

Paul Teaches In Athens

Acts 17:16-31

Tip for Children's Ministry Directors

If you're sending this lesson to families, send it as is! If you're recording a video, either pause for the discussion questions or tell families to pause the video while they share.

Bold text is spoken aloud.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Bible Exploration	Paul Teaches Put on a play about what Paul taught in Athens.	Bibles, paper, markers	
2 Weaving Faith Into Life	Shout It Out! Think of words to describe God, and make megaphones to use to tell who God is.	Bibles, paper, tape, markers	

► Bible Point

God created heaven and earth.

Key Verse

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 40:28).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will learn that God created everything and that they can tell others about his Son, Jesus.

1 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Paul Teaches

What You'll Do

This Bible story is found in Acts 17:16-31. Say: **Today's Bible passage comes from the book of Acts. In Acts, the Bible tells us that ► GOD CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH.** That means God created everything in the heavens and on the earth, too!

The Bible tells us about a man named Paul who followed Jesus. When Paul taught in a town called Athens, he saw a sign on a temple that said "To an unknown god." Paul taught the people about the one and only true God so they'd know our real God! Let's put on a play to show what Paul taught people in Athens.

Paul told them about Jesus, and he taught them that ► GOD CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH. And he made everything on heaven and earth.

Everyone will act. For the first scene, everyone will take turns jumping up and saying one at a time, "heaven," "earth," "heaven," "earth," and so on. Then they can all shout ► **GOD CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH** and wave their hands in the air.

Say: **And cut! We've just finished the first part of our play. Now let's find out more things that Paul taught the people! Paul taught that God gives all people life and breath. We are all God's children!**

For this scene, everyone will stand one at a time and say their names. Next, everyone will put their arms around one another's shoulders and say together, "We are all God's children!"

Say: **End of part two! Excellent work! Wow! Isn't God an awesome creator? Can you believe that he created us and that we're all his children? And you know what—there are still more things Paul taught the people! Next Paul taught God gives everything life and breath!**

Everyone will pretend to be anything that's living. For example, put hands together and move them like a fish swimming through the water, or crawl on all fours and oink like a pig.

Say: **What a great scene for our play. God created everything that has life! One more thing Paul taught is that we say we're sorry for the bad things we've done.**

Each person will kneel one at a time, fold their hands, bow their heads, and say "I'm sorry." Then each person will stand one at a time, raise both hands high, and say "Thanks for Jesus!"

Because of Jesus, we'll live forever. Let's Thank Jesus! Everyone will say, "Thanks for Jesus!" together.

Say: **Our play is finished! You all did a great job in our play about what Paul taught the people in Athens.** Everyone will applaud themselves for their wonderful performances.

Say: **Paul taught the people in Athens all about God. He taught them that God is the creator of everything in the world. Let's draw some of the things that God created.** Everyone will draw their favorite creations using the paper and markers.

Paul wanted the people in Athens to know about God so that they could believe in him and in Jesus. Paul wanted them to live forever with Jesus in heaven.

Talk With Kids

Ask:

- Tell about your favorite thing God created.
- How can you be like Paul this week and celebrate how ► GOD CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH?

Say: **Wasn't it fun being in a play about what Paul taught the people in Athens? Paul wanted others to know that ► GOD CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH. Let's tell everyone about our God who loves us so much.**

2 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Shout It Out!

What You'll Do

Say: We learned when Paul was in Athens, he told the people that God made the whole world. He told them that God sent Jesus to earth. Jesus died and then came back to life, and Paul told them that if they believed in Jesus, they could live forever with God in heaven. Let's practice what we would say.

Everyone will need a piece of paper and markers. Everyone will write words to describe God near the center, top part of the paper. Examples of words are: "Creator," "powerful," "loving," "died for us," "forgives," or "friend." Kids who cannot write can draw a picture, such as a heart for God's love, crosses, or globes because God is the creator.

Next, everyone will practice telling each other about God, using what they wrote or drew.

Say: Paul told everyone he could about God, and we can, too. We can tell others about God every day, no matter where we are. We can start by telling others that ► GOD CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH. Let's make something to help us tell others about God.

Now let's tape our papers into megaphones. A megaphone makes whatever you say sound a little louder. That way more people can hear you. And since we want everyone to hear about God, we're going to make our own megaphones!

Everyone will roll the sheet of paper they wrote on into a megaphone, making the wide end where the words are and the narrow end at the opposite end. Tape can hold it in place.

Talk With Kids

Ask:

- What were some of the words on your megaphone that you think your friends would like about God? Why?
- What sometimes makes us not want to share with others about God?
- What are ways we can overcome our fears about sharing God with others?

Say: Keep your megaphone as a reminder that you can share about God because he is wonderful! You don't have to shout at people, but you don't have to be afraid, either, because ► GOD CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH—that means God created you. Just as he did for Paul, God has given you the creative skills you need to share Jesus in your own way.