



Summer Edition

4-Week Sunday School Companion Guide

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WHAT WE ARE TEACHING: True Story



Everyone loves a story about a big adventure, don't they? The best stories are stories of life change, big dreams, dramatic rescues, and journeys to far-away places. Those adventure stories are even better when they're true stories! In this 4-week series, we'll follow the true story of the early church. Kids will imagine they are explorers and adventurers as they hear the stories of Saul's conversion, Peter and Cornelius, Peter's escape from prison, and Paul and Barnabas' missionary travels. By the end of this series, kids will learn and remember that **Jesus changes lives, Jesus loves everyone, Jesus gives us freedom, and Jesus helps us share His story.**

JUNE MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 119:105

**YOUR WORD IS A
LAMP FOR MY
FEET, A LIGHT ON
MY PATH.**

PSALM 119:105

YOUR WORD (hold hands like an open book)
IS A LAMP (hands burst over head with twinkle
fingers)

TO MY FEET (point to feet)

AND A LIGHT (hands burst over head with twinkle
fingers)

TO MY PATH (hold arms to the side then lift them
front of you, highlighting the path).

ACTIVITY: Weekly badges

Instructions: (These badges are for the map created during Week 1.) Print out badge page. Each week, have the kids cut out the badge that corresponds to the weekly video. The kids will tape it to their map at the end of each video to show that they completed the week!



WEEK 1: Jesus Changes Lives

Hello Parents!

This week, kids will learn the story of Saul's conversion.

THE BIG IDEA:

Jesus changes lives.

THE BIBLE:

Acts 9:1-22; 2

Memory Verse:

Psalms 119:105

ACTIVITY:

Drawing a map.

Kids will only need a **piece of paper** and **something to color with** (crayons, markers, colored pencils). They will be drawing a map with 4 points that **they will use for the next 3 Sundays**, so make sure they keep it someplace safe!

GAME:

True or False

Tell kids to stand up if they think the statement is true and sit down if they think it's false. Or, give them **two colored pieces of paper** and tell them to hold one of them up for true and the other for false. If you really want to get them moving, have them go to one side of the room for true and the other side for false. Read the statements listed below (or invent your own) and have the kids guess if they think each one is true or false.

WEEK 1 GAME: True or False?

Some animals can get sunburnt.

True. Certain animals are more susceptible to sunburn than others, especially those with shorter hair and light-colored skin.

Cats hate water.

False. It's true house cats would probably rather sleep on a bed of nails than get in the bathtub, but many big cats enjoy splashing around. Bengal tigers, in particular, are fond of lakes and streams.

Frogs drink lots of water.

False. You would think water makes up a large part of a frog's diet, especially since they always seem to live near water, but frogs don't drink at all. Frogs are unique creatures that actually absorb water through their skin to stay hydrated.

The hummingbird egg is the world's smallest bird egg.

True. Hummingbirds lay the smallest eggs, while ostriches lay the largest.

Elephants eat using their noses.

True. Elephants belong to a largely extinct group of animals called proboscidea, which use their noses as forks and spoons. They do not actually swallow their food through their noses, but lift branches, grass, and plants with their strong trunks.

Camels can walk 100 miles in the desert without water.

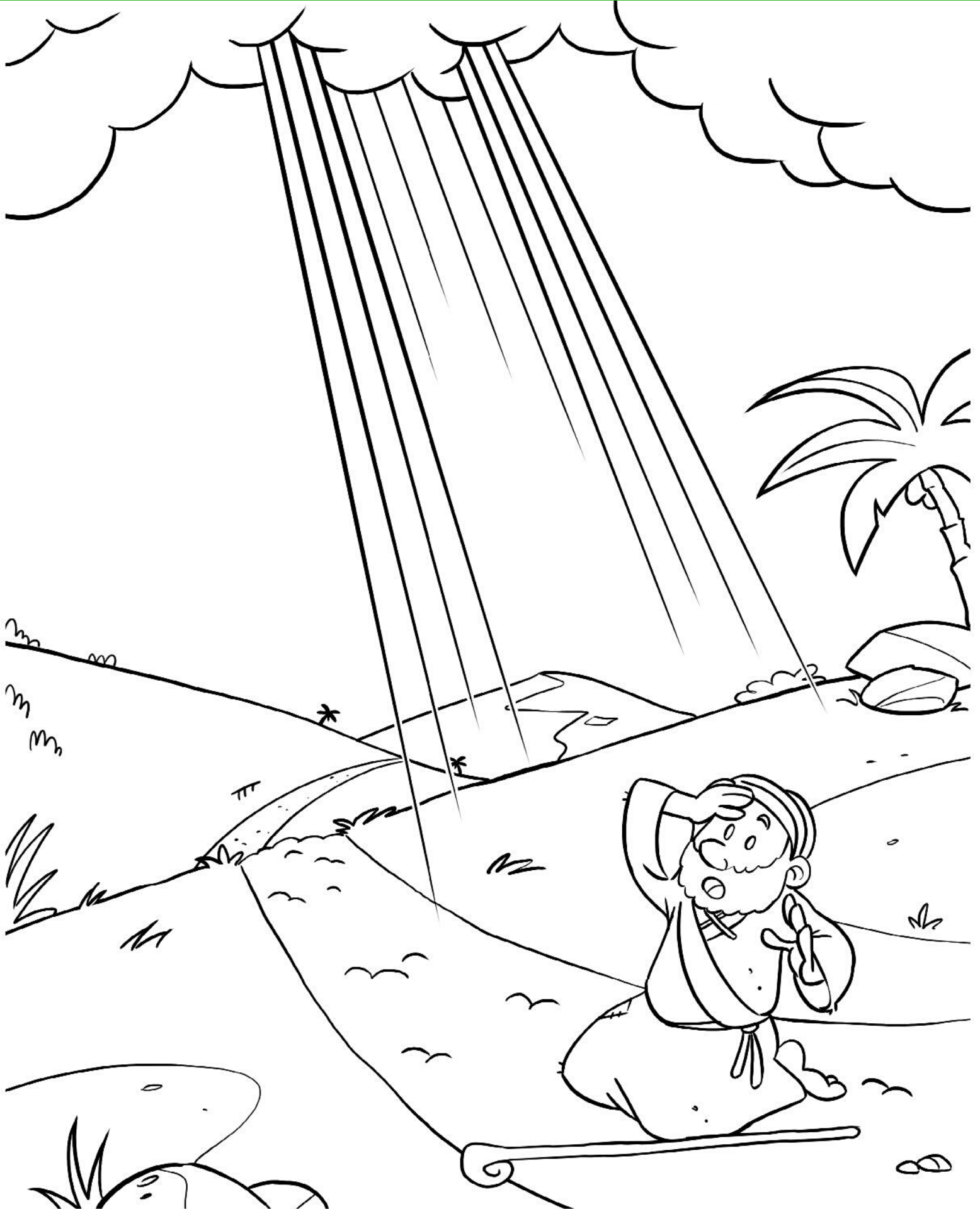
True. Camels can go up to 100 desert miles without a drop to drink. Once they have access to water, however, they can consume up to 30 gallons in as few as 13 minutes.

Chimpanzees are nocturnal.

False. They usually sleep during the night and are awake during the day.

"It can be hard to know which things are true and which are made up. Have you ever heard a friend tell a story that was so crazy, you were sure it was made up? Our story today is an amazing true story about how God can change a life!"

WEEK 1: Coloring Page



WEEK 2: Jesus Loves Everyone

This week, kids will learn the story of Peter and Cornelius.

THE BIG IDEA:

Jesus loves everyone

THE BIBLE:

Acts 10:1-38

Memory Verse:

Psalms 119:105

Activity:

Paper Person Chain

Print the Paper Person Chain printables and give one to every kid. Fold on the dotted lines and tell them to cut out the person while the paper is folded. Unfold the paper and you should have a string of paper people holding hands. While you do, ask the kids to think of four people they know who are very different from each other. Write one name on each paper person. Then, pray for each person to know they are made in God's image and loved by Him.

Game:

Packing Scavenger Hunt

"One of the things adventurers have to do is pack everything they think they will need while on an adventure. Let's see what we can pack for our adventure today!"

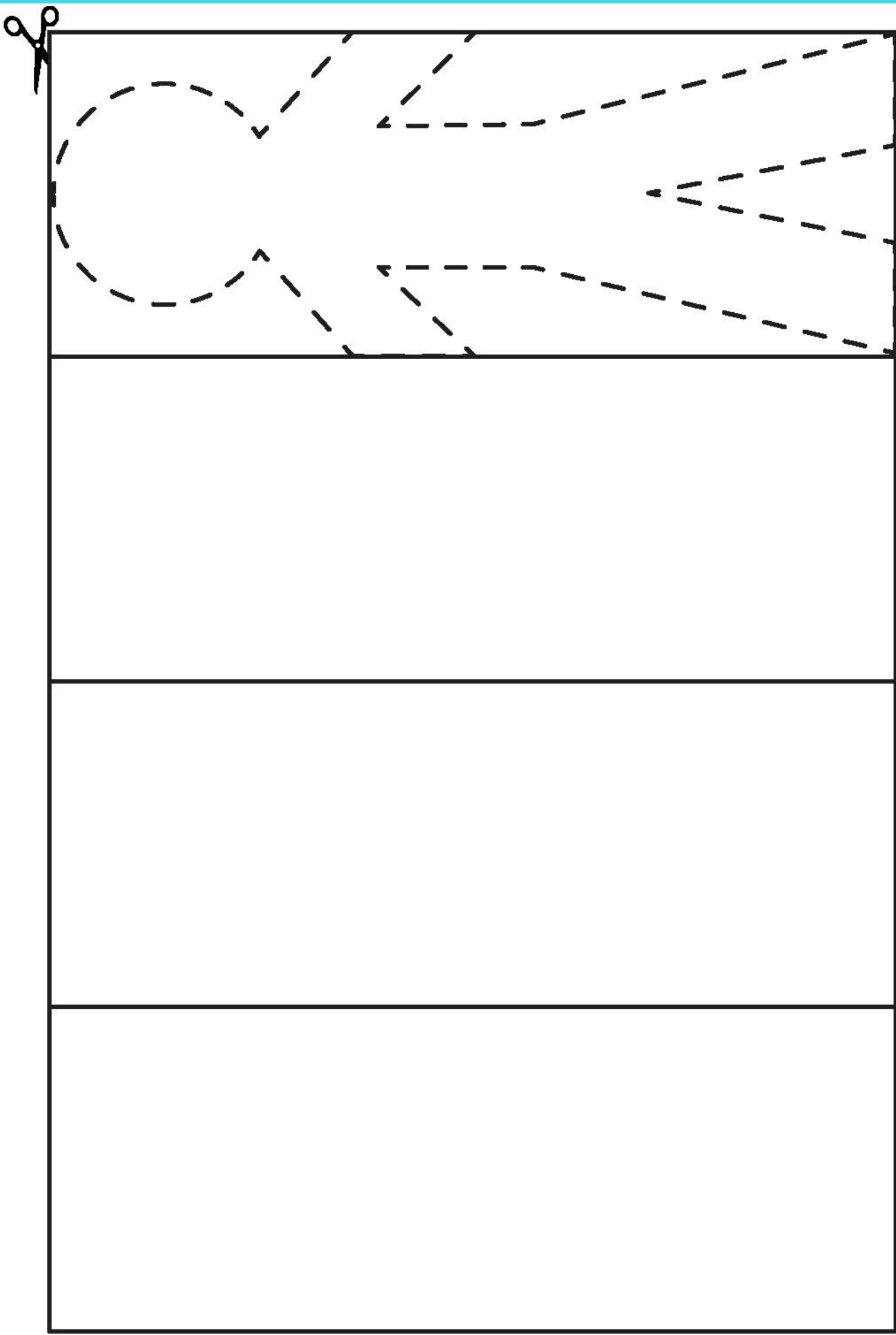
Give the kids 60 seconds to find as many things on the list as possible. Whoever finds the most when the time is up, wins!

- Map they made last week
- Bible
- Notebook
- Pencil
- Blanket
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Water bottle
- Snack bar
- Socks
- Sneakers

****Bonus points if they can fit everything in their backpack!****

WEEK 2 ACTIVITY: Paper Chain People

PAPER CHAIN PEOPLE



WEEK 2: Coloring Page

GOD LOVES EVERYONE



WEEK 3: Jesus Gives Us Freedom

This week, kids will learn of when Peter is rescued from jail!

THE BIG IDEA:

Jesus gives us freedom

THE BIBLE:

Acts 12:1-17

Memory Verse:

Psalms 119:105

Activity:

Amazing God Mural

For this activity you will need a **poster board** and **crayons**.

*****If you don't have poster board, that's okay, you can simply give each kid their own piece of regular-sized paper.*****

Ask your kids to think of all the amazing things – both ordinary and extraordinary – God has done in their lives or in the lives of others. Use a poster board and ask the kids to draw a mural of all the amazing things they can think of that God has done.

Game:

Jump the River

"Let's play a game where we pretend we're on a hike in the woods and we have discovered a river. The river is too deep to walk across, so we must jump over it!"

Create a river in an open area of your house. You can use **two jump ropes or painter's tape**. Place two lines parallel on the floor about two/three feet apart. If you use jump ropes, you could challenge the kids to jump further on their second try.

"Was it hard to jump across the river? Sometimes adventurers come across some pretty big challenges. In today's True Story, we'll hear about an adventurer and follower of God who is in need of a big rescue!"

WEEK 3: Coloring Page



WEEK 4: Jesus Gives Us Freedom

This week, kids will learn the story of Paul and Barnabas' missionary travels!

THE BIG IDEA:

Jesus helps us share his story.

THE BIBLE:

Acts 13:1-5, 38-39, 14:21-28

Memory Verse:

Psalms 119:105

Activity:

Coffee Filter Globes

For this activity you will need **coffee filters, blue and green markers, and a spray bottle filled with water.**

Give each child a paper towel, a coffee filter, and a blue and green marker. Have the kids color their coffee filter with the markers to look like the earth. Once they are finished coloring, use a spray bottle to spray water on the filter until the colors begin to bleed...

..."Today, we made a picture that looks like the earth to take home to remind us of our true Bible story about Paul and Barnabas and how they shared the Good News about Jesus."

Game:

Be a YouTube Missionary

Ask kids to play pretend by pretending they are a famous YouTube star. They will create an episode where they explain what missionaries are!

Prompt Questions:

- **How would you explain what a missionary is to someone who has no idea?**

- **What are the most important things a missionary does?**

How can you be a missionary?

WEEK 4: Coloring Page



TRUE STORY: Series Wrap Up



We've had four weeks of talking about the adventures of the first Christians and missionaries as they shared the good news about Jesus! Here's what we learned this month:

When we heard the story of Saul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, we learned that **Jesus changes our lives.**

When we heard the story of Peter going to Cornelius's house, we learned that **Jesus loves everyone.**

When we heard the story of Peter being set free from prison, we learned that **Jesus gives us freedom.**

And today, when we heard the story of Paul and Barnabas's missionary journeys, we learned that **Jesus helps us share His story.**



Hey Families,

Summer has finally arrived! One of the things I always loved about this time of year as a kid was the feeling of exploration! This month, we're going to be exploring the book of Acts together and everyone is an honorary scout! This packet is designed to give you all the tools and resources to have some of your own exploration fun at home this month! Use the videos and packets in the way that fits your family best!

Grace & Peace,
Ry Ry

Ryan Schmall
Executive Director
GROW Family Ministries

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