

## Paul's Travels

### Week 6 – Paul's Travels and Miracles

**Theme:** Through thick or thin, God is with us.

**On arrival:** Colour in your passport stamp for this week. There is a template in resources to allow the children to write their own version of the 4 Directional prayer that the children have learnt in previous weeks.

**Prayer:** Open the session by using any prayers written by the children above.

#### **Games:**

**Tent maker:** Hand out some newspapers and sellotape. In teams, give the children two minutes to make a tent.

**Paul's Journeys Relay:** Set up a number of "stops". Each "stop" needs a challenge such as : *Streets lined with pagan idols. Dribble a ball in and out of cones* etc. Set children off on the journey, one at a time. As soon as a child has completed one challenge, he/she moves on so the next child can begin the challenge. See *resources*. With a bigger Kingsquad, you will need to duplicate the items and play in teams.

**Head it catch it!** : Play this or a similar old favourite.

**Memory verse:** *Don't be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go.* Joshua 1 v 9b. Print out 2 sets of words for each team. Cut out and place the words face down. Play a game of Pairs. Each child turns over two cards. If the words on the card match, that pair of words comes out of play and is used to form the memory verse. Continue until all pairs are matched and each team has been able to put the verse together ( twice, as it happens!) See *resources*.

**Story:** Today's story comes from a fictional follower, Caleb ( or Deborah), who is sharing his mail with us; a letter from Paul in Thessalonika, a postcard from Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth and a letter from a follower in Ephesus. If using the script, other leaders could provide the voices for the letters. See *resources*.

**Application:** Paul had off days; days when he didn't think he was doing a good job of sharing the good news about Jesus Christ. God reassured him and told him not to be afraid because He would always be with Paul as He is with us too. When things are going well for us, it is easy to forget that God is with us. Sometimes we only turn to him when things are not going so well so we should remember that through thick or thin, God is ALWAYS there for us!

**Prayer :** Make prayer scrolls. Hand out small pieces of paper ( A4 divided into 4) . Children write their prayers on them. Roll in from top and bottom and tie a piece of string or ribbon around them. In Bible times, God's words were revered and honoured. The books of the Bible were written on scrolls and placed in a special box. In turn, the children's prayers are special to God. Invite the children to place their prayers in a box.

**Song:** Another new one to try out ! *Our God is here, Great Big God 4 CD, Track 8*

**Resources:** *There is a funsheet, story and props, game instructions and prayer template in the resources*

**Week 6 Prayer Template**

A reminder of the prayer we learnt together

**Dear God you are King of us all.** ( *Point upwards to God 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 to represent the world with your finger .* )

**Help us to take care of the ground beneath our feet. Amen,** ( *Point downwards* )

**Dear God,**

**Up ( Action: \_\_\_\_\_ )**

( *Words that Praise God* ) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**In front ( Action: \_\_\_\_\_ )**

( *Words about following Jesus* ) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Around ( Action : \_\_\_\_\_ )**

( *Words about the people around us* ) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Down ( Action : \_\_\_\_\_ )**

( *Words about the world God created for us.* ) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Amen**

## Week 6 Story

*Caleb ( Deborah) is carrying some letters. He( she) notices the children and stops.*

Hello there Caleb ( Deborah ) here – a devoted follower of Jesus Christ. I've just been collecting my mail. Phew! A lot has gone on since Paul and Silas were freed miraculously from jail. First of all, Paul and Silas travelled to Thessalonika. Although many came to believe, other Jews began to feel outraged. I think Paul had really ruffled some feathers. A crowd of protesters had formed and were demanding to speak to the authorities. The followers smuggled Paul and Silas out of the city before the Romans could arrest them. Paul has continued travelling. I've got a letter from him here.

*“Dear Caleb,( Deborah)*

*I travelled to Athens in Greece where, on every street corner, there were idols to pagan gods. Everywhere the Athenians were offering sacrifices to these false gods. I have preached to many and learned from philosophers. I have seen how eager the Athenians are to hear what I have to say. I have just returned from the Acropolis where I preached to a big crowd and, praise the Lord, many became followers of Jesus.*

*Your friend, Paul”*

Well, I'm not quite sure what happened to this letter. Maybe it got lost in the sorting office but I've also had a postcard from Corinth. Eighteen months has passed. This postcard is from a Jewish couple called Aquilla and Priscilla. I wonder what they have got to say.

*“Our brother ( sister ) in Christ,*

*Let us tell you what has been happening in Corinth. As you know, we fled here from Rome after the Emperor Claudius ordered all Jews to leave the city. We met Paul here. We had something in common with him as we are tent makers as Paul was himself before he became a follower. He was preaching in a synagogue when Crispus, who was in charge there, asked to be baptised. Many more Jews, though, have refused to listen to Paul. Paul told them he had done his best with them but now would take the message of Jesus Christ to non Jews instead. Paul found the Gentiles eager to believe and many began asking to be baptised. Then one night, the Lord appeared to Paul in a vision. The Lord told Paul not to be afraid of speaking out in this place. God promised Paul that He was with him and that no harm would come to him. This filled Paul with new faith and courage and the church he has started here is growing and strong. Paul has left here now to travel to Ephesus. His teaching and miracles go side by side and many who see Paul perform miracles realise that Jesus is for real. Praise God. Your brother and sister in Christ, Aquila and Priscilla”*

I've had even more news from Paul's travels. My final letter is from Ephesus. It says,

*Everyone who has witnessed Paul's miraculous deeds is truly amazed. Even handkerchiefs and cloths Paul has used are picked up from the ground and taken to the homes of those who are sick or possessed and laid on them to heal them. Here in Ephesus, seven sons of a Jewish high priest were so envious of Paul's gifts that they decided to try it for themselves. They summoned a man who was possessed by an evil spirit. They tried to cast the demons out as they had seen Paul do but they did not have the Holy Spirit working through them as Paul did and the evil spirit cried out, “I know Jesus and I know Paul but who are you ? Then the evil spirit came out of the man and leapt on the seven sons who ran away screaming. After that many people who had practiced pagan rituals and black magic believed in Jesus.*

Amazing things have been happening to Paul and his companions despite lots of opposition. I must go now and write back to Paul and let him know that I am praying for him. See you around perhaps, bye!

Athens, Greece

Dear .....

*I travelled to Athens in Greece where, on every street corner, there were idols to pagan gods. The Athenians were offering sacrifices to these false gods everywhere! I have preached to many and learned from philosophers. I have seen how eager the Athenians are to hear what I have to say. I have just returned from the Acropolis where I preached to a big crowd and, praise the Lord, many became followers of Jesus.*

*Your friend, Paul*

*Everyone who has witnessed Paul's miraculous deeds is truly amazed. Even handkerchiefs and cloths Paul has used are picked up from the ground and taken to the homes of those who are sick or possessed and laid on them to heal them. Here in Ephesus, seven sons of a Jewish high priest were so envious of Paul's gifts that they decided to try it for themselves. They summoned a man who was possessed by an evil spirit. They tried to cast the demons out as they had seen Paul do but they did not have the Holy Spirit working through them as Paul did and the evil spirit cried out,*

*"I know Jesus and I know Paul but who are you ? Then the evil spirit came out of the man and leapt on the seven sons who ran away screaming. After that many people who had practiced pagan rituals and black magic believed in Jesus.*

*Our brother / sister in Christ,*

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*We had something in common with him as we are tent makers as Paul was himself before he became a follower.*

*He was preaching in a synagogue when Crispus, who was in charge there, asked to be baptised. Many more Jews, though, have refused to listen to Paul. Paul told them he had done his best with them but now would take the message of Jesus Christ to non Jews instead. Paul found the Gentiles eager to believe and many began asking to be baptised. Then one night, the Lord appeared to Paul in a vision. The Lord told Paul not to be afraid of speaking out in this place.*

*God promised Paul that He was with him and that no harm would come to him. This filled Paul with new faith and courage and the church he has started here is growing and strong. Paul has left here now to travel to Ephesus. His teaching and miracles go side by side and many who see Paul perform miracles realise that Jesus is for real. Praise God.*

*Your brother and sister in Christ, Aquila and Priscilla*

**Week 6 Memory verse**

Each team needs 2 copies of this sheet, cut up and placed face down.

<b>“Don’t</b>	<b>be</b>	<b>afraid</b>
<b>or</b>	<b>discouraged,</b>	<b>for</b>
<b>I,</b>	<b>the</b>	<b>Lord</b>
<b>your</b>	<b>God,</b>	<b>am</b>
<b>with</b>	<b>you</b>	<b>wherever</b>
<b>You</b>	<b>go.”</b>	<b>Joshua 1 v 9b</b>

Paul's Journeys

**Suggested obstacles / instructions might include.**

**Items needed for each team :**

Rucksack with a few items inside.

Blindfolds

Table to climb under

Length of rope

Cones/markers

Ball

Basket

Three bean bags

Washing basket

Dressing up items

- **Prepare for your journey** ( Have a rucksack with a few items in it. Children must put items in rucksack , zip it up and then unpack them ready for next child )
- **Bright light dazzles you.** ( Put on a blindfold and crawl under a table)
- **Heading for Straight Street** ( Walk on length of rope without stepping off )
- **Have to escape in a basket** ( throw 3 beanbags into a basket )
- **Go to the river where the women are washing clothes** ( Put on an item of dressing up from the basket )
- **Streets lined with pagan idols.** ( Dribble a ball in and out of cones )

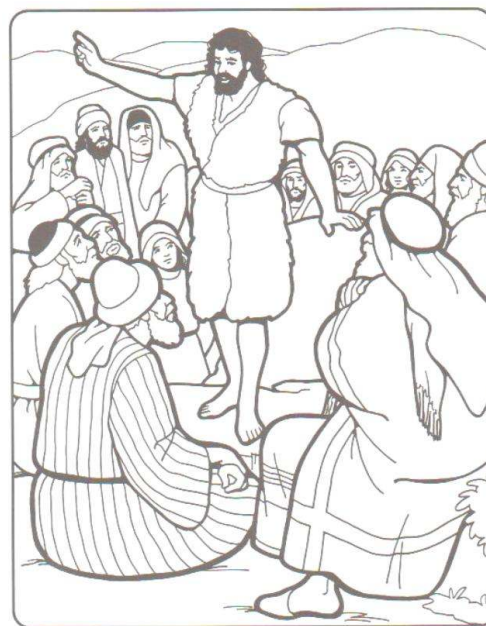
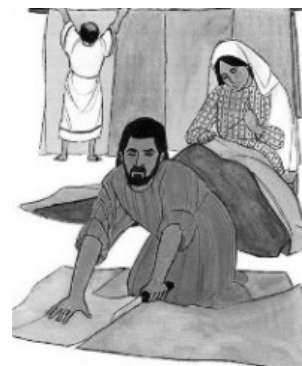
Go back to start.

Paul's Travels and Miracles

Don't be afraid  
or discouraged,  
for I, the Lord your God,  
am with you  
wherever you go.”  
Joshua 1 v 9b.

B B T U Y N V S E D T H A  
P U U S X G T C E H I C T  
I S I V N A U T H S M A I  
M D N L T E S O I T O E N  
F V O U D E H D F O T R Z  
A Y E L R I E T O N H P E  
A S N E S A N L A E Y I S  
N C T Y S H I G U W M N D  
I N W O N K N U S A E M O  
I S I L A S G O D T P D G  
F O L L O W E R S T O A Q  
E V R A C Z H I U O J A Y  
N E A Z Q L L J W K A N T

What was  
Priscilla and  
Aquila's job ?



Can you find the following words in the word search  
above ?

ATHENS  
TIMOTHY  
IDOLS  
PAUL

FOLLOWERS  
BUILDINGS  
STATUES  
INTERESTED

IDEAS  
GOD  
WOOD  
PREACH

LISTEN  
CARVE  
STONE

SILAS  
GODS  
UNKNOWN