

Rhythms of Grace • Paul II • April Yr. 2

Theme: Paul II • Spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ

Scripture: The Epistles of Paul

Date: _____

Location: _____

Volunteer Role:

Facilitator _____

Storyteller _____

Celebrant _____

Center Leader _____

Guide _____

Items Needed for This Session

Gathering: 12 red, 12 blue, 12 green, 12 yellow, 12 purple foot shapes, maps of the particular areas Paul visited-Mount the maps (one each) on; red, blue, green, yellow and purple construction paper. (see resources for maps)

Storytelling: Bible, Jesus doll, maps from gathering, one map of Mediterranean area with cities noted (see resources)

Response Activities:

Walking Sandals- different sized shapes of sandal bottoms cut from foam with holes punched around the outer edge, 5 ft. piece of yarn with ends wrapped with tape.

Foot Print Mural- roll of kraft paper with map of the Mediterranean sketched on it, washable paints, towels and water to clean up, cover for table and floor.

Building Churches- building blocks.

Writing Letters- paper with preprinted sentences (see resources), clip art symbols to respond to the pre-printed questions (see resources, two answers per sentence), pencils, glue sticks.

Regathering: *Jesu, Jesu*, Elements for the Eucharistic table (see Eucharist-Book 1)

Eucharist: altar table and elements (pita bread/rice crackers), juice, chalice, paten, purificator, corporal, altar cloth, Bible, Jesus doll, Eucharistic Prayer (see Book 1 p. 100), *Gather our Hearts* song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99)

Dismissal: *Jesus Loves Me*, song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99)

Lesson Plan • Paul II • April Yr. 2

Gathering: Participants gather at the storytelling area. Choosing a specific color to follow in Paul's footsteps (assign a color foot) they follow footsteps to the color coded map at the end of the journey. They will pick up the map and retrace their steps to the storytelling area. Reset activity and repeat, if needed, for additional participants.

Storytelling: Jesus doll, Bible, small maps collected from participants, large map of the Mediterranean.

Response Activities:

Lacing Walking Sandals- Participants lace foam sandals using yarn.

Footprint Mural- Make a fist. Dip pinky finger side of fist in paint and press down on paper to create a foot print. Place paint dots to create toes. Continue all over paper.

Building Churches- Using building blocks, participant and leader will build church buildings.

Writing Letters- Participants will, if able, write a letter to a friend. Or, using the preprinted sentences, participant and leader use clip art symbols to complete the letter.

Regathering: Game: Tell the News- participants sit in a circle. The first person whispers a message to the person next to them. The message continues around the circle with the last person saying the message out loud. Is it the same? Singing *Jesu, Jesu*, leader gives participants an Eucharist element and participant brings it to the Celebrant then sit back down in the circle around the Eucharistic table.

Eucharist: Sing: Gather our Hearts

Gather our hearts, oh God.
Gather our thoughts, oh God.
Bring us together around you.

Celebration of the Eucharist

Dismissal: All sing and sign, *Jesus Loves Me*,
Celebrant provides a Blessings:
Celebrant: "*Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord.*"
Participant: "*Thanks be to God!*"

Storytelling • Paul II • April Yr. 2

*Place the Bible and Jesus doll by the Storyteller
Five country maps and the large Mediterranean map*

“Today our story is from the Bible, (show the Bible) our book that tells the stories of God and God’s people... of Jesus, (show Jesus doll) God’s son...and of how much God loves us. (place hands over heart.) Today we continue a story we began last month. The story of Paul.

Remember in the beginning of the story Saul was an enemy of the early Christians (they were the people who believe Jesus is God’s Son). Remember the bright light that blinded Saul and the voice of Jesus telling him to go and wait in Damascus? Then a follower of Jesus, a Christian, came and healed Saul’s blindness and took care of him for a while. Remember he was baptized and filled with the love of Jesus? He knew then that the Christians were right, that Jesus was the son of God. We left him going out into the desert to be alone with God and decide what he was to do next.

Today’s story begins here..... After the desert, Saul changed his name to Paul and went to Jerusalem to meet with the disciples. At first they were afraid of him. Wasn’t he the man who was trying to kill the Christians? Barnabas took him to the disciples and told them the story of Paul’s experience on the road and his preaching in Damascus. Paul stayed in Jerusalem for a short while but then began to travel all around to the countries surrounding the sea. He told the people in these countries about God and Jesus, God’s Son. He started churches in many of the countries...let’s look at our map and see all the places to which he traveled, (*look at map-point and name some of the places*).

Paul also wrote letters to the people he met and the churches he helped to begin. Sometimes his letters were to tell the churches they had to keep doing Christ’s work, sometimes they were to tell churches they were great! All his letters helped to support the people as they tried to follow Christ’s teachings. We still have some of these letters now in our Bible (*turn to some of the letters, mention the names and then point to the places on the maps*.)

We don’t know how Paul died but we think it was in Rome where he had been taken by the Romans. We have Paul with us today through his letters and his story. He was a very important follower of Jesus who taught all the people he met about God, and God’s love for each of us.

Amen.

Continue by explaining activities