

Paul and the Early Church

Early Church and Missions
Lesson 3

Lesson Objectives

- The children will describe the relationship between Paul and Philemon.
- The children will state that God wants them to make best friends at church.
- The children will plan one way to serve God with a friend.

Lesson Text

Philemon 1-7

Scripture Memory Verse

Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.

Philemon 7

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: My Address

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: Forever Friends

Craft: Friends Forever

Scripture Memory: Circle of Friends

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



pre
class

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Paul and the Early Church

My Address

The children will fill out address book pages that will be used in the Craft Center.

Materials

For each child:

- pen or pencil
- paper clip

For the teacher:

- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 2 copies for each child

Preparation

1. Cut out the address book pages from all the copies of Reproducible Page A. Cut four pages for each child and clip them together.
2. Fill out a sample of an address book page to show the children.

Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Explain to them that in this week's Bible Story they will learn about a special friendship between Paul and Philemon. They will be making an address book to help each of them keep in touch with their friends. Show them your sample and read the information to them.
2. Distribute the address book pages and the pens. Have the children fill out the information on each of their pages. Walk around and help the children as necessary.
3. Have the children clip their completed pages together. Collect the pages and give them to the Craft teacher.

Teacher Tips

- Have the children write anything about themselves they wish in the "Other Stuff" section. Suggestions: e-mail addresses; their pets' names; their birthdays; their favorite color, television show, Bible personality, etc.

Name: _____

Telephone: () _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Other Stuff: _____



B Paul and the Early Church

S

Forever Friends

The children will hear about and describe the relationship between the apostle Paul and Philemon.

Materials

For each child:

- pencil

For the teacher:

- 4 large index cards, 5" x 7"
- black marker
- photographs of disciples doing things together e.g., HOPE, sharing, talking, eating, praying, etc. in your region (optional)

Preparation

1. On each index card, neatly print one of the following: Philemon, Dear Friend, Fellow Worker, Brother.
2. Practice leading this activity.

Introducing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Philemon. Tell the children that today's Bible Story comes from the New Testament book of Philemon. Hold up the index card with "Philemon" and pass it around for each child to say. Have them open their Bibles to Philemon. Tell them to use their Tables of Contents. Circulate among the children to offer help. Give them the hint that it is the book that comes after Titus and before Hebrews. Encourage the children to help each other.

Tell the children that the book of Philemon is a letter. The apostle Paul wrote it to his friend Philemon. Philemon was a dear friend, fellow disciple and the church met at his home!

- *Who do you write letters to?*
- *Do you write long or short letters?*
- *Is Philemon a long letter or a short letter?*
- *How many verses are in this letter? (25)*

The apostle Paul traveled around the world teaching people about Jesus. Since Paul did not have a telephone or a computer, he sent letters to his friends who lived in all the different places where he stayed. Philemon was one of Paul's close friends. Today, you will hear about the exciting things that they did together.

Presenting the Bible Story

Show the children the other three index cards and read them aloud. Explain that these are some important words that they will hear in their Bible Story today. Place the four index cards in the middle of the children so that they can see the words. Tell the children that when they hear you say one of these words, they should try to be the first one to raise their hands. (Give the card to the first child who raises his hand.)

*Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To PHILEMON our DEAR FRIEND and FELLOW WORKER,
to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier and to
the church that meets in your home:*

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ.*

*I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers,
because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your
love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in shar-
ing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of
every good thing we have in Christ. Your love has given me
great joy and encouragement, because you, BROTHER, have
refreshed the hearts of the saints.*

(Philemon 1-7, emphasis added)

Ask the children to hold up their cards.

- *Who did Paul write this letter to? (Philemon)*
- *What was the first thing that Paul called him? (dear friend)*
- *What was the second thing that Paul called him? (fellow worker)*
- *What was the last thing Paul called him? (brother)*

Collect the cards. Hold up the card marked "Dear Friend."

- *How did Paul feel about Philemon?*
- *What is a dear friend? What is another word for "dear" that means the same thing? (best, special, precious, valuable)*
- *Think about your best or special friends. How do you feel about them? That is how Paul felt about Philemon.*

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Paul and the Early Church

Hold up the card marked "Fellow Worker."

- *What is a fellow worker? (someone who works with you)*
- *Have you ever had to do a big job? Who helped you? How did you feel about the people who helped you? (Use the example of a HOPE project, Special Missions fundraiser, household project)*
- *A "fellow worker" is not a boss or a slave—it is a person who works together with you doing the same work.*
- *How do you think that Paul felt about Philemon for being his fellow worker?*

Hold up the card marked "Brother."

- *Raise your hand if you have a brother or a sister.*
 - *What is a brother? How do you feel about your brothers or sisters?*
 - *In the church, God wants everyone to be a brother or a sister to each other. He does not want us to treat each other like strangers. God wants his church to be a family—and God is the Father.*
 - *Paul called Philemon his brother. He must have loved him very much to call him a brother.*
 - *Raise your hand if you do not have a brother or a sister.*
- Tell these children that God wants them to have brothers and sisters in church.

Friends Forever

Ask the children what kinds of things they think Paul and Philemon did together as friends, fellow workers and brothers. (Guide the discussion to include: pray together, invite people to church, teach people about Jesus, help poor or sick people, travel together, defend or protect each other from their enemies, have fun, encourage each other, read God's word together, eat together, etc.)

Explain that Paul also wrote this letter to encourage Philemon to love and receive Onesimus, a former slave to Philemon who was coming back from Paul to Philemon as a brother in the Lord. Philemon and Onesimus were dear friends to Paul.

If you have pictures of disciples from your region, use these to help the children visualize what Paul and Philemon might have done together.

Share from your own life about your best friends in the church and things that you have done to become best friends.

Share and Tell

Tell the children that God wants us to make best friends in the church. God wants us to have friends who will pray with us, read the Bible with us, encourage us and have fun doing the things that make God happy. Encourage the children that throughout this lesson, they will be thinking of ways that they can be better friends with each other. Close with a prayer thanking God for giving us great friends.

Teacher Tips

- Play the song, "Forever" from the movie soundtrack from *Pooh's Grand Adventure* or another familiar song about friendship to set the tone for today's activity.



Paul and the Early Church

Friends Forever

The children will put together address books to help them develop their friendships with other children at church.

Materials

For each child:

- address book pages from the Preclass Activity
- 1 piece of construction paper, 9" x 12"
- glue stick
- crayons
- 4 identical stickers (each child should have a different type of sticker)

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 2 copies for the teacher
- Page B, 1 copy for every 2 children

Preparation

1. Prepare a "book" for each child as follows:
 - A. Cut the construction paper in half horizontally, making two 6" x 9" pieces of paper.
 - B. Place one piece on top of the other and fold them vertically.
 - C. Staple the pages together making a 4½" x 6" book. See Figure A.
2. Cut out the pictures from the copies of Reproducible Page B. Each child will need only one picture.
3. Make a sample of the finished address book to show the children, using your copies of Reproducible Page A.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In today's lesson we are learning about the special friendship between Paul and Philemon. We are going to make an address book to help us build better friendships in the church. Show them your sample.*
2. Distribute the pictures and the crayons. Have the children color the letters on their pictures.
3. Distribute the books you prepared and the glue sticks. Have the children glue their pictures to the front covers of their books. See Figure B.
4. Distribute to each child their stickers and their address book

pages that they filled out during the Preclass Activity. Have the children trade one of their address book pages and a sticker with another child. Have the children do this with their other three pages and stickers. When the children are finished trading they should have four different classmates' address pages and four unique stickers.

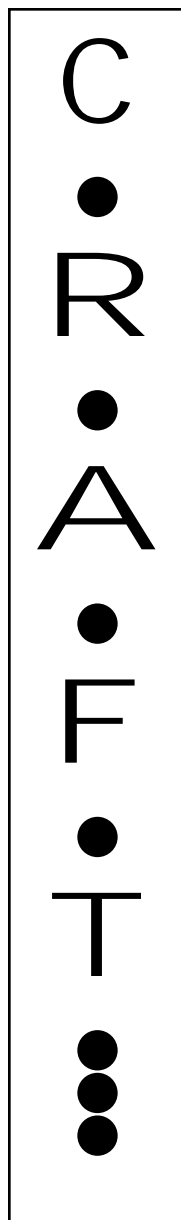
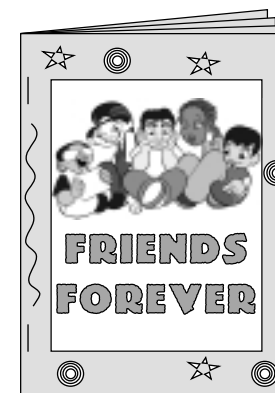
5. Have the children glue the pages to their address books, as shown in Figure C.
6. Have the children further decorate their address books with their stickers and crayons. See Figure D. Make sure they write their names on their address books.

Conclusion

Close with a prayer thanking God for giving us great friends in the church.

Teacher Tips

- Encourage any timid children so no one is left out when the address pages are exchanged.



Paul and the Early Church

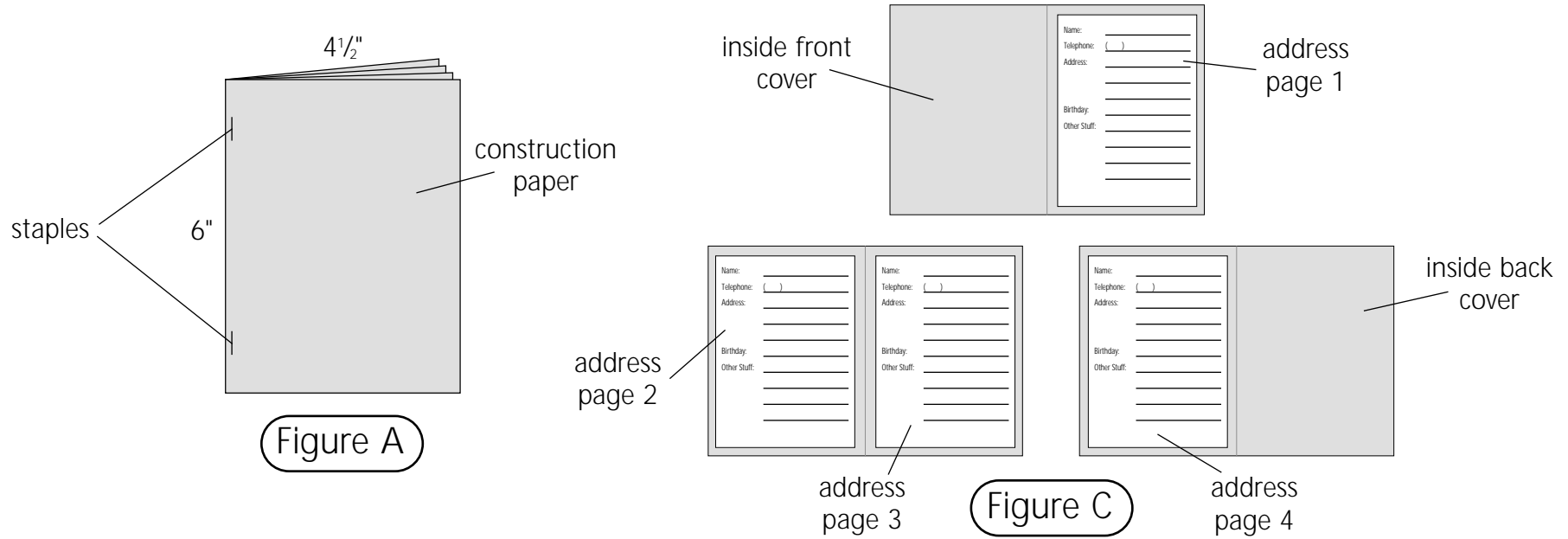
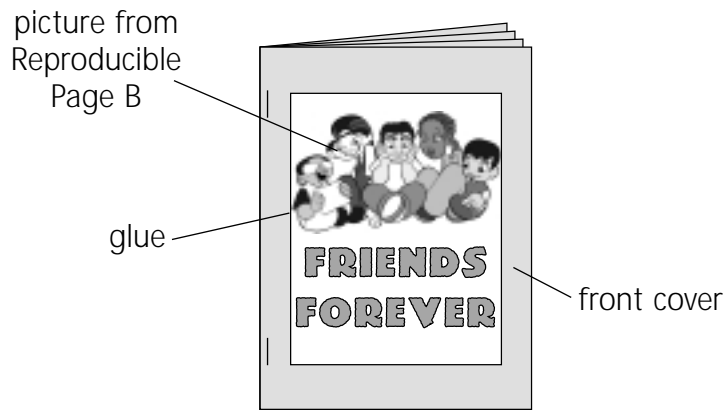


Figure A

Figure C

Figure B

Figure D



Paul and the Early Church

Circle of Friends

The children will learn and memorize today's Scripture Memory Verse as they encourage each other.

Scripture Memory Verse

Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.

Philemon 7

Materials

No additional materials are needed.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *Today you are learning about the special friendship between Paul and Philemon. Paul wrote a letter to Philemon to tell him how much he loved and appreciated him. Philemon was a dear friend to Paul. Together they did special things to serve God. Paul thought of Philemon as a brother. In today's Scripture Memory Verse you will learn the words that Paul wrote to Philemon.*
2. Show the children the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Say it to them three times, pointing to the words while they listen. Ask them to say it together with you three more times.
3. Have the children sit in a circle. Tell them that they will say the verse together as a group. Explain that during each round when a certain word or words come up, they will stand and then sit down again. Lead the children in saying the verse this way. Tell the children before you begin which word(s) they will stand up for.

Words to stand up for

- Round 1 – LOVE
- Round 2 – LOVE, JOY
- Round 3 – LOVE, JOY, ENCOURAGEMENT
- Round 4 – LOVE, JOY, ENCOURAGEMENT, BROTHER
- Round 5 – LOVE, JOY, ENCOURAGEMENT, BROTHER, REFRESHED

4. Now have the children stand up in a circle. Choose one child to stand in the middle. Tell the other children that the child in the middle will be "Philemon" for this activity. Have the children say the verse all together as if to encourage Philemon. As they say the verse, have them slowly walk toward the center of the circle to give a group hug to Philemon.
5. Repeat Step 4 until all the children have had a chance to be in the middle. If you have a large group, let two children stand at a time in the middle.
6. Ask for volunteers to stand and say the verse from memory.

Conclusion

Ask the children how it makes them feel to know that God wants to give them really special friends. Encourage the children to think about the friends they have in this class and plan to do some fun things together during the week. Close with a prayer thanking God for the good friends he gives us in the church.

Teacher Tips

- Do not let the children run or push when they give the group hug.
- Think of additional fun ways for the children to say this verse as a group.
- To enhance the activity in Step 4, make a sign that says "Philemon" for the children to hold while they are in the middle of the circle.

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Paul and the Early Church

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Your love has given me
great joy and encouragement,
because you, brother,
have refreshed the
hearts of the saints.

Philemon 7



Paul and the Early Church

Early Church and Missions
Lesson 3

Lesson at
a Glance supplement

Lesson Objectives

- The children will describe the relationship between Paul and Philemon.
- The children will state that God wants them to make best friends at church.
- The children will plan one way to serve God with a friend.

Lesson Text

Philemon 1-7

Scripture Memory Verse

Your love has given me great joy and encouragement,
because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.
Philemon 7

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Friendly Review

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: At Your Service

Game: What Good Friends Do

Bible Skills: Friendly BINGO

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

1st and 2nd Grades



pre
class

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Friendly Review

The children will review this week's lesson during this fun activity.

Materials

For each child:

- pencil with an eraser
- crayons

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page C.

Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Remind them that they are learning about the special friendship between Paul and Philemon.
2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page

C, pencils and crayons. Tell the children to find a partner to do this activity. Help the children who did not hear this week's Bible Story work with those who did.

3. Circulate among the children to offer help and encouragement.

Teacher Tips

- Bring in pictures of your friends in the kingdom to show the children.
- Set a really friendly atmosphere for today's activity—play music, offer light snacks (with parental permission), bring in some inexpensive incentive prizes just for fun.

Answer Key (Part B)

B. FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. This week's Bible Story is about the friendship of P a u l and P h i l e m o n.
2. Paul said that Philemon was a d e a r f r i e n d.
3. Paul called Philemon his f e l l o w w o r k e r.
4. Philemon was like a b r o t h e r to Paul.

LIFE APPLICATION

At Your Service

The children will review this week's Bible Story as they think of ways to serve God with a friend.

Materials

For each child:

- pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page D.
2. Read Philemon 1-7 to review the events of this week's Bible Story.

Reviewing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Philemon. Ask the children what they remember from this week's Bible Story.

- *The New Testament book of Philemon is a letter. Who wrote this letter? (Paul)*
- *Who did Paul write his letter to? (Philemon)*
- *What kind of friend was Philemon to Paul? (dear friend)*
- *What kind of worker was Philemon to Paul? (fellow worker)*
- *What did Paul consider Philemon to be? (brother)*
- *How would you describe Paul and Philemon's relationship? (Answers will vary.)*

Life Application

Tell the children that God wants us to have best friends in the church. God wants us to have friends that we can talk to about God, pray with, read the Bible with, and do things that make God happy. God wants our dearest friends to be people who share our beliefs.

Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page D and pencils. Tell the children to listen for things that Paul and Philemon did that made God happy as you read the following passage. Read the passage the first time through without a pause. Read it again, stopping each time to let the children write in the missing words on their pages.

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the

saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints. (Philemon 4-7, emphasis added)

- *What are some things that Philemon and Paul did that made God happy. (remembered each other, prayed for each other, loved the saints [disciples], encouraged each other)*

Conclusion: Dare to Share

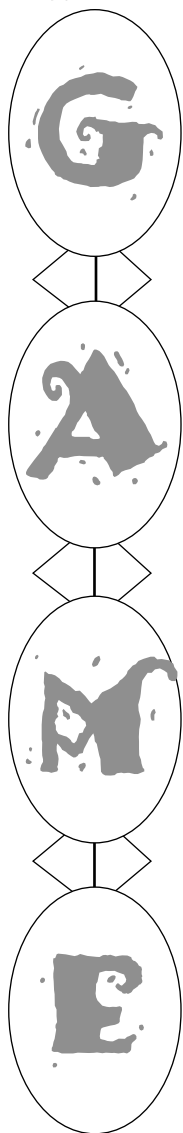
Paul prayed for Philemon to be "active in sharing his faith." What do you think that means? (Answers will vary.) Paul told Philemon that if he did this, he would have a "full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ." Ask the children if they have ever been afraid to taste something new—and found out that it was really delicious. Ask the children if someone tried to tell them how good it would taste—but only by tasting would they really understand. Share from your own experience. Tell the children that Paul wanted Philemon to share his faith so that he could really understand how awesome it was to be a Christian. Encourage the children that each time they talk to someone about Jesus and share their faith in God, they will get a little taste of how great it is to be a disciple of Jesus.

Ask the children to each think of one way that they can serve God with a friend from class this week. Offer suggestions and encourage the children to follow through with their plans. Close with a prayer for the children to have a great time serving God this week.

Teacher Tips

- If your class did not hear the Bible Story, read Philemon 1-7 to them before asking the review questions.
- Plan a time to follow up next week on how the children did in serving God with a friend.





What Good Friends Do

The children will review key ideas from this week's Bible Story as they think about ways to make friends at church.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 small piece of white paper
- pencil

For the teacher:

- scissors
- colorful gift bag
- scrap paper

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 2 copies for the teacher (on brightly colored paper)

Preparation

1. Cut out the "friendly ideas" from both of your copies of Reproducible Page E. Fold them and put them in the gift bag.
2. Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *This week you have been learning about the special friendship between Paul and Philemon. You are learning that God wants us to make our best friends in the church so that we can have fun serving God together. In our game today, we are going to think of things that good friends do together—and ways that they have fun serving God.*
2. Distribute the small pieces of paper and the pencils. Tell the children to write their names on each piece of paper, fold them up and put them in the gift bag.
3. Explain to the children that in the bag are their names and ideas of things that friends do. You are going to mix up the papers in the bag, and then take out a few names and one idea. These children will work on thinking up as many fun ideas as they can to do the idea on their paper. After every group has thought up some ideas, tell them that they will share them with each other. For example: If the idea is "Pray" suggest that they have a "prayer party." They can write the names of people and/or needs in their family or church and take turns praying for these.

They can even call to encourage the people who they prayed for. They could each write a card with a Bible verse to give to a person they prayed for. They could pick out songs about God and play them after each prayer. They might think of fun snacks. At the end of the prayer time, they could play and dance to the "The Twist" and pretend that God has moved or "shaken" the room the way he did in Acts.

4. Pull out three names from the bag and one idea. Read the names and then the idea. Give this group a piece of scrap paper and a pencil. Tell them to think of as many fun ideas as they can for doing this. Continue taking out names and ideas until each child is in a group. Choose a group to join that may need extra help or supervision. Reassign children as needed.
5. When all the children have come up with ideas, bring them back together to share these ideas with the group. Encourage the children to exchange their phone numbers and try and do the ideas that they came up with in this activity.

Special Teacher Note

Take special note of the children's ideas. Talk with their parents and encourage them to follow through with the ideas that their children came up with. Make time during the week to follow up with the children or parents to see if they were able to plan a time to get together.

Conclusion

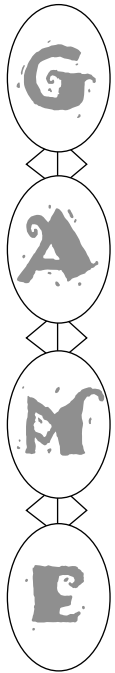
Ask the children how it makes them feel to know that God wants them to have great friends at church. Close with a prayer for the children to make great friends at church.

Teacher Tips

- If you are unable to reproduce Page E on colored paper, then find another way to distinguish them from the papers with the names in your gift bag. This way you can draw from both groups of papers evenly.



Paul and the Early Church



Pray
Play
Help
the Poor

Visit
the Sick

Study
the Bible

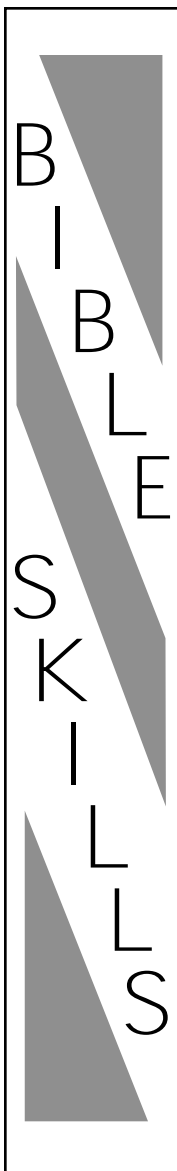
Talk to
People
About
Jesus

Encourage
People

Love
Others



Paul and the Early Church



Friendly BINGO

The children will review key words from this week's Bible Story as they play Bingo.

Materials

For each child:

- 25 small items (pennies, tiddlywinks, etc.)
- 1 small cup or container

For the teacher:

- 5 index cards, 3" x 5"
- black pen

Reproducible Pages:

- Page F, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Place each child's small items in a cup.
2. Neatly print each of the words from the back of this Lesson Card onto one of the index cards.
3. Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In your Bible Story this week, you learned about the special relationship between Paul and Philemon. Philemon was a dear friend and fellow worker to Paul. In fact, Philemon was like a brother to Paul. God wants us to have special friends in the church. God wants us to have friends that share our faith and encourage us to do the things that make God happy. In our activity today, you will review some of the main ideas from this week's Bible Story.*
2. Have the children each find a partner. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page F and small items to each child. Tell them to work together to find the words that you will be calling out.
3. Before the game begins, hold up each card and show it to the children. Read each card and have the children find them on their Bingo cards. Do this for every card.
4. Shuffle the index cards. Tell the children that when you call out a word, they may place one item on a space with the same word. When a child has completed an entire row, he should raise his hand.

5. Shuffle the cards again and play as many rounds as time permits.
6. If you have a confident reader, let him call out the words for one round.

Conclusion

Ask the children what they liked most about this week's Bible Story. Encourage the children to play this game at home or with each other. Close with a prayer for the children to make great friends in church.

Teacher Tips

- Create a friendly atmosphere by supplying background music during this activity.
- Reproduce Page F on heavy paper and laminate for a more durable material. Keep for extra activities.

Friendly Bingo				
Paul	Fellow Worker	Philemon	Brother	Fellow Worker
Fellow Worker	Dear Friend	Fellow Worker	Philemon	Dear Friend
Brother	Paul	Free Space	Dear Friend	Philemon
Philemon	Brother	Paul	Fellow Worker	Brother
Dear Friend	Philemon	Brother	Paul	Paul





Paul
Philemon
Dear Friend
Fellow Worker
Brother



Core/Preclass 2 copies for each child
Core/Craft 2 copies for the teacher

R
E
P
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A

Name: _____	Name: _____
Telephone: () _____	Telephone: () _____
Address: _____ _____	Address: _____ _____
Birthday: _____	Birthday: _____
Other Stuff: _____ _____ _____	Other Stuff: _____ _____ _____

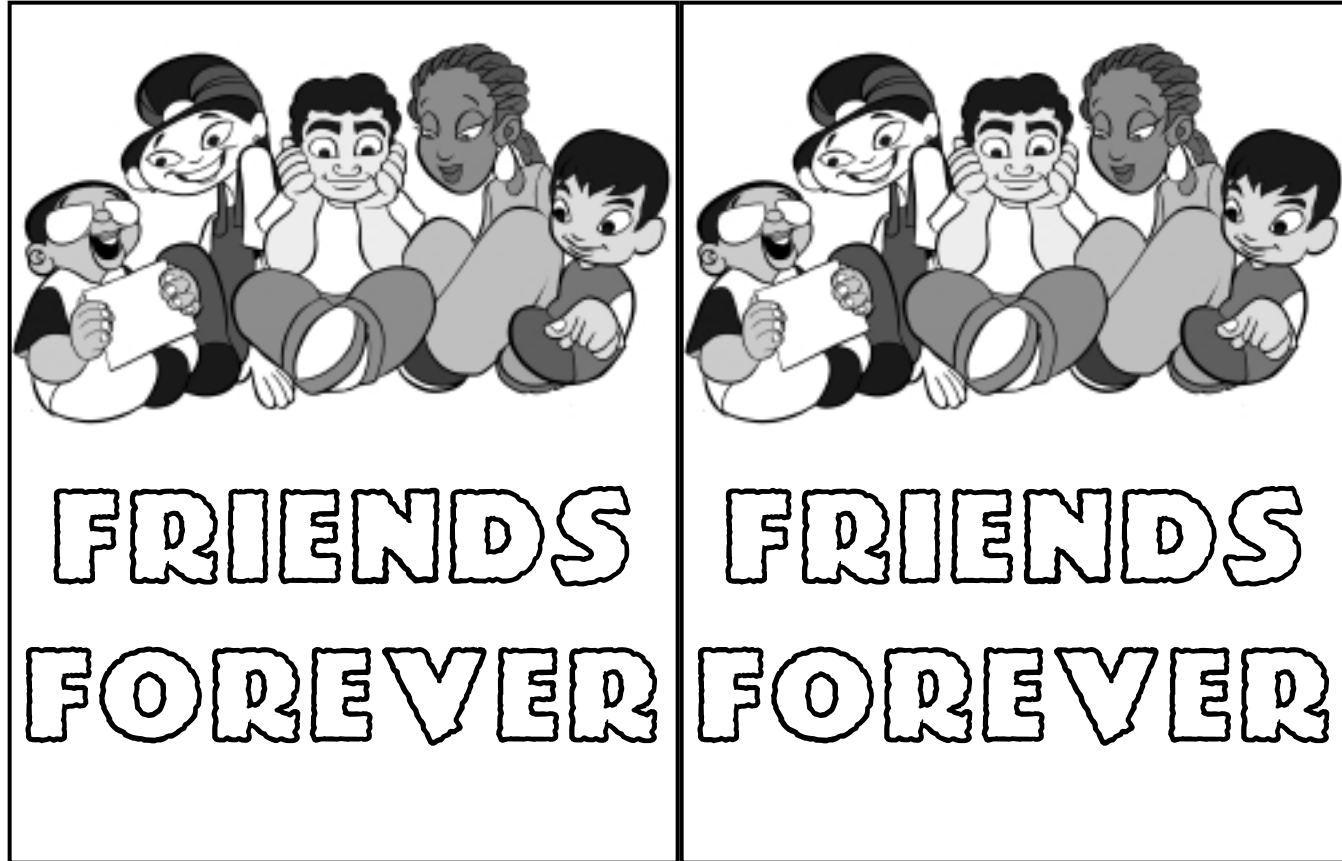
address book page



Core/Craft
1 copy for every 2 children

R
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C
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L
E

PAGE
B



Friendly Review

Name: _____

R
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E
PAGE
C

Supplement/Preclass

1 copy for each child

A. MIXED-UP MATCHING

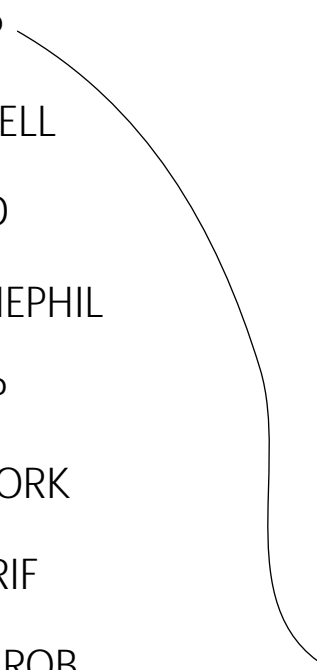
Instructions: Match the scrambled words in the first column with the words from the Bible Story in the second column. The first one has been done for you.

Scrambled Words

- YARP
- WOFELL
- READ
- MONEPHIL
- LAUP
- REWORK
- ENDRIF
- RETHROB
- THAIF
- BREEMREM

Words from Bible Story

- PAUL
- PHILEMON
- DEAR
- FRIEND
- FELLOW
- WORKER
- BROTHER
- PRAY
- REMEMBER
- FAITH



B. FILL IN THE BLANKS

Instructions: Fill in the blanks below with some of the words from the Bible Story, listed above:

1. This week's Bible Story is about the friendship of _____ and _____.
2. Paul said that Philemon was a _____.
3. Paul called Philemon his _____.
4. Philemon was like a _____ to Paul.

C. YOUR TURN!

On the back of this page, make up your own crossword or word search for the words from this week's Bible Story. Place them in alphabetical order or make the words overlap each other. Create your own "secret code." Make up questions for these answers, or come up with your own fun way to use these words.



Supplement/Life Application

1 copy for each child

R
E
P
R
O
D
U
C
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B
L
E
PAGE
D

At Your Service

Name _____

I always thank my God as I r_____ you in my

p_____, because I hear about your faith in the

Lord Jesus and your l_____ for all the saints.

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith,

so that you will have a full understanding of every

good thing we have in Christ. Your love has given

me great joy and e_____, because you,

brother, have refreshed the hearts of the s_____.

(Philemon 4-7)



Supplement/Game

2 copies for the teacher (on brightly colored paper)

REPRODUCTION
PAGE

What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do

Pray

What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do

What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do

Play

What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do

What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do

Help the Poor

What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do

What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do

Visit the Sick

What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do

What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do

Study the Bible

What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do

What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do

Talk to People About Jesus

What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do

What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do

Encourage People

What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do

What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do

Love Others

What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do What Good Friends Do



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Supplement/Bible Skills

1 copy for each child

Friendly Bingo

Paul	Fellow Worker	Philemon	Brother	Fellow Worker
Fellow Worker	Dear Friend	Fellow Worker	Philemon	Dear Friend
Brother	Paul	Free Space	Dear Friend	Philemon
Philemon	Brother	Paul	Fellow Worker	Brother
Dear Friend	Philemon	Brother	Paul	Paul

