Younger Preschool May 24

Bible Teaching: Paul in Athens

Bible Passage: Acts 17:16–34

Summary
Paul traveled to Athens and preached about Jesus. He noticed the people worshiped many false gods. Paul spoke in the synagogue and marketplace and told them about Jesus' death and resurrection. Some philosophers brought him to the Areopagus to hear more. Paul explained that God made everything and is not found in idols. Some people mocked him, others were curious and some believed in Jesus.

Today's Brite Idea is: God is the one true God.

Monthly Memory Verse: (1 Chronicles 29:11)
Yours is the greatness and the power and the glory.

Monthly Big Question: Is God in control of everything? Yes!

Leader Training

Preschool Perspectives: Weekly Check-In

Sometimes parents need to know you care more than just on Sunday morning. This doesn't have to be elaborate, but make it a priority to check in with one or two parents each week.

- **How can I pray for you?** Text one or two families a week and ask how you can pray for them and their kids.
- **We missed your kid.** If a kid has been absent for several weeks in a row, a simple "we missed your kid" text can be encouraging to families. It may also open a dialogue about what the family is going through and how you can partner with and pray for them.

Navigating a Broken World: Other Gods

Over half the world's population identifies with a religion other than Christianity, Judaism or "none."* Our kids are more exposed to different beliefs than ever before. Because of this, kids may have mixed views about other religions, including possibly believing that all gods are the same. In today's lesson, kids will learn how Paul was also in a culture that worshiped many gods. He shared about how the Lord is the one true God. You can also help kids in your group know God is the one true God. Gently correct misconceptions and point out how believing in Jesus is different from the beliefs of other religions. Remind kids that God loves all people and wants everyone to know the truth and follow Him.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources.

Preschool Glossary:

Altar: a structure or statue
True: right, truthful

Younger Preschool

Small Group Roadmap

Belong (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

One True God!
Supplies: None

Bible Teaching (15 minutes)

Paul in Athens (Acts 17:16-34)
Supplies: Bible, Bible story cards

Believe (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

Story Time
Supplies: Printable page, bag, scissors (prep)

Become (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

Suncatcher
Supplies: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, paper plate (1 per kid), pipe cleaner (1 per kid), hole punch, green and blue tissue paper, wax paper, scissors (prep), glue

One True God!

Belong Activity

Supplies: None

Prep: None

Activity Intro: Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can each of you tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

Instructions:

1. **Say:** Let's play a game like "Follow the Leader." I will be the leader first, and you will follow me. I will tell you something we know about God and show you a hand motion, and you'll copy me!
2. *Gather kids in a circle and lead them in the following motions:*
    - God is big! *(raise your hands up high)*
    - God made the whole world! *(put your arms out and spin around in a circle)*
    - God loves us! *(hug yourself)*
    - We can follow God. *(march in place)*
    - God is strong! *(flex your arms)*
    - God is always with us. *(point up to the sky)*
3. *Repeat as time allows.*

Activity Wrap-Up: You did a great job following me! God is the one true God. We can always follow Him and know He is with us!

Bible Teaching

Supplies: Bible, Bible story cards

Prep: Print the Bible story cards double-sided.

Paul in Athens
(Acts 17:16–34)

Say: Today's true story from the Bible comes from the book of Acts. Paul traveled all around. He told people everywhere about Jesus. One day, he came to a city called Athens. People there believed in many other gods. Paul shared about Jesus. Some very smart people heard him. They wanted to know more. They had never heard of Jesus.

Say: Paul met with many people. The people of Athens worshiped many gods. They had statues for each god. Can you sit very still like a statue? They even had one statue for an "unknown god" just in case there was one they didn't know about. Paul wanted them to know the one **true** God. Hold up one finger.

Say: Paul told them God made the world and everything in it. God made people, just like you and me. He is the one **true** God. He is the biggest. Hold your arms out wide. And He is the strongest. Show your strong muscles! Everyone can believe in Him!

Say: Some people laughed at Paul. Some people wanted to know more. And some people believed! They believed that Jesus died for their sins and rose again. They believed in the one **true** God. Say, "Hooray!"

Wrap-Up:

Big Question: Is God in control of everything? Yes!

Memory Verse: (1 Chronicles 29:11)

Watch the Memory Verse Video and practice the motions with the kids.

- Yours is the *(point up to the sky)*
- greatness and the *(extend arms out)*
- power and the *(flex your muscles)*
- glory. *(close hands and burst them open while extending arms out)*
- 1 Chronicles 29:11 *(open hands like opening a book)*

He: God is the one true God.
We: We can know the true God.
Me: I can know the true God.

Story Time

Believe Activity

Supplies: Printable page, bag, scissors (prep)

Prep: Print the printable page and cut out. Put the cut out items into the bag.

Activity Intro: The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that God is the one true God and Paul told people about Him.

Instructions:

1. **Say:** Let's remember the story of Paul in Athens! Paul told people about the one true God. These props help us tell the story again!
2. *Let kids take turns pulling one picture at a time from the bag.*
3. *Once kids have had a chance to explore the pictures, retell the story:*
    - ***Globe**—God made the world and everything in it.*
    - ***Ear**—The people listened to Paul as he taught about God.*
    - ***Statue**—People in Athens worshiped statues and gods they made.*
    - ***Heart**—God loves every person and wants them to know Him.*
    - ***Cross**—Jesus died so our sins can be forgiven. He is the only way to know the one true God.*
4. *Hold up a picture and ask kids if they remember how it relates to the story.*
5. *Repeat as time allows.*

Activity Wrap-Up: Paul told the people that God made everything, loves everyone and wants us to follow Him. Jesus is the only way to know the one true God!

Suncatcher

Become Activity

Supplies: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, paper plate (1 per kid), pipe cleaner (1 per kid), hole punch, green and blue tissue paper, wax paper, scissors (prep), glue

Prep: Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Cut tissue paper into small squares (several per kid). Cut out the inner circle of the paper plate and a piece of wax paper large enough to cover the hole in the paper plate (1 per kid).

Instructions:

1. **Say:** The one true God made the whole world! He made people and loves everyone.
2. *Give each kid a paper plate and a piece of wax paper. Help guide kids to glue wax paper on the paper plate, to cover the hole.*
3. *Spread some glue on wax paper. Let kids glue blue and green tissue pieces onto the wax paper to make the Earth.*
4. *Give coloring supplies and allow kids to decorate the outside of the plate.*
5. *Punch two holes at the top of the plate. Have kids pick out a pipe cleaner and string it through the hole, leaving enough to hang the sun catcher.*
6. *Write each kid's name on their craft and set it aside for parent pickup.*

Discussion Questions:

- What city did Paul travel to?
- Were the people of Athens supposed to worship other gods?
- Who does God love?
- What did God make?

Pray Together: Dear God, thank You for making the world and for loving every person. Amen.

Activity Wrap-Up: Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.

Centers

Set up 3-4 centers around the room for kids to explore and learn as they play. While kids explore the centers, leaders can work with individuals or small groups to make the craft. Set up each center in a separate part of the room, making sure all kids are visible at all times. Show the whole group what is in each center and give simple instructions on what kids should do in each center.

- **Modeling Dough:** Provide modeling dough and encourage kids to make some of the things that reminds them of the Bible story like a heart, Bible and a cross.
- **Music Center:** Play the Memory Verse Song and give kids scarves to sing and dance along with.
- **Dramatic Play:** Provide dress-up clothes. Have kids dress up like Paul and tell each other about Jesus.

Bonus Bible Script

Preschoolers learn best through repetition. Use the script below to review the story at any opportunity. You could review the story while kids play in centers, while they work on their craft, during snack time or while waiting for parents.

Say: Paul traveled to Athens and shared about Jesus. He noticed that the people worshiped many false gods. Paul spoke about Jesus wherever he went. Some people asked to hear more. Paul explained that God made everything and He is the one true God. Some people teased him, others wanted to hear more and some even believed in Jesus.

Is God in control of everything? Yes!