

**SESSION 3**

Paul Taught in Athens

**BIBLE PASSAGE**

Acts 17:16-34

**LIFE POINT**

People can tell about God.

**CHRIST FOCUS**

Jesus taught people about God.

**LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING**

People who love God tell others all over the world about Him.

**SUGGESTED USE DATE:** May 17

**BIBLE VERSE**

We must tell what we have seen and heard about Jesus.  
Acts 4:20 (*Paraphrase*)

For we are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20 (*CSB*)

For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20 (*KJV*)

As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20 (*NIV*)

For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.  
Acts 4:20 (*ESV*)

For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20 (*NKJV*)

**SCHEDULE AND PROPS**

**Huddle Ups** (*optional; time varies*)

Props (*per each small group*):

- “God Created”—drawing paper, scissors, crayons or markers, masking tape
- “Paul Taught in Athens”—coloring supplies, coloring sheets
- “Whisper Bible Facts”—none

**Countdown Video** (*3 minutes*)

Props: none

**Worship Song** (*3 minutes*)

Props: none

**Welcome and Prayer** (*5 minutes*)

Props: none

**Miss Lindy’s Library**

(*3-5 minutes*)

Props: none

**Connection Point Game**

(*10 minutes*)

Props: none

**Worship Song** (*3 minutes*)

Props: none

**Bible Story** (*10 minutes*)

Props: Bible, teddy bear

**Worship Song and Offering**

(*3 minutes*)

Props: none

**Connection Point Bible Verse**

(*5-8 minutes*)

Props: none

**Connection Point Missions**

(*5-8 minutes*)

Props: none

**Real Life Connections**

(*3-5 minutes*)

Props: none

**MUSIC AND MEDIA**

- **Countdown:** *Countdown* video
- **Worship Song:** “Tell the World About Jesus”
- **Welcome and Prayer:** *Life Point* and *Bible Verse* slides
- **Miss Lindy’s Library:** *Miss Lindy’s Library* video
- **Connection Point Game:** *Connection Point Game* slide; “Tell the World About Jesus” or a worship song of your choice
- **Worship Song:** “The Step Song”
- **Bible Story:** *Bible Story* and *Christ Focus* slides; *Bible Story Time* video (*optional*)
- **Worship Song and Offering:** Worship song of your choice
- **Connection Point Bible Verse:** *Connection Point Bible Verse* and *Bible Verse* slides
- **Connection Point Missions:** *Connection Point Missions* slide; “Sharing the Story” missions video
- **Real Life Connections:** *Real Life Connections* and *Life Point* slides

## HUDDLE UPS (OPTIONAL)

Huddle Ups are for churches that have a drop-off time before the session begins or a pick-up time as parents arrive at the end of the session. It's a great time for interaction with a small group leader through games, conversations, or review questions. Play the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups and the beginning of the session.

- ➔ Estimated time: varies according to schedule
- ➔ Tech: none
- ➔ People: Small Group Leaders
- ➔ Supplies (*for each small group*):
  - “God Created”—paper, scissors, crayons or markers, masking tape
  - “Paul Taught in Athens”—coloring supplies, coloring sheets
  - “Whisper Bible Facts”—none

## **GOD CREATED**

*Prep: On a large sheet of paper write God Created. Place the sign on a wall or bulletin board. Cut the drawing paper into fourths so kids can make multiple drawings.*

- Provide each child paper and drawing supplies.
- Instruct each child to draw on his paper one thing God created, such as: people, animals, plants, the moon, and so on. (*Provide additional papers for children who have multiple ideas.*)
- Help kids label their drawings. Spell the words for older preschoolers or write the words for younger kids. (*Some older preschoolers may spell words phonetically, such as “tertul” instead of “turtle.” Accept their spellings.*)
- Suggest preschoolers place their drawings around the *God Created* sign.
- Mention that kids will hear a Bible story about a time when Paul told people that God is the Creator and the one true God.

## **PAUL TAUGHT IN ATHENS**

*Prep: Print a coloring sheet for each child.*

- Tell preschoolers they will hear a Bible story about Paul visiting the city of Athens. Explain that Paul told the people in Athens about God.

- Distribute coloring supplies and coloring sheets.
- Invite preschoolers to color their pages while they wait for the session to begin.

## **WHISPER BIBLE FACTS**

*Prep: none*

- Lead preschoolers to sit in a circle.
- Choose a child and whisper to him a fact from today's Bible.
- Encourage the child to whisper the fact to the person beside him.
- Guide kids to pass the message around the circle.
- Invite the last child to tell everyone the message. Correct the message as needed.
- Whisper another fact from the Bible story to a different child. Lead kids to whisper the message around the circle.
- Continue as your time allows.
- Use the following facts or make up your own:
  - Paul taught about God and Jesus.
  - Paul told people to worship God.
  - Paul said that God created the whole world.
  - Jesus is God's Son.
- Comment that today's Bible verse reminds us to tell what we have seen and heard about Jesus. Lead kids to say your preferred version.
- **Leader note for older preschoolers:** *If your time allows, encourage a child to whisper something she has heard about Jesus. Lead kids to pass the message around the circle. Correct as needed.*

## COUNTDOWN VIDEO

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Countdown* video
- ➔ People: none
- ➔ Props: none

*(Play countdown video to signal the beginning of worship time. Kids will count aloud as they join the large group.)*

**WORSHIP SONG**

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights (*optional*)
- ➔ Music: “Tell the World About Jesus” (*lead sheet available on DVD-ROM*) or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

**WORSHIP LEADER**

I’m excited to sing “Tell the World About Jesus!” Whom can YOU tell about Jesus? (*Allow for responses.*) That’s very good! Everyone needs to know about Jesus! Let’s sing!

(*Show the music video. Kids stand to sing.*)

**WELCOME AND PRAYER**

- ➔ Estimated time: 5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Life Point* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Bible Story Leader
- ➔ Props: none

**BIBLE STORY LEADER**

Look around the room with me. What do you see? (*Allow kids to respond.*)

Listen. What do you hear? (*Allow kids to respond.*)

Jesus’ helpers were so excited to tell others about Jesus. They could not stay quiet! They saw Jesus do amazing things and heard Him say important things about God. They wanted to tell people about the things they had seen and heard.

Pretend you were one of Jesus’ helpers. What would you see and hear? (*Allow kids to respond.*)

Today’s Bible verse is about telling with your mouth (*point to mouth*), seeing with your eyes (*point to eyes*), and listening with your ears (*point to ears*). I will say the Bible verse, and then we will say it together. (*Say the verse pointing to your mouth, eyes, and ears for the appropriate words.*)

(*Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.*)

(*Say the verse. Lead kids to repeat it after you.*)

**BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):**

- We must tell what we have seen and heard about Jesus. Acts 4:20 (*Paraphrase*)
- For we are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20 (*CSB*)
- For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20 (*KJV*)
- As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20 (*NIV*)
- For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20 (*ESV*)
- For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20 (*NKJV*)

(*Show Life Point Slide.*)

**People can tell about God.** Let’s say that together: **“People can tell about God.”**

Jesus’ helpers and Paul told many people about what Jesus said and did. Many of them wrote about the things that they saw and heard. We can read the words they wrote about Jesus in the Bible! Let’s thank God for the Bible and for sending Jesus.

*God, thank You for sending Jesus! Thank You for the Bible so we can learn about the things Jesus said and did. Thank You for our pastors, teachers, and families who tell us about Jesus, too. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.*

The Bible teaches us about Jesus. Our pastors, teachers, and families teach us about Jesus. I know another person who teaches us about Jesus. It’s Miss Lindy! Let’s visit her at the library.

**MISS LINDY’S LIBRARY**

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Miss Lindy’s Library* video (*optional*)
- ➔ People: none
- ➔ Props: none

(*Play the video.*)

## CONNECTION POINT GAME

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Game* slide
- ➔ Music: “Tell the World About Jesus” (*lead sheet available on DVD-ROM*) or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, all kids
- ➔ Props: none

### **GAME INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Play “Tell the World About Jesus” or other worship song of your choice.
- Lead kids to quietly move or dance along with the music.
- Pause the music and call out a direction for the kids to freeze like statues. (For example: “Freeze like a baseball player.”) Compliment preschoolers who follow directions well.
- Restart the music and encourage preschoolers to resume quietly moving to the music.
- Pause the music again and call a different statue idea. Repeat several times or as your time allows.
- Use the following ideas for statue poses or make up your own: baseball player, ballerina, elephant, basketball player, cat, skater, kangaroo, race car driver, airplane, tree.
- Guide children to be seated.

### **CONNECTION POINT LEADER**

(Show *Connection Point Game* slide.)

Today’s game is for everyone! Let’s play a game called “Statues.”

Stand up and spread out a little so you have room to move without bumping someone. Move quietly in your space while the music plays. When the music stops, I will name a way for you to freeze like a statue. For example, if I say: “Race car driver,” you could put your hands in front of you like you are holding onto the steering wheel. When the music begins, you can move again.

Does everyone understand how to play? (Answer any questions and play the game. Lead kids to sit.)

Today’s Bible story is about some statues that Paul saw in the city of Athens. Instead of worshiping God, the people in Athens worshiped the statues! Do you think that was a good choice? (*Allow children to respond.*) No, that was not a good choice. People should only worship God. We will hear what Paul said about the statues after we sing.

## WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights (*optional*)
- ➔ Music: “The Step Song” (*lead sheet available on DVD-ROM*) or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

### **WORSHIP LEADER**

We can tell what we know about Jesus! What is something you know about Jesus that you can tell someone? (*Allow for responses.*) We can tell that Jesus is God’s Son, and He loves people! That’s very good news! Let’s sing together.

(Show the music video.)

(Lead kids to sit as song ends.)

## BIBLE STORY

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Bible Story* and *Christ Focus* slides; *Bible Story Time* video (*optional*)
- ➔ People: Bible Story Leader
- ➔ Props: Bible, teddy bear

**Option 1:** Show the *Bible Story Time* video and conclude with a short prayer.

God, thank You for sending Jesus to teach us about You. Thank You that we can worship You, the one true God. Please help us tell others about You and Your Son, Jesus. We love You. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

**Option 2:** Tell the following Bible story.

**BIBLE STORY LEADER**

*(Show Bible Story slide.)*

I would like you to meet someone. This is my teddy bear, Patches! *(Show bear and move its arm to make it wave.)* Is Patches a REAL bear? *(Allow for responses.)* No, he isn't. He can't wave at you unless I move his arms. *(Make bear wave.)* He can't walk or eat. Patches can't sleep or roar. Patches is just a toy. *(Set bear aside.)*

Today's Bible story is about some people who had lots of questions about God. Instead of loving God and worshiping Him, the people worshiped statues called *idols*. The idols were not God. The idols could not do anything! They were just stone statues. The people needed to know about Jesus!

*(Open Bible to Acts 17.)*

Paul entered the city of Athens and saw many idols there. Paul was upset. He wanted the people to learn about Jesus and worship God. Paul began teaching about God and His Son, Jesus. Some of the people heard Paul's teaching and wondered about the things he said. The people wanted Paul to tell them more about Jesus.

*(Read Acts 17:19b-20.)*

**“May we learn about this new teaching you are [telling]? Because what you say sounds strange to us, and we want to know what these things mean.”**

Paul loved to teach about Jesus! Paul stood and told the people how he had seen the idols in the city. He explained that people should worship God and not idols!

*(Open Bible and read Acts 17:24a.)*

**The God who made the world and everything in it—he is Lord of heaven and earth.**

Paul told the crowd that God created the whole world. He answered the people's questions and told them about God and Jesus. Some people wanted to hear more about Jesus. Others believed that Jesus is God's Son!

*(Close Bible.)*

*(Show Christ Focus slide.)*

Paul told the people in Athens about God. Jesus told people about God, too. Jesus taught people how

to pray to God and how to obey Him. Jesus taught about God's kingdom and explained God's Word. Jesus talked to many people and helped them understand about God.

*(Pick up teddy bear.)* The idols in Athens were not God, just like Patches is not a REAL bear. The idols were only statues. Paul taught the people to love and worship God.

People who love God tell others about Him! The Bible teaches that God is real, and Jesus is God's Son. God listens to people pray, gives people the things they need, and knows everything! God loves people!

Let's pray together.

*God, thank You for sending Jesus to teach us about You. Thank You that we can worship You, the one true God. Please help us tell others about You and Your Son, Jesus. We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.*

**WORSHIP SONG AND OFFERING**

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: Use a favorite song or download a worship song of your choice.
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

**WORSHIP LEADER**

God is the one true God! He sent Jesus, His Son, to the earth because He loves us! That is good news! Let's stand and sing a song to thank God.

*Optional Giving Segment:*

It is time to collect an offering. Offerings help our church tell others about Jesus. If you would like to give an offering today, ... .

*(Give your own directions for how the kids can give their offerings. After collecting the offering, guide kids to stand for the worship song.)*

**CONNECTION POINT BIBLE VERSE**

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Bible Verse* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point leader, all kids
- ➔ Props: none

**ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:**

- *Select your preferred version of the Bible verse.*
- *Say the verse and encourage the kids to repeat it.*
- *Repeat the verse pointing to your mouth, eyes, and ears for the appropriate words.*
- *Guide the girls to say the verse and point to mouth, eyes, and ears. Invite the boys to take a turn. Lead all kids to say the verse together.*

**BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):**

- We must tell what we have seen and heard about Jesus. Acts 4:20 (*Paraphrase*)
- For we are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20 (*CSB*)
- For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20 (*KJV*)
- As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20 (*NIV*)
- For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20 (*ESV*)
- For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20 (*NKJV*)

**CONNECTION POINT LEADER**

*(Show Connection Point Bible Verse slide.)*

Paul told the people in Athens what he had seen and heard! He could not stop telling people about Jesus! He wanted to tell everyone. That reminds me of our Bible verse. Listen as I say the verse, and then we will say it together.

*(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)*

*(Say the verse. Lead kids to repeat it after you.)*

Do you remember the motions we used earlier? We pointed to our mouths, eyes, and ears. Let's practice!

*(Lead the activity.)*

**CONNECTION POINT MISSIONS**

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Missions* slide, "Sharing the Story" missions video
- ➔ People: Connection Point leader
- ➔ Props: none

**CONNECTION POINT LEADER**

*(Show Connection Point Missions slide and play the "Sharing the Story" missions video immediately following the Connection Point Bible Verse activity.)*

People can tell about God. Christina and other missionaries in Madagascar tell Bible stories to people who can't read the Bible. They tell Bible stories that you probably know, such as God creating the world, Noah's ark, Jesus' birth, and many more! What is your favorite Bible story? *(Allow for answers.)*

Let's pray that the people in Madagascar will learn Bible stories. Maybe they will tell the Bible stories to others so more people can learn about Jesus!

*God, thank You that Christina tells Bible stories and helps people in Madagascar learn about You. Please help the people know that You love them. Help us learn Bible stories and tell them to others, too! We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.*

**REAL LIFE CONNECTIONS**

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Real Life Connections* and *Life Point* slides, microphone to take to individuals in group *(optional)*
- ➔ People: Bible Story Leader
- ➔ Props: none

**BIBLE STORY LEADER**

*(Show Real Life Connections slide.)*

When Paul went to Athens he did not like what he saw. What did Paul see? *(He saw many idols or statues that the people worshiped.)* Let's talk about those idols and the one true God. *(Ask each of the following questions and lead kids to respond.)*

- Who hears us when we pray?
- Who can help us when we are sick?
- Who created us and everything in the world?
- Who sent Jesus to the earth?

Wow! All of your answers were God! Could the idols really help the people in Athens? (*Allow for responses.*) No, they could not. The idols were only statues. Paul told the people about the one true God who could help them! We can do like Paul. We can tell people about God and His Son, Jesus!

*(Show Life Point Slide.)*

**People can tell about God.** Let's say that together:  
**"People can tell about God."**

That means us! You can tell about God, and I can tell about God. Be sure to tell someone what you heard today! Come back next time, and we will hear another Bible story!

**Leader note:** *If you plan to utilize the after-session Huddle Up, dismiss kids to their small groups.*