



BIBLE STORY RECAP

Bible Passage | 2 Corinthians 11

Main Point | God gives us power to stand up for the gospel.

Key Passage | Colossians 1:18 "He is also the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything."

Big Picture Question | Why does the church exist? The church exists to glorify God by worshiping Him, showing His love, and telling others about Jesus.

READ THE BIBLE STORY

Guarding the Truth

Paul had shared the good news about Jesus in Corinth. Many people believed the gospel, and they began meeting together as a church. **After Paul left, he heard that the believers in Corinth were turning away from the gospel.** Other people had come and **taught them things that weren't true.** These teachers led the Corinthians away from the one true gospel, and Paul was worried. **So Paul wrote a letter to the church.**

"Listen," **Paul wrote, "I care about you. I want you to be faithful to Jesus and remember the gospel."** Paul knew that the people had been **tricked by the false teachers,** like the serpent in the garden of Eden had tricked Eve. Eve had everything she needed, but she believed the serpent's lie and disobeyed God. **The Corinthian believers had everything they needed—the good news of the gospel—yet they were turning away to listen to wrong teaching.**

"I'm not a great speaker," Paul admitted, "but I know what I'm talking about." **Paul relied on**

God's power to share the gospel. He spent his life sharing the good news, even though it meant facing suffering. Paul didn't share the gospel to get something from those who listened; he told them about Jesus because he loved them!

Paul wrote, "I won't back down. False teachers are trying to spread different messages so that the good news about Jesus won't go out. These teachers are against God, and they're only trying to take advantage of you."

Paul spoke up because he knew the truth. "If anyone deserves to be listened to, it's me. I've worked hard, been thrown in jail and beaten, and nearly died to share the gospel." God had chosen Paul and had changed his life. Paul knew his suffering was worth it, and he wasn't going to give up. "I do all of this because God, the Father of the Lord Jesus, deserves to be praised."

Christ Connection: Sharing Jesus with the world is not always easy. There will always be some who try to stop the good news from spreading. God calls believers to follow and obey Jesus no matter what.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ELEM AND KINDERGARTEN DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Have kids open their Bibles to 2 Cor. 11

1. Who told the people in Corinth about Jesus?
(Paul)

2. Why were the new teachers sharing a message that was not true? *(They did not love God and tried to keep the good news from spreading.)*

3. Did Paul charge the Corinthians to share the gospel with them? *(no, 2 Cor. 11:7)*

4. What did Paul face because of his desire to share the gospel? *(all kinds of sufferings, 2 Cor. 11:23-27)*

5. Why did Paul do everything for God? *(God had chosen him and changed his life.)*

6. Where can we find the truth about God and ourselves? *(Guide kids to see that the Bible is the only source of truth about God and our relationship to Him. Lead them to discuss why we need the Bible, and how we can learn truth from it. (2 Cor. 2:9,11; 1 Cor. 10:13.)*

7. What sufferings might we face if we stand up for the gospel? *(Discuss the ways kids may feel left out or unpopular for their faith. Point out that some places in the world still face very severe persecution, such as imprisonment or even death. Remind the kids that even those severe forms of persecution cannot stop God's plan to grow the church, and that the gospel is worth facing any kind of mistreatment.)*

8. Where can we get strength to face persecution and stand up for the gospel? *(Remind kids that God is our source of strength. Help them see that being afraid of persecution is natural and normal. Discuss ways the Holy Spirit can help them face fears and do things that seem impossible or scary.)*

TODDLER/PRE-K STORY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Recap the Story |

Paul had started the church in Corinth. Some people were teaching untrue things about Jesus. Paul wrote the church a letter. Paul said, "I care about you. You let people be teachers, but they do not teach the truth. I taught you what is true about Jesus, and I did not ask you for money. I asked other churches to give money to help you. I do not act like I am better than anyone, but I suffer to teach people about Jesus. I have been hurt, cold, scared, hungry, and thirsty so people can hear about Jesus. I do all of this so people will love and trust in Jesus."

Review Points |

- False teachers were saying things that were not true.
- Paul wrote a letter to the church at Corinth.
- Paul wanted people to remember what is true about Jesus.
- Believers follow Jesus and obey Him no matter what.

Discussion Questions |

1. Who told the people in Corinth about Jesus? *(Paul)*
2. After Paul left Corinth, who started telling the people things that were not true? *(new teachers)*
3. Why were the new teachers sharing a message that was not true? *(They did not love God and tried to keep the good news from spreading.)*
4. Why did Paul do everything for God? *(God had chosen him and changed his life.)*
5. **Why does the church exist? The church exists to glorify God.**

ACTIVITIES

STAND TOGETHER

Instructions |

Invite the class to stand side-by-side with about two feet between each kid. Challenge them to stand on one foot. You may time them to see how long they can stay standing on one foot. After the last kid loses balance, play again, allowing the kids to place hands on shoulders to hold one another steady. Feel free to add more challenges such as hop on one foot, lean forward on one foot, etc.

Christ Connection |

God gives us power to stand up for the gospel.

One of the ways God gives us this power is through the Holy Spirit, but God also gives us one another. Other believers can help you stand up for the gospel just as you can help one another stand on one foot longer. We help one another by studying God's Word together, confessing sin to one another, encouraging one another, and meeting one another's needs.

COLOR OVER COINS

Instructions |

Gather all the kids at the tables and give each of them a piece of paper and a crayon. Show them how to place a gold coin under their paper and draw over it using the side of their crayon. Help each toddler cover over the gold coin until they have a bunch of them on their paper. Write the review point, Paul wanted people to remember what is true about Jesus, on each child's paper and have them repeat after you as you write it.

Christ Connection |

False teachers were saying things that were not true about Jesus. Paul said he did not teach about Jesus for power or money. **The church worships God** out of love for Him.

DON'T BE TRICKED

Instructions |

Before the session, create a series of true-or-false questions. Consider statements about your own life, review facts from previous sessions, or choose a topic that interests your class.

Examples: The heart of a shrimp is in its tail. (*false, its head*) A snail can sleep for three years. (*true*) Slugs have four noses. (*true*) It takes a sloth one week to digest food. (*false, two weeks*) Bats always turn right when leaving a cave. (*false, left*) Giraffes have no vocal cords. (*true*)

Read each statement and let the kids guess whether it is true or false. If you want to make this an active activity, consider choosing each side of a room to be where the true is and where the false is.

Christ Connection |

Paul did not love Jesus at first. Paul met Jesus, and Jesus rescued Paul from his sins. Paul helped grow the church. The church worships God.



Big Picture Scramble

Unscramble the key words to answer the big picture question.

Why does the church exist?

The church exists to _____ God

FIRLOGY

by _____ Him,

SHIPROWNIG

showing His _____,

OVEL

and _____

LETLNGI

others about _____.

SUSJE



What Would You Say?

God gives us power to stand up for the gospel. How would you respond to each of these claims? Find and read the references in your Bible for help.



I'm not sure I can trust the Bible.

(Proverbs 30:5)



Jesus isn't really alive, right?

(1 Corinthians 15:3-6)



I'm a good person. I don't need Jesus.

(Romans 3:23)