

Lesson Overview

In today's lesson, we're going to talk about a big meeting Paul attended with important church leaders. Many of the leaders in the church were fighting over one particular issue; who were the insiders in the church and who were the outsiders. Back then, the Jews thought they were the insiders. They knew God's law and followed all the rules. But, when Jesus came, a lot of different people started following him, not just Jewish people. And, Jesus' message was that he came to die for everyone. But, some of the leaders in the church forgot that part of Jesus' message and wanted non-Jews to become Jewish in order to be a part of the church. So, Paul went to this meeting to fight for the outsiders. He reminded all of the leaders that to be saved from sin, all a person had to do was put their trust in Jesus. It didn't matter if they were Jewish or if they followed the Jewish laws. The leaders were convinced and from that day on, non-Jews, or Gentiles, were welcome in the church. Jesus came for everyone and that includes you and me!

Big Idea

Everyone is saved the same way—by trusting in Jesus

Key Question

How do we put our trust in Jesus?

Memory Verse

Acts 15:11 "We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus."

Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **PLAY: Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: What are some things you argue about with your siblings? How about with your friends?** (Tip: Sometimes, we argue over silly things. The early church argued about something, too.)
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **We ask him to forgive our sins and invite him into our hearts.** (Trusting in Jesus is really easy. The first thing we need to do is admit that we are sinners. We aren't perfect and we mess up. We need to tell Jesus that we're sorry for those mistakes. Then, we invite him to live in our hearts. All that means is we choose to obey him and live our lives to honor him. We find out what pleases him and we do it!))
 - **Bonus Questions:** How do we trust in Jesus? What does it mean to invite Jesus into our hearts? **4-5th:** How can we know what honors God?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read John 3:16-17. Who came to save us? What does this passage say about who can be saved?** (Answer: Jesus came to save us by dying on the cross to pay for our sins. And, Jesus came for everyone. It doesn't matter what country you're from or what language you speak. If you believe in Jesus, and put your trust in him, then you are saved.)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to pursueGOD.org/kids to find this week's lesson video.

Teacher instructions: Choose an activity for your classroom.

OPTION 1: JESUS SAVED ME BRACELET

Instructions:

- Give each kid a piece of yarn and one of each of the colored beads.
- Have the kids place their string on the table in front of them. Then, instruct the kids to pick up each bead in the order below. While you read what the color stands for and the verse, they will string each bead onto their yarn.
 - Black represents our sin that keeps us from having a relationship with God. (Romans 3:23)
 - Red represents Jesus dying for our sins on the cross. (Romans 5:8)
 - White represents our forgiveness. (Isaiah 1:18)
 - Green represents our new life in Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Then, help kids to tie their bracelet onto their wrist. Tell them that this bracelet is a reminder of how we are saved by Jesus. It doesn't matter who we are, anyone can put their trust in Jesus.

Supplies needed: Yarn (cut into 8 in pieces, 1 per kid), Beads (black, red, white, green, 1 set per kid)

OPTION 2: LESSON REVIEW JEOPARDY

Instructions:

- Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a bell or ringer.
- Read a question from below. First to ring in gets a chance to answer. If correct, they get a point. If wrong, the other team gets a chance to answer for a bonus point. Team with the most points, wins.

Questions:

1. Who were considered the insiders in the early church? (Jews)
2. Who were considered the outsiders? (Gentiles)
3. T or F: Paul believed anyone could be an insider. (T)
4. What's the Big Idea today? (see board)
5. From what book in the Bible is our story found? (Acts)

6. What did the leaders decide after the meeting? (trust in Jesus is all you have to do/didn't have to be Jewish)
7. Who died for our sins? (Jesus)
8. T or F: You have to be Jewish to be in God's family. (F)
9. What do we have to do to be saved? (put trust in Jesus)
10. Why did Jesus have to die for us? (pay for our sins)

Supplies needed: Bells/Ringers

Q12

BIBLE STORYLINE

The Big Meeting in Jerusalem

Hey kids and parents! Fill in the blanks as you talk about this week's lesson together. Have fun!

Key Points

- There was a big _____ in the early church. Acts 15:2
- The church had a big meeting about _____ and _____. Acts 15:3-6
- Paul said the outsiders could be _____. Acts 15:7-8
- Everyone is save the same way: by _____. Acts 15:11

Big Idea

Everyone is saved the same way- by trusting in Jesus.

Key Question

How do we put our trust in Jesus?

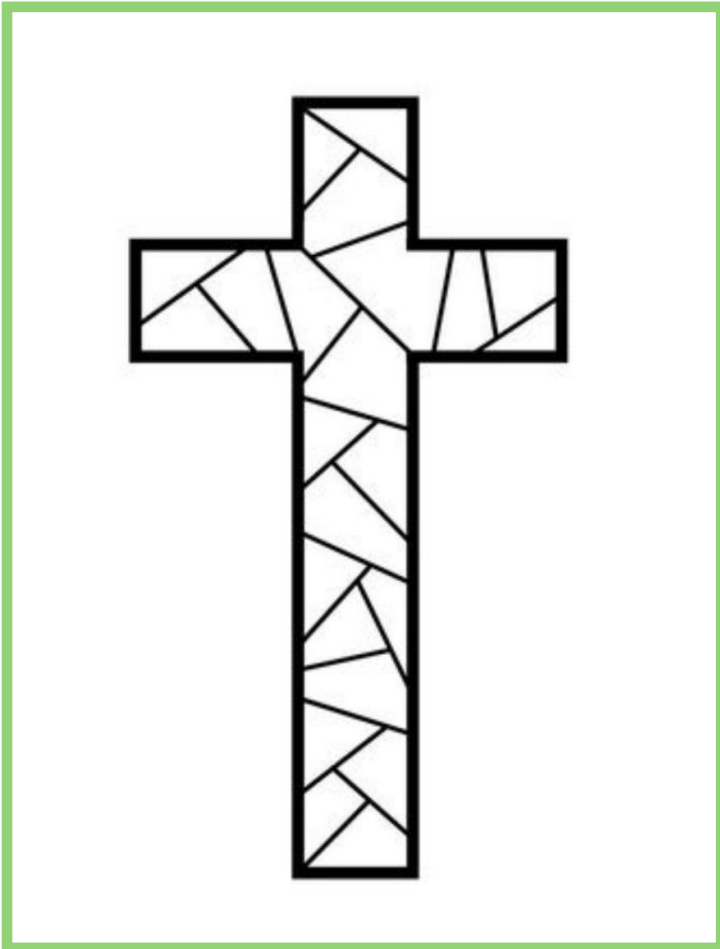
Memory Verse

Acts 15:11 "We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus."

Talk About It

1. What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?
2. What are some things you argue about with your siblings? How about with your friends?
3. Who were considered the insiders? Who were the outsiders?
4. What did they decide at the big meeting?
5. Read John 3:16-17. Who came to save us? What does this passage say about who can be saved?
6. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

Instructions: Color the picture and solve the puzzle.



Big Idea

Key Question

Memory Verse

Acts 15:___ "We _____ that we are all _____ the same way, by the undeserved _____ of the Lord Jesus."

