

# Unit 35: Paul's Mission to Rome

**Unit Description:** After three missionary journeys on which God used Paul to plant many churches and see many people trust in Christ, Paul returned to Jerusalem where he was arrested. Paul would eventually be sent to Rome as a prisoner, but this did not stop him from doing everything he could to preach the gospel and make much of Jesus.

**Big Picture Question:** Why should we praise Jesus? We should praise Jesus for what He has done to provide our salvation and because He will one day make all things right.



## **SESSION 1: Paul Returned to Jerusalem**

Acts 21–22



## **SESSION 2: Paul Was on Trial**

Acts 22–23



## **SESSION 3: Paul Was Sent to Rome**

Acts 24–26



## **SESSION 4: Paul Went to Rome**

Acts 27–28



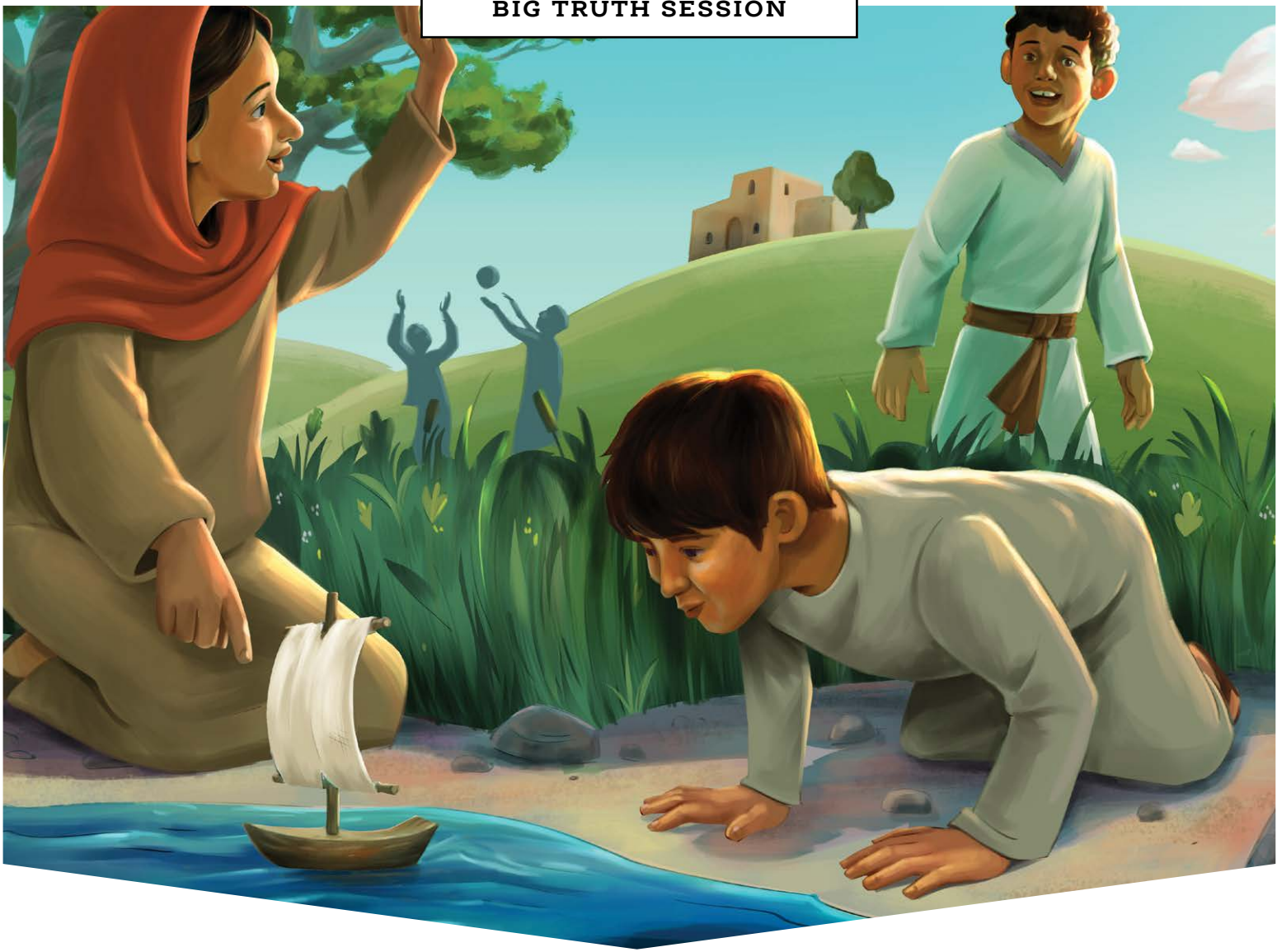
## **SESSION 5: Paul Preached in Rome**

Acts 28



## **SESSION 6: We Are Here to Make Much of Jesus**

1 Thessalonians 4–5



UNIT 35 | SESSION 6

## WE ARE HERE TO MAKE MUCH OF JESUS

1 THESSALONIANS 4–5

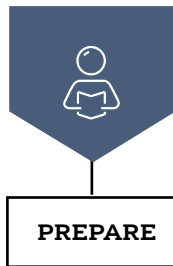
**KEY PASSAGE:** Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago.  
**Isaiah 25:1 NIV**

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why should we praise Jesus? We should praise Jesus for what He has done to provide our salvation and also because He is returning one day to make all things right.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Christians have a special purpose to spread the good news of Jesus and to live in a way that honors Him. We live holy lives, loving one another and finding joy in Jesus as we remember God's promise to one day return and make all things right.



## PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



## LEADER Bible Study

First Thessalonians 4–5 serves as an encouraging, insightful, and convicting portion of the letters penned by Paul. As evidenced by the compassionate, heartfelt words he shared, the apostle loved his brothers and sisters who belonged to the church in Thessalonica. Because of the deep affection he held toward them, he exhorted them to lean into the special, set-apart lives Christ had called them to as His followers.

What does Paul say is the will of God for his brothers and sisters in Christ—both in the year A.D. 50 as well as in the modern-day church? How are we to accomplish this will according to today’s passage?

We often wonder what God’s will for our lives may be. Yet we see throughout the pages of Scripture: His will is our sanctification—in sexual morality, self-control, holiness, and honor—on account of the knowledge of our God (1 Thess. 4:3-5). Paul writes in the next chapter that His will for us is that we would likewise continually rejoice, pray, and give thanks for all He has done (1 Thess. 5:16-18). He calls for a “whole-person” holiness in all parts of our lives: spirit, soul, and body, which only comes through placing our trust in Jesus—which means trusting in what He says is best for our lives.

For the church of Thessalonica to pursue God’s will for their lives would be entirely impossible if not for the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. They had to trust in the Lord to help them obey, believing in Christ’s perfect life and sacrifice as the basis of their faith.

As you take steps toward teaching this session, consider the ways you’ve been faithfully following Jesus. Be encouraged by all that He has done in your life to help you look more like Jesus through the power of His Spirit. Help kids see that they, too, can trust God’s character and goodness, which means that we can believe that His will for our lives—this call to sanctification—is good.

### DOCTRINE TO KNOW

**Christ’s Exaltation:** Christ was exalted when God raised Him from the dead and when He ascended to the Father’s right hand. He will be exalted by all creation when He returns.



## PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

### GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



#### WELCOME

##### Activity Page

- ☐ “Crack the Code” activity page

##### Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ various familiar items such as a pencil sharpener, a fork, glasses, hammer, oven mitt, etc.
- ☐ various unfamiliar items such as a VHS tape, sandpaper, butter dish, cassette tape, etc.

##### Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ plastic tablecloth
- ☐ marshmallows
- ☐ spatulas, 2
- ☐ bowls, 2



#### LEARN

##### Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video

##### Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

##### Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

##### Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ “We Are Here to Make Much of Jesus” video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ paper scroll (optional)

##### Questions from Kids

- ☐ “Unit 35, Session 6” questions from kids video

##### Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ “I Will Exalt You (Isaiah 25:1)” song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ index cards, 1 per pair



#### LOVE

##### Review & Bible skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- ☐ world map



#### LIVE

##### Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ sticky notes of three different colors

##### Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Journal Page
- ☐ “Secret Message Scramble” activity page



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** “What are some ways you show love and care for other people? What are some things that make you feel loved?”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Crack the Code” on the activity page.

**SAY** “The desire of every believer is to show how great, beautiful, and valuable Jesus is. Today, we will learn how we can do this as we live lives that honor Jesus.”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### ☐ OPTION 1: WHAT'S THE PURPOSE?

Before the session, gather several familiar items such as a pencil sharpener, a fork, glasses, hammer, and oven mitt. In addition, gather several items that kids may not recognize such as a VHS tape, sandpaper, butter dish, cassette tape, etc. Form kids into groups of three to five and direct them to sit around a table. Distribute one familiar item and one unfamiliar item to each table. Challenge kids to look at the items and discuss their purposes. If kids do not know the item's purpose, encourage them to share their best guess. Then challenge each group to share their items and what their purposes are with the entire group.

**SAY** “Each of these items were designed with a purpose. Do you know that God has given believers a special purpose? Today, we will learn that God has created us to make much of Jesus.”

#### ☐ OPTION 2: HELP!



Before the session, cover a table with a plastic tablecloth. Spread out marshmallows over the table. Invite four kids to volunteer for this activity.

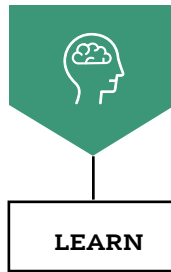
Provide two kids with a bowl, a spatula, and a blindfold. Help kids secure their blindfolds. Pair up the other two kids with one of the blindfolded kids. When you say “Go,” challenge the blindfolded kids to scoop as many marshmallows into their bowl as they can within 30 seconds. Encourage the other kids to guide their partners without touching them or scooping marshmallows. The team with the most marshmallows in their bowl is the winner. Repeat as time allows with another group of four kids. Or consider setting up multiple tables for more groups to complete the activity at the same time.

**SAY** “It was difficult to complete the challenge with a blindfold. It helped to have a person to guide you. Today, we will discuss how we can't live the Christian life in our own power. We need God to work in us to help us live in a way that makes much of Jesus.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**







## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# INTRODUCE the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** “Hello, everyone. My name is [your name], and I am so glad you are here! I can’t wait to learn more from the Bible with you today. If you have your Bible, can you take it out? **[Distribute Bible to kids who need one.]** Let’s turn in our Bibles to 1 Thessalonians. The book of 1 Thessalonians is in the New Testament and is one of the letters Paul wrote to a church in Thessalonica. Paul visited this city on his second missionary journey and helped start the church there.

In His Word, God tells how we can be saved through Jesus and how trusting in Jesus changes how we live. Because of Jesus, we can live in a way that shows we love God and others. Today, we’ll hear how Paul guides us to live in a way that honors Jesus. ”

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

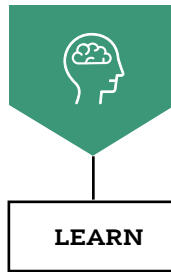
**SAY** “Let’s take a moment to review our big picture question and answer. Can anyone remember our big picture question? **[Allow responses.]** **Why should we praise Jesus?** Let’s say the answer together: **We should praise Jesus for what He has done to provide our salvation and because He will one day make all things right.**

Jesus is worthy of praise! He gives us hope for today and for the future. As believers we can praise Jesus by living in a way that honors Him as we point others to Him. We can share the hope we have, knowing that one day He will return to make all things right. ”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** “Last week, we learned that Paul was under house arrest in Rome. Even though Paul had not done anything wrong, God used Paul’s imprisonment to get him to Rome so he could share the gospel there. Before Paul went to Rome, he had traveled on three different missionary journeys. On one of those journeys, he went to the city of Thessalonica. Paul preached the gospel and helped start a church. Today, we will read part of a letter Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica as he helped them know we are here to make much of Jesus. ”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### **LEARN** the Bible Story

#### **1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)**

Open your Bible to 1 Thessalonians 4–5. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “We Are Here to Make Much of Jesus.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### **WE ARE HERE TO MAKE MUCH OF JESUS**

“**Paul had started the church at Thessalonica (THESS uh loh NIGH kuh) about 20 years after Jesus died and rose from the dead, but Paul could not stay there long because a mob wanted to hurt him. Paul checked in on the church and wrote a letter to teach the believers there and encourage them.**

In his first letter to the Thessalonian believers, Paul taught about how to live as followers of Jesus. **Paul wrote, “God wants you to be holy and to live in a way that pleases Him.” This means that Christians should rely on God to help them do what is right and good, just like Jesus did.**

Paul encouraged them to work hard and not be lazy. **He wrote, “Make it your goal to live a quiet life, mind your own business, and work with your hands.”** Paul wanted them to be responsible and help others.

**Paul also wrote about the importance of love and unity among believers. Christians are on earth to make much of Jesus. Paul said, “Show sincere love to one another as brothers and sisters. Be eager to honor one another.”** Paul wanted them to treat each other like family, showing love and respect.

**Then Paul wrote words of comfort to the believers in Thessalonica. He said that when Jesus returns, those who believe in Him will be together with Him forever. Paul wrote, “We will meet the Lord and be with him forever.” These words brought joy and hope to the believers.**

**Finally, Paul wanted the believers to have a grateful and prayerful attitude. He urged them to pray and give thanks to God in all circumstances. “Always be joyful and never stop praying,” Paul wrote. “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you.”**

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#### **STORYTELLING TIPS**

**Pause for questions:** As you tell the story, pause for kids to ask questions, or ask the kids questions periodically to keep them engaged.

**Use a prop:** Create a paper scroll and pretend to read from it as you tell the story.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ Paul loved the people he shared the gospel with, including the church in Thessalonica. He was forced to leave the city on his second missionary journey, but he later sent Timothy to the Thessalonian church to check on them. Paul wrote them this letter to give them hope and to encourage them to live in a way that honors Jesus.

What did Paul ask the Thessalonian church to do? Look at 1 Thessalonians 4:1. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Thessalonians 4:1.]** Paul wanted the church in Thessalonica to live in a way that pleases God. He encouraged them that they were doing this, but he also told them to keep doing this even more.

How can we live to please God? Look at 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8. **[Choose volunteers to read 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8.]** Paul wrote that we can live to please God by living holy lives. This is not something we can do in our own power. We need the help of the Holy Spirit in us to transform our hearts and minds so that we can walk in holiness. We depend on His Spirit to help us say no to things that displease God and yes to things that please God.

Paul also wanted the believers to remember that they have a great hope. What is our great hope? Look at 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.]** Paul told the believers to look forward to the day that Jesus returns. No matter what hardships we experience on earth, we can look forward with hope knowing that there is a day coming where everything will be made right. This truth should encourage us to live in a way that shows others how great Jesus is. We can tell others about all Jesus has done to provide our salvation and to one day make all things right. ”

### 3 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ Christians have a special purpose to spread the good news of Jesus and to live in a way that honors Him. We live holy lives, loving one another and finding joy in Jesus as we remember God’s promise to one day return and make all things right. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

### 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 35, Session 6” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How should you deal with fake friends, bullies, and gossip?
2. How can we treat others in a way that pleases God?

### 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

**SAY** “ A woman named Putri (name changed) from a rural Southeast Asia village moved to a large city to begin working as a school cook. Putri was a Muslim but a Christian friend from her new





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

job invited her church. When Putri came to the church, the believers welcomed her. Putri had never heard the good news about Jesus and one of the church leaders knew this might be the only time she visited their church. After a church leader shared the gospel, Putri immediately put her faith in Jesus. ”

Tell kids that Putri is the first person from her family and the first person from her village in Southeast Asia to trust in Jesus. Explain that Putri trusted in Jesus even though it meant her family and Muslim friends might not be friendly toward her anymore. Tell kids that in April 2021, Putri was baptized. Explain that the church didn't have a large baptism pool, so Putri was baptized in an inflatable kid's pool. Remind kids that the gospel is the hope for every person. Close in prayer, thanking God for saving Putri and asking Him to help her be bold in her faith. Thank God for how the believers of the church made much of Jesus by welcoming Putri and sharing the gospel.

### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Isaiah 25:1 together.

**SAY** “ Our key passage reminds us of God’s faithfulness to us and to His Word. We can live in ways that make much of Him and point others to His faithfulness. ”

Form kids into pairs and distribute index cards and markers to each pair. Direct kids to write out the key passage on each index card. Challenge pairs to take turns saying the key passage aloud from memory, while their partner uses their index card as a reference to check if her partner is saying it correctly.

Lead kids to sing “I Will Exalt You (Isaiah 25:1).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

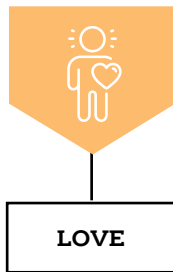
### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** “ Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to rescue us from our sins. Thank You that we can find purpose and hope in You. Help us live in a way that brings honor to Your name. In Jesus’ name, amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### **LOVE** God by Applying the Story

#### **1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)**

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to find 1 Thessalonians 4 in their Bibles. Tell kids that the book of 1 Thessalonians is one of the two letters Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica. Guide kids to also locate 2 Thessalonians.

Consider comparing the New Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Thessaloniki [C4].) Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Thessalonians 4:7.

**SAY** “ Paul encouraged believers to be holy or set apart. Following Jesus leads us to live differently than those who have not trusted in Him. We may sometimes want to avoid standing out or being different, but believers are called to live in a way that honors Jesus. We are called to be holy like God is holy. It is God’s transforming power in our lives that allows us to point others to Jesus. ”

#### **2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)**

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** “ Paul encouraged the Thessalonians to be thankful in all circumstances. How does this honor Jesus? ”

Share how being thankful in any circumstances reveals that we are trusting in Jesus and His promises. Prompt kids to think about how thankfulness reveals how our hearts are focused more on who God is and what He will do than our circumstances. Remind kids that we can also give thanks knowing that there will be a day when Jesus returns and makes everything right.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Thess. 5:16-18.)

**SAY** “ Who do you know that lives to make much of Jesus? How do they do this? ”

Answers will vary. Discuss how we can be encouraged by the examples of others and how they seek to honor Jesus. Remind kids that Paul was an example for many in the early church, and even us today. Tell kids that we can also be an example to others.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Phil. 3:10,17.)

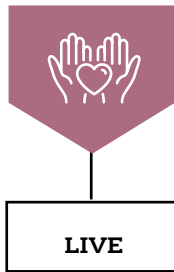
**SAY** “ Do you think you make much of Jesus with how you live? Why or why not? ”

Answers will vary. Encourage kids to remember that no one is perfect and we will all mess up. Challenge kids to think about how they treat others, if they follow God’s commands, or if they show thankfulness. Remind kids that Jesus saved us so we can live in a way that honors Him and points others to how great He is.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Col. 1:9-12.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** the Mission

#### **1 ACTIVITY CHOICE** (10 minutes)

##### ☐ **OPTION 1: SHOW LOVE**



Tape a piece of paper to the back of each kid. Provide each kid with a washable marker. Tell kids that they can use their markers to draw a picture or write kind words to show love to one another. Encourage kids to draw or write something on each kid's paper that shows something they like about him or her such as being friendly, kind, sharing, funny, etc. Once everyone has written or drawn something on each kid's paper, invite kids to take their paper off their backs and see what others drew or wrote.

**SAY** “ Being kind and showing love to one another is one way we can live to please God and make much of Jesus. Today, we learned that when Putri went to the church for the first time, the church members were kind and welcomed her. They modeled Jesus’ love and helped Putri see how great Jesus is. ”

##### ☐ **OPTION 2: JOY, PRAYER, THANKS**

Provide each kid with three sticky notes, each a different color. Assign one color to be joy, the second prayer, and the third thanks. Lead kids to write something they can rejoice about on the joy sticky note, something they can pray about on the prayer sticky note, and something they can give thanks about on the thanks sticky note.

Then lead kids to spread out around the room. Tell kids that when you shout “joy,” they must exchange their joy note with another kid. Repeat for the other two sticky notes, challenging kids to trade each note with someone new. Then invite kids to share the notes they received with the entire group.

**SAY** “ God calls us to rejoice, pray, and give thanks always. We can share our joys, prayers, and thanks with other believers as we encourage one another to make much of Jesus. ”

#### **2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER** (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for giving us purpose and asking Him to help us live holy lives that bring honor and glory to Him. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Secret Message Scramble” on the activity page.



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 35 • Session 6

## WE ARE HERE TO MAKE MUCH OF JESUS

1 Thessalonians 4-5

### WHY SHOULD WE PRAISE JESUS?

**WE SHOULD PRAISE JESUS FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE TO PROVIDE OUR SALVATION AND BECAUSE HE WILL ONE DAY MAKE ALL THINGS RIGHT.**

Paul had started the church at Thessalonica (THESS uh loh NIGH kuh), but Paul could not stay there long because a mob wanted to hurt him. Paul checked in on the church and wrote a letter to teach the believers there and encourage them.

Paul wrote, "God wants you to be holy and to live in a way that pleases Him." This means that Christians should rely on God to help them do what is right and good.

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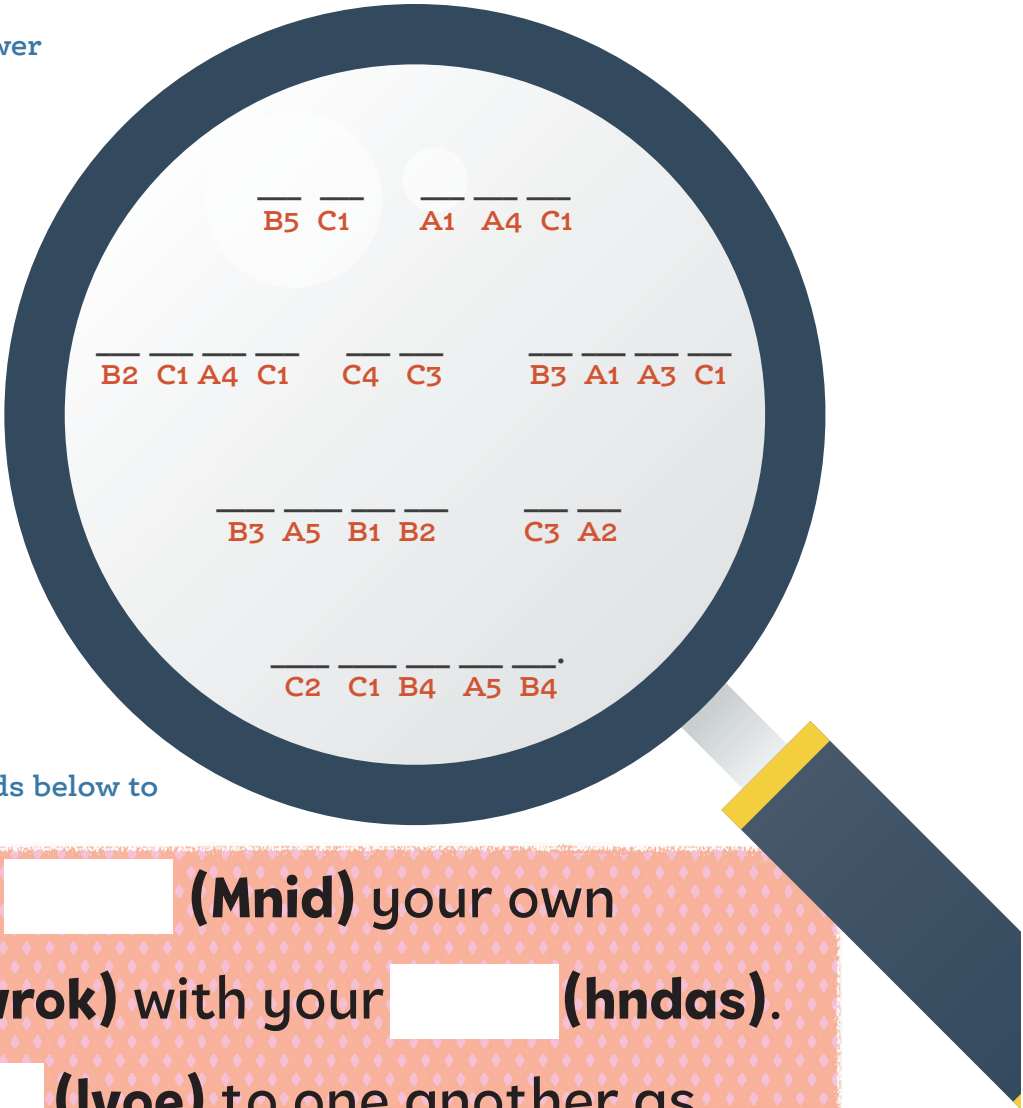
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Finally, Paul wanted the believers to have a grateful and prayerful attitude. "Always be joyful and never stop praying," Paul wrote. "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you."

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**Crack the Code** | Use the grid code to reveal the answer to the question, *What is our purpose?*

	A	B	C
1	A	C	E
2	F	H	J
3	K	M	O
4	R	S	T
5	U	W	F



**Secret Message Scramble** | Unscramble the words below to complete the message Paul told the church in Thessalonica.

Live a  (**quiet**) life.  (**Mnid**) your own  
 (**bisunses**), and  (**wrok**) with your  (**hndas**).  
 (**Sohw**) sincere  (**lvoe**) to one another as  
 (**bohrtres**) and  (**stisres**). Be eager to  
 (**hnoor**) one another.



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT

## We Are Here to Make Much of Jesus

### BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Paul wrote a letter to the Thessalonian church. Paul said, “God wants you to be holy and to live in a way that pleases Him.”
- Paul also wrote about the importance of love and unity among believers.
- Paul reminded them that Jesus is coming back. He told them to always give thanks.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Christians have a special purpose to spread the good news of Jesus and to live in a way that honors Him. We live holy lives, loving one another and finding joy in Jesus as we remember God’s promise to one day return and make all things right.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Isaiah 25:1

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why should we praise Jesus?  
We should praise Jesus for what He has done to provide our salvation and because He will one day make all things right.

