

## Reality – Bible Lesson for October 25, 2020 – Kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

### Discipleship The Cost of Discipleship - Paul

#### Lesson 4

- 1. Lesson: The Cost of Discipleship - Paul**
- 2. Scripture:** Luke 9:2; Luke 14:33; Acts 8:1-4; Acts 9:1-6, 19-28; Acts 16:23-33; Corinthians 5:15; Ephesians 5:1; Philippians 3:8-9
- 3. Memory Verse:** "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." – John 3:16
- 4. The Jesus Storybook Bible:** Pages 334 – 341
- 5. The Beginner's Bible:** Pages 488 - 503
- 6. The God's Story for Me Bible:** Pages 467 – 477 and 488 – 517
- 7. Materials useful in teaching the lesson – Bible Story:** chairs; paper and pencil; crepe paper streamers; goldfish crackers or another small snack **Craft:** downloaded templates on cardstock; scissors; glue sticks; decorations

#### **Craft: John 3:16 Doorhanger**

<https://craftingthewordofgod.files.wordpress.com/2017/03/john-316-door-hanger.pdf>  
<https://craftingthewordofgod.com/tag/john-316/>

#### **Song:**

##### **"The Boss of Me"**

<https://ministry-to-children.com/counting-the-cost-lesson/>

#### **Instructional Videos:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0p0W\\_Zbt1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0p0W_Zbt1s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hy4K1pP408Y>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIXFy3zjJh4>

**1. Prayer:** Pray with your children – then introduce the following discussion:

How many of you have a favorite thing like a toy or a video game? (let them answer) Do any of you have a favorite blanket or teddy bear that you use when you go to sleep? (let them answer) Favorite things make us feel really good, but how important are they? Can you go to sleep without your blanket? If you broke your video game would you still be able to eat or ride your bike?

I heard a story once about a little boy who wanted to buy a special birthday present for his friend. When he went to the store and looked around for a present, he found out that he didn't have enough money to buy his friend anything he wanted to get him. He didn't want to ask his mom or dad for money because he wanted the gift to be just from him. That night when he went to bed, he was pretty sad. But when he got up the

next morning, he had the biggest smile on his face. He rushed downstairs and took every toy out of his toy box. Then he looked at each of them. Some he had not played with for a long time. Finally, he looked at his very favorite toy and smiled again. This was the present he was going to give his friend. It was his favorite toy, and now he hoped his friend would make it his favorite toy.

Jesus teaches us that things are most important when we can give them away. When we make things so important that we cannot live without them, then they are more important than people or more important than God. Nothing should be that important. Everything comes from God. Everything really belongs to Him, including us. When Jesus asks us to follow Him and to give up everything we have, we start living our lives for God. Here is the best part. When we give up our old way of thinking, then God gives us a new life, which is even greater than the one we have today. Jesus said, " In the same way, you must give up everything you have. Those of you who don't cannot be my disciple."

Wow – that sounds really hard to do. But Jesus wasn't talking about teddy bears, blankets, and video games. He was talking about giving up our old ways of living and living a new life that follows Him.

It isn't always easy to give up our old lives and follow Jesus. In fact, it's often quite challenging, and Jesus told us that is what it would be like. Let's talk about what that might mean in our lives.

**2. Bible Story: (You can use a simplified version of the lesson below and/or read it from "The Jesus Storybook Bible" – Pages 334 – 341; "The Beginner's Bible – Pages 488 – 503, or "The God's Story for Me Bible" – Pages 467 – 477 and 488 – 517)**

Following Jesus is not always easy. Jesus said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me." We need to be prepared to follow Jesus because being a disciple of Jesus is worth the cost!

We have a great example of this in the life of the apostle, Paul. Paul was born in a city called Tarsus. His dad was a tentmaker. Saul had two names: Saul was his Hebrew name and Paul was his Roman name. He was taught God's laws and was sent to a school in Jerusalem to study under a teacher named Gamaliel (guh-MAY-lih-eh). Saul became a Pharisee and was always careful to obey God's commands and make sure others were obeying them also. He was looking forward to the day when the Messiah would come into the world.

Saul began hearing reports from people that said the Messiah had indeed come, but he didn't believe them. The people were saying that the religious leaders had killed the Promised Savior. Saul thought that these followers of Jesus would have to be stopped so their teachings would not spread any further. He had the believers arrested, thrown in jail, or even killed. But even though he was doing everything he could to destroy

them, their message continued to spread. Saul thought he was fighting for God and didn't realize he was actually fighting against God.

Saul had been given permission by the high priest to go to Damascus to arrest and imprison anyone who taught about Jesus. He and some of his men began their journey to Damascus. As they traveled and were almost to Damascus, Saul met the risen Savior. It was the middle of the day when a blinding light shone so brightly that everyone traveling with Saul covered their eyes and fell to the ground. A voice started speaking to Saul. The voice said, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me (or why are you hurting me)?" Saul asked, "Who are you Lord?" The voice replied, "I am Jesus of Nazareth. I am the One you are persecuting." Jesus was telling Saul that He is the Son of God, the Promised Messiah.

When Saul heard Jesus speaking to him, he knew that he had been fighting against God's Son. He believed Jesus was the Savior that God had promised to send. After only a few days, Saul began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God and God did an amazing transformation in Saul's life when he put his faith in Jesus.

Saul was usually known as Paul after this because Jesus had called him to preach to the Gentiles. After this, there was no stopping Paul. He went on three long missionary journeys, by land and by sea, to tell anyone he met about Jesus. Paul wanted everyone to hear the good news that Jesus loves them – no one was left out when Paul was speaking.

During Paul's, many years of missionary trips, he had many difficult things happen to him. One happened when he was in Damascus. The leaders who helped him fight Christians before Jesus changed Paul's life were angry that he was now a follower of Christ. They decided they had to stop Paul. They sent men to watch the gates of the city and told the men to get rid of Paul. Paul's new friends wanted to help him, so they asked Paul to meet them on the wall of Damascus. The friends had brought with them a huge basket and a long rope. They put Paul in the basket, tied the ropes around the basket, and lowered the basket over the wall. The basket dropped down outside the city wall. Paul got out of it and safely ran to Jerusalem.

Another time, in Philippi, the magistrates of the town ordered that Paul and Silas, a member of his missionary team, be put in prison and their feet put in stocks. (Leg stocks would go around the prisoner's ankles such that they could not remove their feet and thus could not move from their position.) Then the jailer locked the door.

Paul and Silas must have been in pain in the dark prison, but they did not give up. In the middle of the night, the other prisoners heard them singing and praying from their cell. Even though all of these terrible things were happening to them they still praised God and rejoiced. While they were singing, something amazing happened! A huge earthquake shook the entire prison.

The chains fell off of the prisoners and the cell doors flew open! The jailer rushed in and saw all the doors open. He thought all the prisoners had escaped and he would be in big trouble. He took his sword out to kill himself. But Paul shouted at him to stop because none of the prisoners had escaped.

The jailer took a light and saw the truth. He fell at the feet of Paul and Silas and asked what he needed to do to be saved. Paul told the man to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and he would be saved - he and his entire household. And the man did. The jailer washed the wounds of Paul and Silas and then he and his family were baptized.

After this, Paul spent many more years being imprisoned for his faith. He was beaten and persecuted but nothing ever stopped him from telling others about Jesus. At one time, he was even shipwrecked and bitten by a deadly snake.

In order to tell this part of the story, I want you to take all the chairs and put them in a big circle, then all of you sit inside the circle. (Wait for this to happen.)

**Tell them:** I want everyone to sit in the circle because today we are pretending we are going to be boarding a ship. Let me tell you a little about your ship. It started out from Egypt, filled with wheat. It was heading for Rome. There are two important apostles with us on the ship – Paul and Luke. Paul is being held as a prisoner and Luke is his attending doctor and friend. I need two of you to pretend to be Paul and Luke. **(Have the two you have chosen sit together. Give Luke a paper and pencil and tell him to pretend to write down everything that happens.)**

Paul was arrested in Jerusalem for teaching about Jesus. He's been in prison a long time, waiting for his case to be heard. Finally, he asked to see the emperor, Caesar, so he had to go all the way across the sea to Rome.

Here was the problem: It was only safe to cross the sea during certain seasons. Once winter came, it was too dangerous to sail – but the captain of the ship decided to sail anyway. Now I need someone to be the captain of the ship. **(Have that person stand)** We also need Paul's special guard – a Roman centurion named Julius. **(Have that person go sit next to Paul)**

Paul talked to the captain and told him they shouldn't try to sail in the wintertime. **(Have the captain pretend to go talk to Paul).** But the captain decided to sail anyway. They weren't at sea exceedingly long before they got caught in a terrible storm. Waves and winds tossed the ship everywhere! **(Throw crepe paper streamers out to the kids)** Use these to make huge waves that wash over the ship. Now – lean all the way to the left as the ship tips that way. Now – lean all the way to the right as the ship tips that way. The sailors threw all the cargo overboard, hoping to keep the ship from breaking apart. **(Tell them to throw the crepe paper out of the circle)**

People were too scared to eat or drink. Almost two weeks passed by, with no sign of the sun or a break in the storm. Then one morning Paul stood and encouraged the people. He said, "You've been so worried that you haven't touched food in almost two weeks. Please eat something now, for last night an angel of God told me that everyone will make it off this ship alive." The people on the ship believed Paul and had something to eat. **(Give each child a few goldfish or another small snack.)**

Soon the sailors knew they were near land and lowered the anchors at the back of the ship. But the ship got grounded on a sandbar before it got to shore, and it began to break apart. The captain gave orders for everyone to swim to shore. **(Have the captain do this)**

**(Have the children get out of the circle and "swim" to one side of the room and sit down.)** Just as Paul promised, everyone made it to shore safely. Remember how Paul had told the captain that the ship would crash but that no one would die? That is exactly what happened. There were 276 people on the ship and not one of them drowned.

It was raining and cold so the islanders who lived on the island (Malta) started making a fire to warm the people getting off the ship. Paul wanted to help them, so he started collecting sticks to put on the fire. When he bent down to put one of the sticks on the fire, a very poisonous snake (viper) jumped out and bit him. **(Have Paul jump back and look at his arm.)** Paul just looked at the snake and shook it off, then threw it into the fire. **(Paul shakes the snake off of him.)** The island people could not believe what they saw! They expected him to suddenly fall dead; but they waited a long time, and nothing happened to him.

Paul went to the house of an important man on the island and as he prayed, people on the island that were sick became well. They stayed on the island three months until another ship came to take them on to Rome. **(Have the children go back to the circle inside the chairs.)**

When Paul finally got to Rome, he had his own place, but had guards. Paul didn't get to have a trial before Caesar for two years. While he waited, he wrote letters and told more people about Jesus. He told them about the resurrection and salvation of Jesus. He told them, "He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them." Always remember how important you are to Jesus: "You are the children that God dearly loves. So, follow his example."

The Bible does not tell us how Paul died. But we can be sure that he died declaring the gospel of Christ. Jesus had said that Paul would suffer much for the name of Christ. Paul spent a lifetime teaching the Good News of Jesus and His salvation for all of us. Did he consider the cost of discipleship worth it? Let's read Paul's own words for his answer:

“Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God’s way of making us right with himself depends on faith.”

### **3. Bible Exploration – Checking for Understanding:**

1. Where was Saul born? (Tarsus)
2. Why did Saul have two names? (He had a Jewish name, Saul, and a Roman name, Paul)
3. Were Paul and Silas afraid in prison? (No. They trusted God)
4. What did Paul and Silas do in prison? (They sang and prayed.)
5. Do you think Paul’s life as a Christian was easy or hard? Why? (encourage their answers)
6. How do you think Paul was able to keep serving God despite the difficulties? (The Holy Spirit gave him power to continue to follow God)
7. How did Paul encourage the people on the ship when it was very frightening, and everyone had given up hope of being saved? (He shared God’s message of promise with them)
8. How did God show these men on the ship that His promises could be trusted? (Not one person died in the shipwreck)
9. What happened to Paul when he was helping build a fire? (a poisonous snake jumped out and bit him, but it didn’t harm him.)
10. Who are some people you could encourage? What could you tell them about God to encourage them to trust Him today?

### **4. Bible Application:**

**Craft: John 3:16 Door Hanger**



## Instructions

1. Print the template on cardstock.
2. Cut out both of the two largest pieces.
3. Glue them to two different colors of construction paper.
4. Cut both pieces out.
5. From the smaller piece cut out the hole for the doorknob.
6. Glue the smaller piece onto the larger piece.
7. Cut out the hole for the doorknob one more time.
8. Color and cut out the world and the heart template pieces.
9. Glue the world figure to the assembled piece.
10. Lastly, glue on the hearts around the craft.

You can also use felt, craft foam, glitter, or stickers.

**5.Memory Verse:** Have the children say the memory verse – “God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life.” – John 3:16

## Elementary: Snap it!

Try snapping your fingers in between phrases. Breaking a verse into phrases makes it easier to memorize. For example, “For God”...snap, snap...”so loved”...clap, clap...”the world”...snap snap. You get the picture. Alternate snaps with claps and keep it moving. (You can also add other rhythmic movements)

## **Preschool:**

God (point up high to God)

so loved (crisscross their chests as a sign of love)

the world (raise your hands above your head into a big "world")

that He gave (start with palms down about chest high, then flip them up and over like you are giving a gift)

His one (hold up an index finger showing the number one)

And only Son (put your arms out to the sides like making a big cross with your body)

Anyone who (fan your arms out to everyone)

believes in Him (tap an index finger to the side of your brain)

will not die (shake an index finger back and forth)

but will have eternal life (crisscross your hands and arms facing down to the ground then bring them up and around in a big gesture way up high)

**6.Closing Prayer:** Lead the children in a closing prayer. Encourage your child/children to also say their own individual prayers about any additional concerns they have.