

WEEK 4 ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

the messengers



THE BIG IDEA

God's message goes everywhere.

THE BIBLE

Paul Shares the Gospel: Acts 16:9-15;
Matthew 28:18-20

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "Messengers" (Lecrae)
 - "Send Me" (Yancy)
 - "As the World Shakes" (Hillsong Kids)
 - "Spirit Move" (Bright Ones)
 - "Love One Another" (Newsboys)

ACTIVITY | Pass the Parcel

- Hi everyone! We've been exploring how the early church delivered God's message around the world and how we can be God's messengers, too!
- **Have you ever received a delivery? Have you ever sent one?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Form two or more teams and have the kids line up, front to back. Give each team a medium-sized mailing package or another box marked as though it will be mailed. The goal is to pass the parcel down the line, alternating between passing over the head and between the legs. The first team to finish wins! For extended game play, hold multiple rounds and switch up the rules, like having kids pass the package backwards, over their heads to the person behind them.

- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have preteens take an egg and try to package it safely in a box. Their goal is to have their egg survive if dropped and beat up. Give them different items to help package into a small box. Go outside (or lay out a trash bag) to drop the boxes then check the eggs.

ACTIVITY | Delightful Delivery

- **Who likes getting packages delivered to your house?** Birthday gifts, special surprises, or even items you may need for a family vacation are my favorite kind.
- Have you ever thought of how those packages get to your house? Mail carriers and delivery people! We are going to thank the people for delivering our packages.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using one of [these templates](#) (or creating one of your own), have kids decorate a thank you note and encourage them to deliver it to their mail carrier or delivery person this week. Consider adding a place for families to write a note or invite their mail carrier to church with them!

QUESTION | Where is the farthest you've ever been from home?

- **How did you get there?** Did you go by car, plane, train, or boat?
- **How long did it take?** Some trips take hours. Other trips might take days!
- **Were you visiting someone or going sightseeing?**
- **What's your favorite memory of that trip?**

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

BIBLE STORY | Paul Shares the Gospel

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Acts 16:9–15. At the end, hand out heart-shaped pieces of purple cloth to all the kids.
- Paul shared the good news about Jesus with many people. Sometimes, he'd make plans to visit certain cities and tell them about Jesus.
- But in today's story, Paul went somewhere because God gave him directions. How? Let's find out!
- [Read verses 9–10.]
 - **Why did Paul head for Macedonia?** God gave him a dream to help people there!
- [Read verses 11–12.]
 - **What do you think happened while Paul was in Macedonia?** Paul didn't know yet, but he was there because God told him to go!
- [Read verses 13–15. Then, hand out the purple heart-shaped cloths to all the kids.]
 - Paul and his friends began teaching about Jesus to the people there. One of the people who heard his message was a woman named Lydia. She made and sold purple cloth.
 - When she heard the message, Lydia decided to follow Jesus and was baptized. That means she chose to become a member of God's family. That's wonderful!
 - **Do you think it was a coincidence that she was at the place Paul came to speak at? Why?**

- It seems that God sent Paul all the way to Macedonia to deliver the message about Jesus to Lydia!
- Keep this purple cloth to remind you that God can open people's hearts to hear God's message, and that can happen anywhere!

BIG IDEA | God's message goes everywhere.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare four boxes. On one side, write one word per box: "North," "South," "East," and "West" in large letters. On the other side, write one word per box: "God's," "message," "goes," and "everywhere." Position the boxes so that kids can only see the side with the direction words. Have Special Messenger (SM) enter with an empty wagon.
- **Storyteller:** I'm waiting for our Special Messenger, but not for a delivery. Today, I have packages that I want to deliver to different places. (Read the labels on each of the boxes and indicate which direction they will go.)
- **SM:** (Enters with wagon) Hello, hello! I hear you have some special deliveries you need me to take!
- **Storyteller:** Hello, Special Messenger! Yes, I have these packages that need to go to different places.
- **SM:** Let me take care of those for you. (Lifts each package one at a time and turns around to place each on the wagon, revealing the words on the back.)
- **Storyteller:** Hey, look! There's the Big Idea for today! **God's message goes everywhere.** Let's all say it together. **God's message goes everywhere!**

VIDEO | The Messengers, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).

IMAGE | Paul's Journeys

- Paul went to many places to deliver God's message about Jesus. Let's follow his journey on this awesome map!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this interactive map](#) of Paul's missionary journeys and click on the names of cities mentioned in today's story.
- Wow! He went to all these places to deliver God's message, and there weren't even any steam ships or airplanes yet!
- **What are some of the cities Paul went to in today's story?**
- Troas? Samothrace? Philippi? Thyatira? Let's find some of these on the map!
- Isn't it amazing that one person could bring God's message to all these places?
- But as you know, it didn't stop there! People kept sharing about God . . . all across the globe!
- **God's message goes everywhere!**

ACTIVITY | Where Have You Been?

- We just looked at the places Paul traveled to deliver God's message. Where have you been to? Mark them on this map!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Post a large world map and give each kid a few dot stickers. Have them put stickers on some of the places they have been to. Kids may not have traveled all that much, so you could expand this activity to places they know family members have been (or are from), places they want to go to one day, or places they've even just heard things about. If your church sponsors missionaries, this would be a great way to share that with the kids. (To make this more active, cut up the map by continent and place them in different parts of the room and have kids do a gallery walk to each station to place their stickers.)
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Use different color stickers for where preteens have been, where they want to go, and where they know someone. Once stickers have been placed, ask them what they loved about the different places or if they have not traveled before, what makes them want to visit a specific place.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Create a simple printable map of the town, like this [one](#), and help kids put stickers on church, school, home, the grocery store, and other places they may visit.
- Look at all of these places we've marked! If we knew people in each of these places, we'd have connections all over the world.
- Now imagine if we talked about Jesus in all these places. It would really show that **God's message goes everywhere!**

BIBLE | Matthew 28:18–20

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Find Matthew 28:18–20 in your Bibles and read it.
- **Where did Jesus get his authority?**
- **What did Jesus ask his followers to do?** To go and make disciples of all nations, and baptize people, and teach them to obey God.
- Notice that Jesus said to go to “all nations.” Jesus wanted from the start for the good news about what he did for us to reach every last person on earth.
- This command Jesus gave the disciples is known as the Great Commission. We can also see it as a co-mission . . . because Jesus said he would be with us as we do this!

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

RESPONSE | Good News Labels

- You don't have to be a pastor or work at a church. You can be a messenger no matter who you are!
- **What do you want to be when you grow up?** A doctor? You can show God's love by caring for sick people. A social worker? You can work with people who are hurting, just like Jesus did. An influencer? You can use your influence to point people to God!
- We can start by practicing what we are going to tell people about God.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a shipping label sticker and a pen or marker. Have them write a short message (such as “God loves you”) on the sticker and place it on a large box. Add some movement to this activity by having kids run up to an adult leader to grab their labels, then move to where the boxes are.

- Think of a short phrase about God’s message and write it on the shipping label. Then, put it on this big box to share God’s love around the world.
- Remember, **God’s message goes everywhere!**

ACTIVITY | Places to Ship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Share a story about how your or someone you know came to know Jesus because of someone else being God’s messenger. Then play charades, reverse charades, or pictionary with words that describe different places God’s message can go (e.g., desert, school, beach, grocery store, etc.).*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Print out and project images of different locations around the world and common places around the neighborhood. Ask kids to identify the place and whether or not they can talk about Jesus there.*
- This game shows us that we can talk about Jesus anywhere because **God’s message goes everywhere!**
- **How would you share God’s message at** *[pick a couple of that words that were played]?*

MEMORY VERSE | Assembly Required

- People don’t always get God’s message all at once. Sometimes, they get the message piece by piece, a little at a time until they start to understand.
- It’s like getting something delivered in separate boxes, like today’s memory verse!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break the memory verse down into seven sections and write each section on an index card. Put the index cards inside seven identical boxes. Shuffle them around and have kids come up one at a time and try to figure out which box holds the first part of the verse. Do this until someone picks the right box, then take the card out and remove that box. Shuffle the remaining boxes around and continue until all the memory verse parts are found.*

PRAYER

- God, we know you created the whole world and that you love everyone in it, and you want every last one of us to know you and love you back. Show us ways we can deliver your message of love wherever we go. We pray that everyone would get your message and know your love, too! Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What happened in Paul’s vision?**
- **What was the name of one of the women who heard Paul’s message? What was her profession?**
- **What happened when Lydia heard Paul’s message?**
- **Read Matthew 28:18–20. What does Jesus ask us to do?**
- **If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you want to go?**

- Name a place where you think it might difficult to share God's message. How could you do it anyway?
- Why is it important that God's message go everywhere?

ACTIVITY | Fingerprint Map

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide blue and green stamp pads and a copy of the printable for everyone. Let kids take turns placing fingerprints on the map, green on land and blue on water. Try to fill the entire map!
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have preteens create a world map collage. Provide various magazines, scrapbook paper, or construction paper in blues and greens. You can also provide the map outlines for them to fill up. Have them fill in the water with blue-toned images and the land with green.
- As we discovered today, Paul traveled over land and sea to deliver God's message! Let's create this map with our fingerprints to remember that **God's message goes everywhere**, and we can be part of it.
- **Where in the world would you like to deliver God's message?**

MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Isaiah6-8.
- **Let's practice this month's memory verse together!**
- **"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!"**