The waves began to smash it, and the boat started to break into pieces. The soldiers plan was to kill the prisoners - including Paul - but the officer in charge wanted to save Paul's life and so he stopped the soldier from carrying out his plans and told those who could swim to jump out and swim to shore and those that couldn't swim, to jump out and grab pieces from the boat to hold onto. And so it was, they got to land safely!

Paul stopped at nothing to tell people about Jesus - no matter how bad things got! Even when he was in the worst place ever, he kept preaching! He had courage and knew that God was with him every step of the journey. Are we willing to be bold and courageous for the Gospel? Do we have our eye's on the prize and do we understand the massive call on our lives to be on mission for Jesus?

BIG GROUP GAMES

WEEK 1 - NO-HANDS PUDDING EATING RACE

Prepare instant pudding the night before and have volunteers compete to see who can finish their bowl first!

WHAT YOU NEED:

-Instant pudding



WEEK 2 - TUG OF WAR

You know how this game goes!

Select an even number of kids for each side and see which group can pull the other group past the mark you set.

WHAT YOU NEED:

-Rope

-Something to act
as a marker



WEEK 3 - GET THE OBJECT!

You call out a common (relatively easy-to-find) object. The first team to bring you that object wins a point for their team. Each team can only bring up items that they have on them. The first team that earns 10 points wins the game.

Alternatively, instead of having a list of items to call out, you can ask each team to find an item for the different letters of the alphabet.

WEEK 4 - LOOK UP, LOOK DOWN

- Get kids to stand in a circle of 15-20 people.
- Ask everyone to look down
- When the leader says "look up" everyone must look up and immediately look at someone else in the circle. If two people are looking at each other, they must both say "HEY" and step out of the circle.
- Those that did not make eye contact with anyone continue to stare until the leader says, "Look down".
- The game continues until there are only 2 or 3 people left in the circle.

WEEK 5 - FOOT VOLLEYBALL

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Rope/string
- Balloons

Divide your kids in half so that you have two teams.

- Everyone needs to be on their hands and feet with their stomachs facing up.
- The normal rules of volley ball apply except that they can only use their feet to kick the balloon across.
- Add more balloons to make it more exciting and change the kids' positions around so everyone gets a turn.



Week 1 - ACCELERATE (0-3)

Memory Verse: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

2 Corinthians 5:17

Story: Saul becomes Paul

Scripture: Acts 8:1-3 & 9:1-19

Bottom Line: When we accept Jesus as our Saviour, our lives are changed forever.

ACTIVITY	MATERIALS NEEDED
<p>STEERING WHEEL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Cut out the middle of a paper plate and paint the outside circle black.-Cut two strips of black paper to form the centre.-Cut out an octagon from the leftover plate to form the centre of the steering wheel. Write “Jesus” on it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper plate• Black paper• Colouring materials 

SMALL GROUP TIME

OPENING DISCUSSION:

- Chat with your group about the different vehicles and modes of transport they've been on. (Car, bus, boat, aeroplane, etc.)
- Which one was your favourite? Why?
- What is it that makes the vehicle go? (The engine)
- What would happen if there was no engine? (The vehicle wouldn't be able to go anywhere.)

JESUS IS OUR ENGINE!

- How do you think Jesus is our engine? (Just like a car needs an engine to drive, we need Jesus if we want to live the life He's called us to - the good times and the more difficult times.)
- What would happen if we didn't have Jesus? (We would be like a car with no engine; we would have no purpose.)
- How do we make sure that we have Jesus as our engine? (We ask Him to live in our hearts and make us children of God.)
- Have you asked Jesus to come live in your heart? Is Jesus your engine?

FROM SAUL TO PAUL:

Today we learnt that Paul used to be called Saul. He used to kill Christians and put them in jail. He was not a very nice man.

- Do you think that Saul had Jesus as his engine? (No)
- Why not? (He wasn't living the life Jesus wanted for Him.)
- What happened when Jesus became his engine? (His life changed completely.)
- How did his life change? (Instead of killing Christians, he began telling people about Jesus.)

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

- When we meet Jesus, we change for the better! Just like Saul was changed, we too are changed when we give our lives to Jesus.
- How does Jesus change us? (He helps us to be a better person. He helps us to love everyone and to be kind to them. He teaches us how we get to show people who Jesus is by the way in which we act.)
- Have you been changed by Jesus?

Week 1 - ACCELERATE (4-7)

Memory Verse: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

Story: Saul becomes Paul

Scripture: Acts 8:1-3 & 9:1-19

Bottom Line: When we accept Jesus as our Saviour, our lives are changed forever.

ACTIVITY	MATERIALS NEEDED
<p>GLASSES</p> <p>-Using pipe cleaners, make glasses as seen in the picture below.</p> <p>-Using one pipe cleaner, make two circles, and using another one, create the ear pieces by cutting it in half and attaching it to the lenses.</p> <p>When Saul encountered Jesus, the light was so bright that it blinded him for 3 days! Let these glasses serve as a reminder of that.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pipe cleaners (2 per child)• Scissors
	

SMALL GROUP TIME

OPENING DISCUSSION:

- Chat with your group about the different vehicles and modes of transport they've been on. (Car, bus, boat, aeroplane, etc.)
- Which one was your favourite? Why?
- What is it that makes the vehicle go? (The engine)
- What would happen if there was no engine?

WHAT IS OUR ENGINE?

- Just like a car or any vehicle needs an engine to run, what do we need? (Jesus)
- Without Jesus we are like a car with no engine; we're not going anywhere meaningful and we have no purpose.

FROM SAUL TO PAUL:

Paul wasn't always called Paul; he was originally called Saul. When he met Jesus, he was changed! Before Jesus was his engine, his life was going nowhere good, but when he met Jesus, he had purpose!

PAUL BEFORE JESUS:

- Saul hated and persecuted Christians; killing many.
- He threatened Christians, troubled the church and threw all believers, he came across, into prison.

PAUL IS CHANGED:

- Recap what happened when Saul encountered Jesus on his way to Damascus. (Acts 9:3-9)
- How did Saul change after meeting Jesus? (He went from killing Christians, to telling people about Jesus.)

HAS GOD CHANGED YOU?

- Have you ENCOUNTERED Jesus and been CHANGED by Him?
- Pray with kids in your group who haven't accepted Jesus as their "engine" and encourage those who have to share their stories of how God has changed them and given them purpose!

Week 2 - GPS (0-3)

Memory Verse: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

Story: Paul is chosen

Scripture: Acts 13:1-3

Bottom Line: God has great plans for your life.

ACTIVITY	MATERIALS NEEDED
<p>PEG CARS</p> <p>-Break a peg in half and take out the spring.</p> <p>-Give each child a half and have them paint it to look like a car.</p> <p>-Once they have done that and the paint is mostly dry, glue buttons or large beads onto either side to make wheels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pegs• Paint• Paint brushes• Buttons/beads  

SMALL GROUP TIME

OPENING DISCUSSION:

LET'S ROADTRIP FOR A BIT...

- Who likes going on long car rides?
- Who really dislikes them?
- Why?
- Think about a time you went on a long car ride; where were you going?
- What things/games do you like to play to help make the long ride a bit less boring?
- Did you trust that the person driving you would get you to where you were going safely?
- Have you ever been in the car when you've got really lost?
- What can we use to help us with directions? (Map, GPS.)

PAUL IS CHOSEN

READ ACTS 13:2-3

"While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off."

- God chooses to use Paul and Barnabas to leave their church and their homes to go out and preach the Gospel.
- When the church sent Paul and Barnabas, did they give them a map or GPS telling them where to go? (No)
- How would you feel if you were Paul and Barnabas and had no idea where you were going next?
- What would guide them as they went on their way? (The Holy Spirit)

YOU ARE CHOSEN

- Do you know that God has great things planned for your life just like Paul and Barnabas?
- What do you think these could be?
- What is the biggest plan God has for us? (To live as children of God)
- How do we do that?
- Are you living for Jesus and walking out the biggest plan He has for you?

Week 2 - GPS (4-7)

Memory Verse: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

Story: Paul is chosen

Scripture: Acts 13:1-3

Bottom Line: God has great plans for your life.

ACTIVITY	MATERIALS NEEDED
<p>PEG CARS</p> <p>-Give each child a peg to paint.</p> <p>-Make the wheels by inserting a sosati stick through a straw and securing each end to a button. Make sure to cut the sosati stick so that the wheels only stick out about half a centimetre on either side of the peg.</p> <p>-Secure the wheels to the pegs. Only glue the back wheels – the peg will hold the front wheels in place.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pegs• Paint• Paint brushes• Straws• Sosati Sticks• Buttons• Craft Glue  

SMALL GROUP TIME

OPENING DISCUSSION

- Who likes going on long car/bus rides?
- What do you do in the car on these long rides to kill time? (Play games? Sleep?)
- Do you trust that the person driving will get you to your destination safely? Why or why not?
- Have you ever got really lost while going somewhere?
- Has there been a time when you got in a vehicle and had no idea where you were going? How did you feel?
- What helps us with directions? (A map/GPS)

PAUL IS CHOSEN:

READ ACTS 13:2-3

"While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off."

Let's break this scripture up:

1. "the Holy Spirit said"...
- They didn't go just because they felt like it; they went because the Holy Spirit had spoken to them.
2. "Set apart for me"...
- This meant that they had to commit their whole lives to God and not be distracted by other things.
3. "for the work to which I have called them"...
- God had specific plans for these two men. He had called them to visit many places and preach the Gospel.

LESSONS FROM PAUL & BARNABAS:

- When the Holy Spirit sent them, did He give them a map or GPS? No
- How would they know where to go? (They would need to listen to Him and trust Him.)
- Do you know that God has great things planned for your life too?
- What do you think these could be?
- What is the biggest plan God has for us? (To live as children of God)
- Are you living for Jesus and walking out the plans He has for you?
- Spend time praying with your group about the plans they feel God has for their lives.

Week 3 - PACK YOUR BAGS (0-3)

Memory Verse: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

Story: Paul preaches the Gospel

Scripture: Acts

Bottom Line: God uses us to reach the lost.

ACTIVITY	MATERIALS NEEDED
<p>GOSPEL BAGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Give each child a brown paper bag.-Using the paint, have them stamp their finger prints all over the bag and make them into people by giving them arms, legs and faces.-This is to represent all the people that God has called us to reach and share the Gospel with.-You can even write the names of people on the bag that you want to tell about Jesus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brown Paper bags• Paint• Koki's 

SMALL GROUP TIME

OPENING DISCUSSION:

-Have you ever gone away to stay somewhere other than your home? Maybe to a family members house or possibly even a holiday somewhere? Maybe even a school camp or a sleepover at a friend's house?

-What were some of the things you packed?

-Have you ever forgotten to pack something that you really needed? Maybe you forgot your tooth brush or your socks?

-What is something you never leave home without?

-Have you ever heard someone say they're going on a mission trip? Maybe someone at church spoke about it or maybe your parents or someone you know has gone on one. Do you know what a mission trip is? Has anyone here ever been on one?

ON MISSION!

1. WE LOVE JESUS & HAVE CHOSEN TO FOLLOW HIM.

-What does it mean to follow Jesus? (We follow His example.)

-What is the biggest thing Jesus asks us to do? (Love others)

-How do you show people the love of Jesus? (Chat with your kids about how they can show the love of Jesus to family/friends)

2. SHARE THE GOSPEL

-Another way of showing people the love of God is to tell them about Jesus. There are some people who have never heard about Jesus.

-Have you ever told someone about Jesus?

-Why do you think it's so important that we tell people about Jesus? (So that they too can be saved and live a life full of God's blessings.)

3. GO!

-Where can we be on mission for Jesus and tell people about him? (Chat about sharing their faith wherever they are - home, school, a friend's house, etc. They can be on mission right where they are)

-Do you know that you can even travel further than your city to tell people about Jesus? (Chat about mission trips to other cities, countries and even continents! There's no limit to sharing the Gospel!)

Week 3 - PACK YOUR BAGS (4-7)

Memory Verse: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

Story: Paul preaches the Gospel

Scripture: Acts

Bottom Line: God uses us to reach the lost.

ACTIVITY	MATERIALS NEEDED
<p>GOSPEL BAGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Fold your sheet of card in half, short end to short end. Unfold and lay flat.-Make finger paint marks in a mixture of colours over your card.-Using a glue stick to stick the sides of the bag together/staple the sides.-Punch two holes in the top of the bag-Thread a strip of ribbon through and tie.-This is to represent all the people that God has called us to reach and share the Gospel with.-Write the names of people on the bag that you want to tell about Jesus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A4 white paper• Ribbon• Punch• Paint• Glue & Scissors
	

SMALL GROUP TIME

OPENING DISCUSSION:

- Who here has ever gone away somewhere - family's house, friends house, school camp, holiday - and had to pack their own bag?
- What are some of the most important things you need to pack when you go away?
- Have you ever arrived at your destination and realized you forgot to pack in something really important? Maybe something like a tooth brush or your socks?
- What is the one thing you never leave home without?
- Who here enjoys going away and spending a night or a few nights somewhere other than your home? Why? Why not?
- Has anyone ever heard someone going away on a mission trip?
- Do you know what a mission trip is?
- Have you ever gone on a mission trip? (Allow them to share stories if they've been on a mission trip or if they know someone who has. It would be great to share a story of your own.)

READ THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES:

- *John 17:18*
- *John 20:21*

- Chat with your group about what they understand by these scriptures?
- Who is the one being sent? (Us)
- Who is the one sending us? (God)
- Why is He sending us? And what is He wanting us to do? (To spread the Gospel to the lost)

BEING ON MISSION!

Chat with your group about being on mission. We can be on mission right where we are - in our school, our homes, etc. and we can go to other places and countries to tell people about Jesus.

WHY MISSION?

- Why is it important for us to be on mission and go on missions? (Many people have never heard about Jesus.)
- Being on mission is the example Jesus set for us! He came to earth because He loved people too much to see them die. We need to have the same heart in the way we love people and want to see them come to know Jesus so they can live a life full of His love and blessing.

Week 4 - DETOUR (0-3)

Memory Verse: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

Story: Paul is chased from the city

Scripture: Acts 14:8-20

Bottom Line: Failing is okay, but don't give up!

ACTIVITY	MATERIALS NEEDED
<p>OBJECT LESSON (Test this out before you do it!)</p> <p>-For the younger kids, do the object lesson for them and let them watch as you explain.</p> <p>-Blow up a balloon.</p> <p>-Place some Vaseline on a spot on the balloon where you plan to poke the sosati stick through</p> <p>-Push the stick through the balloon.</p> <p>-To avoid popping, push the stick through the tip of the balloon where it is thicker and out where you tie it.</p> <p>*Explain that even when things are painful or it feels like we're going nowhere, if we have God, we'll be okay. It will still be difficult, but he'll keep us from "popping" in tough situations.</p> <p>-Give each child their own balloon to blow up. Have them write the memory verse on it (Help them if needed) and let them take it home to serve as a reminder.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Balloons• Vaseline• Sosati sticks 

SMALL GROUP TIME

OPENING DISCUSSION:

- Have you ever been in a car when it's got a puncture or broken down?
- Can you remember where you were on your way to?
- How was the puncture or the problem solved?
- Did this delay your journey quite a bit?
- Did you eventually get to your destination when the problem was fixed? Maybe someone even came and gave you a lift?
- How did you feel when you were just sitting there not knowing what was going to happen or when you would get going again?
- Did your parents or the people you were with just give up and decide you would sleep the night on the side of the road? (No, they probably made a plan; even if it meant walking home!)

LET'S LOOK AT PAUL:

- What happened to Paul in the story today? (He was chased from the city and stoned half to death)
- How do you think Paul felt when everything seemed to be against him and seemed to be going wrong?
- Did he give up? (No.)
- What do you think would have happened if he gave up? (Many people wouldn't have heard the Gospel)

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO GIVE UP?

Think about a time you just couldn't get something right - maybe it was something at school, like a Maths question or a word that was really difficult to spell?

- How did you feel?
- What did you do? Did you keep trying? Or did you give up? How did you feel when you persevered and finally got it?

Now... have you ever tried to tell a friend about Jesus but they just didn't want to listen? Or maybe you tried really hard to love someone and to be their friend but they didn't seem to care?

- What should we do when something like this happens? (We keep loving them, praying for them and treating them with kindness.)
- And most importantly, NEVER GIVE UP :)

Week 4 - DETOUR (4-7)

Memory Verse: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

Story: Paul is chased from the city

Scripture: Acts 14:8-20

Bottom Line: Failing is okay, but don't give up!

ACTIVITY	MATERIALS NEEDED
<p>OBJECT LESSON (Test this out before you do it!)</p> <p>-Have each person blow up a balloon.</p> <p>-Then give everyone a sosati stick and Vaseline.</p> <p>-Place some Vaseline on a spot on the balloon where you plan to poke the sosati stick through</p> <p>-Push the stick through the balloon.</p> <p>-See if they can get it right.</p> <p>-To avoid popping, push the stick through the tip of the balloon where it is thicker and out where you tie it.</p> <p>*Explain that even when things are painful, or it feels like we're going nowhere, if we have God, we'll be okay. It will still be difficult, but he'll keep us from "popping" in tough situations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Balloons• Vaseline• Sosati sticks 

Week 5 - EYE'S ON THE PRIZE (0-3)

Memory Verse: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

Story: Paul is shipwrecked

Scripture: Acts 27:13-44

Bottom Line: To survive the journey, we need God's courage.

ACTIVITY	MATERIALS NEEDED
<p>POOL NOODLE BOAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Give each child a "slice" of pool noodle-Using the point of your scissors poke a small hole for your straw.-Cut triangles from the cardboard. They should be about 10cm tall.-Punch a hole in the top and bottom of your triangles & thread your straw through your holes-Insert your straw into your hole you created in the pool noodle-Toss your boats in some water and watch them sail!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pool Noodle cut into thin rings• Straw• Cardboard• Colouring materials 

SMALL GROUP TIME

OPENING DISCUSSION:

Ask your group if anyone has ever been on a boat? Maybe it was a small row boat or canoe? Or maybe it was a really big ship?

- Did you enjoy it?
- Have you ever felt sea sick?
- Have you ever fallen out of/off the side of a boat?

Maybe you've never been on a boat or anything like that, but have you ever been caught in a storm? Or have you ever watched a really bad storm from inside your house and been grateful that you're inside where it's safe and dry and you're not out in the rain and lightning?

- How do you feel about storms?
- How would you feel if you were in the middle of the sea on a boat and a massive storm came out of nowhere?
- What do you think you would do?

PAUL IS SHIPWRECKED!

- Remember in today's story we learnt about Paul getting shipwrecked.
- How do you think Paul was feeling?
- Why do you think Paul was able to stay brave through all of it? (He knew Jesus was with him)
- Why do you think Paul kept on going even though so many bad things had happened to him? (He was on mission for Jesus and wasn't going to let anything get in the way of that!)

OUR JOURNEY

- Just like Paul was on a journey to tell people about Jesus, we too are on our own journey's.
- Do our journeys have to look like Paul's? No, of course not.
- Is our journey always going to be easy?
- How can we stay brave and not give up? (We need to trust God and know that when we're on mission for Him, He will always protect us and guide us.)

Pray for God to give you courage to face every day and to be the best child of God you can be!

Week 5 - EYE'S ON THE PRIZE (4-7)

Memory Verse: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

Story: Paul is shipwrecked

Scripture: Acts 27:13-44

Bottom Line: To survive the journey, we need God's courage.

ACTIVITY	MATERIALS NEEDED
<p>GIRLS - MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Get every girl to find her own space and give her a small piece of paper, along with a small bottle. -On the paper, have her write down her dreams or thoughts God gives her - it can be ANYTHING! -Add some sand to the bottle and then add the piece of paper inside your bottle. -Close it with the cork/lid. -Tell your girls to open it a year from now and see what God has done in their lives since today. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small bottle with cork/lid • Small piece of paper • Sand • Ribbon • Writing materials <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div>
<p>GUYS - ANCHOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Colour in and cut out the anchor. -Wrap rope around it to decorate. -Let this serve as a reminder of the story today. Even when we feel "shipwrecked" we can know that God is always in control and with us through everything. Just as an anchor holds a boat in place, Jesus holds us when we feel shaky! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anchor template on cardboard. • Thin rope

SMALL GROUP TIME

LET'S RECAP...

1. Paul boards a ship on its way to Rome. He was a prisoner on this ship, but he wasn't alone, he had his friends with him.

2. At the time of this story, the winds were strong, and it was dangerous to be sailing. Paul suggested they wait it out, but they didn't listen. The wind began to blow very hard and made huge waves all around the ship. They were caught on the middle of a really bad storm that they couldn't get out of. Everyone began losing hope, but Paul told the men on board that God would save them. The Holy Spirit gave Paul courage and the ability to encourage others. Paul could have been gripped by his fears, but he believed God would save him.

3. The ship moved towards the beach. Just when everyone thought they were safe, the ship hit the sand and the crashing waves behind the ship began to break it. The soldiers wanted to kill the prisoners - that would mean Paul too - but Julius (the man in charge) told them not too. God was still protecting Paul through everything.

THIS IS WHAT PAUL SAYS... 2 Timothy 4:7-8

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

-Chat with your group about what this scripture means to them.

-Why was Paul able to push past all his setbacks? (He knew all of it was worth it to share the Gospel and that the reward at the end would be great. He understood his mission and wouldn't let anything get in the way of that.)

OUR JOURNEY

-Do you value your call just as much as Paul did?

-Will you risk everything to make sure that people hear about Jesus?

-Pray for courage to be able to "fight the good fight" and endure all the struggles along the way so that you can walk in God's plans for you.