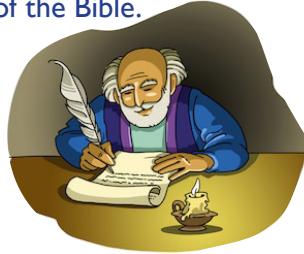


Welcome May and Happy Eastertide! We are still in the 50 days between Easter and Pentecost (May 31) where each Sunday is a celebration of resurrection and NEW LIFE. This is a great time to reflect on the early life of the Christian church. And Paul was a huge part of that. We are on week 2 of learning about Paul. Last week we discovered that Paul had a change of heart - a conversion moment on the road to Damascus - and decided to spend the rest of his life serving God. This week we will learn of Paul's commitment to God in spreading the teachings of Jesus throughout many cities. And how his letters to some of these cities became books of the Bible.

WHAT ARE PAUL'S LETTERS?:

There are 66 books in the Bible and Paul wrote 13 of them!



- Galatians (AD 47)
- 1 & 2 Thessalonians (AD 49-51)
- 1 & 2 Corinthians and Romans (AD 52-56)
- Ephesians, Philemon, Colossians, and Philippians (AD 60-62, Paul wrote these during his first Roman imprisonment)
- 1 Timothy and Titus (AD 62)
- 2 Timothy (AD 63-64, during Paul's second Roman imprisonment)

Paul spent much of his life after becoming a Christian (right after Jesus died) traveling around to different cities preaching and establishing churches. Paul spent a lot of time in cities at some of these new churches (over 2 years in Corinth, 2 years in Rome, 3 years in Ephesus) and just passed through other towns. He wrote letters to these churches and church leaders to encourage them and correct issues that were occurring. He wanted them to understand and practice God's love. It wasn't easy, Paul spent some of that time imprisoned for what he was teaching and was ridiculed and beaten but he never gave up.

*NOTABLE SCRIPTURES FROM PAUL'S LETTERS:

- **I can do all things through Christ** who strengthens me. *—Philippians 4:13*
- **But the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is no law against things like this. *—Galatians 5:22-23*
- **So continue encouraging each other** and building each other up, just like you are doing already. *—1 Thessalonians 5:11*
- **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.** The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. *—2 Corinthians 5:17*
- **Don't be anxious** about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. *—Philippians 4:6*
- **Love is patient,** love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant... *—1 Corinthians 13:4*

ACTIVITIES:

Family Discussion:

1. What does it mean to have commitment to something you believe in? Why do you think Paul spent the rest of his life teaching about God even though it was hard sometimes?
2. Why do you think letter writing was so important back then? How do we share information and stay connected with each other today?

Write Your Own Letter to Someone About God:

Pretend you have been asked to write a letter about God to help inspire someone. What things would you say about God from your own experiences to help them feel God's love? Can you write at least 13 things that you know about God in the letter? Can you come up with a cool way to fold up your letter?

***Pick one of the Bible verses on the left to memorize.**

PRAYER:

Pray for a friend you miss seeing, for all those working to keep us safe and for our families and teachers.

Let's also pray a familiar prayer, "The Lord's Prayer," together this week:

Our Creator,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive
those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver
us from evil. For Thine is the
kingdom and the power and
the glory forever.
Amen

THE JOURNEYS OF ST. PAUL

1st Journey —

2nd Journey —

3rd Journey —

Voyage to Rome —



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