

## Week 3 : Paul's First Missionary Journey

**Theme :** Try to be like Jesus, who is the Truth.

**On arrival :** For early arrivals, there is a simple bookmark to copy onto card and colour.

**4Directional Prayer:** This is the third part of the prayer to add to weeks 1 and 2.

Help us to show we care for the people around us in the things we do and say. ( *Draw a circle in the air with your finger.* ) **Now pray the whole prayer so far:**

Dear God, you are king of us all ( *Point upwards then bow.* )

Today we ask you to open our eyes to see Jesus whom we follow ( *Point forward and march on the spot.* ) Help us to show we care for the people around us in the things we do and say. ( *Draw a circle in the air with your finger* )

### **Games:**

**Call my bluff.** Three children at a time present the meanings of the same word. Only one meaning is correct but which is it ? A dictionary will provide some good words to use.

**Cheat!** Divide the children into small groups , each with a pack of cards that are dealt out. The aim is to get rid of your cards as quickly as possible even if it means cheating. Each child chooses which cards to lay down without showing cards. He might say, 6 hearts and lay 6 hearts. Or he may say 6 hearts and lay a mix of cards. If another child suspects him of cheating, he calls CHEAT and the cards are upturned to check. If the person DID cheat, they take ALL the cards that have been laid. If they are incorrectly challenged, the accuser takes the WHOLE pile of discarded cards. Continue until someone has got rid of all their cards by fair means or foul!

**Crows or Cranes.** Create plenty of false starts with Cranes or Crows. Children are in two lines down the centre of the room. One line are Crows and the other are Cranes . Call either Cr-anes or Cr-ows ( or Cr-ackers, Cr-ocodiles etc ) When Crows are called they must race over the the wall closest to them pursued by the Cranes. If caught by a Crane , they join the other side and vice versa.

**Introduction:** *There is a simple trick you can demonstrate in the resources.* Point out that all illusions and so called magic tricks are simply ways of deceiving our eyes and minds. Our story today involves a sorcerer who tried to deceive the people Paul and Barnabas met so that they would not believe the truths they were sharing with them.

**Story :** Paul's latest letter tells of his encounter with Elymas ( also known as Bar-Jesus ) from Acts 13 : 1- 12. See resources.

**Application:** Elymas opposed God and suffered because of it. Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me". Sometimes we see people doing good and instead of encouraging them we say unkind things and criticize. Rather, we should try and serve God by being like them.

**Memory verse:** *"Do not forget to do good and to help one another, because these are the sacrifices that please God"* Hebrews 13:16. Send the children to retrieve pieces of the verse from hidden places and sort !!

**Prayer:** Invite the children to "make things right" with others in the group. If they have been unkind or unfair to anyone here, go to that person and say sorry. Encourage the children to be forgiving.

**Song:** F.R.O.G, God's love is unstoppable CD, Big Ministries, Track 10

**Resources :** There is a fun sheet, craft, story and illusion in the resources.

Paul is sat at a table, writing a letter .....

“Dear Friends,

Thank you for blessing Barnabas and I as we prepared to set off on new adventures. It means a lot to know you have anointed us and set us aside for our mission. Here is a report of what we have been up to since we left you all. First we sailed to Cyprus in the Mediterranean. Then we sailed north to Asia Minor – the place we now call Turkey. We visited many places, telling people that Jesus is alive. Lots of people believed and decided to follow Jesus. But while we were travelling we met a false prophet named Elymas. He was a sorcerer who practiced magic and tricked the people. His master, a government official named Sergius Paulus wanted to learn from us but Elymas didn't want his master to hear our message. He started speaking against us.

I called Elymas, the "son of the devil and the enemy of everything that was right". I told him that he was going to become blind and not be able to see the light of the sun. Immediately everything became dark to him. He couldn't see a thing! He started trying to find someone to lead him by the hand.

When the official saw what had happened, he believed our words. He was amazed at the story of Jesus. Barnabas and I continued to travel. There were no cars, trains, or buses. We either walked or rode on animals. We travelled miles and miles, and man, people believed our teaching and became followers of Jesus. As we travelled we suffered countless hardships and persecutions, but these things are trivial compared to the joy and promised reward of obeying the Lord and following the directions of the Holy Spirit. We no longer live for ourselves, but for God. I will write again soon.

Your friend, Paul”

Prepare this simple illusion.

- In a punch pocket plastic wallet, place a sheet of acetate ( OHP film ) . This divides the pocket into two compartments though it will still look like one from the front.
- In front of the acetate, place a handful of small paper squares in a single colour.
- Behind the acetate, place a handful of small paper squares in another colour.
- From the front they will look merged.
- Hold the pocket and acetate so there is only access to one half of the pocket and “predict” which colour a child will pick.
- Since the child only has access to one half of the pocket, your “prediction” is fail proof.
- Ask one or two children to have a go.
- Show how the illusion was done.

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*Hebrews 13:16.*



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