

CHILDREN'S GUIDE

# WHICH WAY, LORD?

Exploring Your Life's Purpose in the Journeys of Paul



RITA HAYS



CHILDREN'S GROUP GUIDE

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Exploring Your Life's Purpose in  
the Journeys of Paul

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WHICH WAY, LORD? EXPLORING YOUR LIFE'S PURPOSE IN THE JOURNEYS OF PAUL

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# INTRODUCTION

This is the Children's Group Guide for Rob Fuquay's new churchwide study *Which Way, Lord? Exploring Your Life's Purpose in the Journeys of Paul*. In this guide you will find seven sessions of interactive learning that offer children the opportunity to journey with Paul on exciting adventures of faith based on the book of Acts.

## OVERVIEW

Throughout these sessions, children will learn about the places the apostle Paul traveled, his experiences, and the God-led opportunities for growth, challenge, and change that awaited him. Along the way, children will explore the adversities and trials of Paul, as well as the joys and blessings that came his way.

As children participate in activities at learning centers based on a travel motif, they will explore their own journeys of faith. Like Paul, they too journey on lifelong paths that hold the potential for risk-taking and difficulty. Paul provides an example of hope placed in God. Children are invited to place their confidence in a God who guides and directs. They encounter a God who always leads them to paths of discovery. The journey of life becomes a journey of faith. This curriculum offers the opportunity for exploration of God's purposes for the children.

During each session, the children, who are tourists, travel to various destinations where the apostle Paul journeyed. They arrive at the Heavenly Travels Bus Station to begin each journey. There, they stop by the ticket booth to pick up their passports (name tags) and their round-trip tickets, which assure them of a reserved seat on the Apostle P Bus. Each trip involves visits to six traveling centers that focus on various interactive learning activities and experiences. Your children and leaders will familiarize themselves with the following terminology:

- Bus Sing-along Song: Daily travel song
- Itinerary: Daily schedule for the journey
- Jet Lag Jaunt: Time at the end of each session to unwind and reflect on the journey
- Passports (name tags): Must be shown by the children to travel to various countries

- Round-trip ticket: Ticket necessary to board the Apostle P Bus
- Ticket agent: Volunteer assisting in the ticket booth
- Tour guide: Apostle Paul
- Tourists/travelers: Young learners
- Travel agents: Leaders
- Traveler's Code of Conduct: Rules for the road
- Traveler's Prayer: Prayer for each journey

**Heavenly Travels Bus Station:** Children meet at the bus station to gather their passports, pick up their round-trip tickets, and board the Apostle P Bus for a travel experience with the apostle Paul. At the Heavenly Travels Bus Station a leader briefs them on the day's itinerary.

**Apostle P Bus:** The bus transports children to and from their destination. On the Apostle P Bus, the tour guide will brief the children on the adventures ahead.

Each day on the bus trip, the children will hear the Traveler's Prayer (see below), be reminded of the Traveler's Code of Conduct (see below), and sing the Bus Sing-along Song. A suggested Bus Sing-along Song has been provided below, but your church may wish to write its own song using the talents of your songwriters and musicians. Your travel agents will "ride" the bus with the children. The apostle Paul accompanies the children on the bus as the driver and tour guide.

#### *Traveler's Prayer*

**Dear God, we are ready to take an exciting journey with our friend, the apostle Paul. We are excited to learn about his journeys. Thank you for traveling with each of us on our journey of life. Like Paul, we want to love, serve, and trust Jesus and discover God's purpose for our lives. Amen.**

#### *Traveler's Code of Conduct*

Let the children come up with some rules and manners for the road. Write these down and post them in the Heavenly Travels Bus Station. You may offer the children a few suggestions, such as these:

1. Listen to the apostle Paul when he addresses the group.
2. Don't push your way onto the bus.
3. Sit quietly on the bus.
4. Exit the bus carefully. Don't shove others.
5. Listen to your travel agents.
6. Keep your passport with you at all times.
7. Don't forget to pick up your round-trip ticket for each session at the Heavenly Travels Bus Station ticket counter.

***Bus Sing-along Song****(Sing to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me.")**Verse 1*

Come and ride Paul's travel bus.  
 Show your ticket, do not fuss!  
 All are welcome here today.  
 Seek to follow in God's way.

*Chorus*

Yes, we will travel,  
 Yes, we will travel,  
 Yes, we will travel,  
 We're trusting in God's plan.

*Verse 2*

God sent Paul to many lands.  
 Paul was Jesus' biggest fan.  
 Paul preached and talked about the Lord.  
 Let's find out; let's climb aboard!

[*Chorus*]*Verse 3*

Many churches did Paul start.  
 Wrote them letters from his heart.  
 Talked of peace and joy and love,  
 Knew such gifts came from above.

[*Chorus*]*Verse 4*

Even when his life was rough,  
 with God's help, Paul stayed so tough.  
 Hurtful things folks do or say,  
 Paul says, "Love them anyway."

[*Chorus*]*Verse 5*

Always think of Tour Guide Paul,  
 faithful apostle once called Saul.  
 Which way do I go in life?  
 Always trust in Jesus Christ.

[*Chorus*]

## Travel Centers

Each session, the children will visit one or more of the places where Paul journeyed.

- *Daring Destination:* In this center, the children will tour and learn Bible lessons that correspond with the destinations.
- *Tourist Lounge:* Center that features Bible activities, skits, drama, worship, and praise.
- *Scenic Route:* Center that features games that reinforce the biblical lessons.
- *Souvenir Shop:* Center that features crafts and art projects that reinforce the biblical lessons.
- *Tourist Attractions:* Center that features learning about individuals who bravely and faithfully traveled or travel the journey of life with their reliance on God's help and their faith in God to carry them toward new adventures.
- *Rest Stop:* Center that features snacks named for the places Paul traveled.

## LEADER PREPARATIONS

**Tour Guide:** Select an individual to play the role of the tour guide, the apostle Paul. This person needs to wear a tunic to resemble the dress in biblical times and be present for each session. The guide provides directions and scripts for the apostle Paul.

**Travel Agents:** Recruit adult and youth leaders to serve as travel agents. Select two or more travel agents to be present in each of the six learning centers to assist the children.

**Ticket Agent:** The ticket agent will be present each session in the ticket booth. He or she will give the children their passports, stamp the passports, and give out the round-trip tickets. The ticket agent will assist new travelers who do not have a passport. The ticket agent will provide new travelers with a passport and take pictures of first-time travelers to be placed in their passports before the next learning session.

**Heavenly Travels Bus Station:** Select a space in your church large enough for the participants to gather for the Heavenly Travels Bus Station. Create the feel of a bus station by placing travel posters on the walls. Position chairs around the room like those in a bus station. You can find other decorating ideas online by typing "pictures of bus stations" into your search engine.

**Ticket Counter:** Select a space for the ticket counter. Make a ticket window out of cardboard. You can set the ticket window on a sturdy table. Purchase tickets or make your own for each session, enough for each participant. The ticket counter will also be the place to store the children's passports. Have a stamp pad available to stamp the children's passports at the beginning of each session. Use one dry-erase board to write the itinerary for each session and another to display the Traveler's Code of Conduct. Ideas for your Traveler's Code of Conduct and the itinerary are given in the curriculum.

**Apostle P Bus:** Select a space to create your Apostle P Bus. A hallway in your church located near the Heavenly Travels Bus Station would work well. Place chairs in rows to represent seats on the bus or use the pews in the sanctuary. Using cardboard, cut out pieces for the front of the bus and the back end of the bus.

Paper plates become headlights and taillights. Use cellophane paper for front and back windows. Use pipe cleaners for windshield wipers. It is not necessary to create sides for your bus. Have a special seat for the bus driver. Construct a steering wheel out of a paper plate. Ideas for constructing a bus out of cardboard can be found online. You may also project images of traveling while the children are on the bus.

**Travel Centers:** You do not need an entire classroom for each traveling center. Use part of the Heavenly Travels Bus Station area or a space in a hallway, fellowship hall, choir room, or kitchen.

Children form traveling groups to visit the travel centers. Two or more travel agents will accompany each group and guide the children. You may wish to set up a schedule for the rotation of the traveling groups. Time constraints may allow completion of all the suggested activities, so pick and choose as time allows.

Blow a shofar (Jewish horn) or ring a bell to indicate to the travel agents when to rotate each group to another learning center.

Each session offers ideas for traveling centers.

## INTRODUCTORY SESSION

# Going in the Right Direction

### PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY

**Make Passports:** 8½ x 11-inch card stock (one sheet for every two children), yarn, flag stickers, markers, hole punch, camera

**Right Direction Bible Study:** An age-appropriate Bible for children or a storyteller

**Pack Your Suitcase Relay Race:** Two suitcases, with a scarf, a coat, and a pair of gloves for each suitcase

**Road Sign Rally:** Poster board, markers, pictures of road signs

**Tourist Attractions Center:** Pictures of John Wesley; a storyteller to relate the travels of John Wesley, his adventures prior to the Aldersgate experience, and how that event affected Wesley's life journey

### HEAVENLY TRAVELS BUS STATION BUZZ

Welcome the children to the Heavenly Travels Bus Station. Have them sit in the chairs you have arranged inside the bus station. Use the following words or some that are similar:

**Welcome to the Heavenly Travels Bus Station. We are so glad to have all of you travelers journeying with us. Next time we meet, we will all climb aboard the Apostle P Bus as tourists and arrive in some exciting places. Our trips will take us to the exotic lands visited by the apostle Paul. Some of you have learned about the apostle Paul. Paul was a man we read about in the Bible who helped start many churches. He wrote letters to those churches to help the people learn how to love God and one another. His letters are a part of the New Testament in our Bible.**

Show the children where to find Paul's letters in the Bible. (If you have Bibles in the room, the children may locate Paul's letters.) Read some of the names of the Bible books and share the names of some of the cities that were home to the churches Paul wrote letters to about their problems and needs. Tell the children the following information:

**We will visit some of these cities on our journeys. When your family gets ready to make a trip, what must you do before leaving on the trip?** (Allow the children time to answer.)

**Before our trip, we must get ready. We have lots to do before getting on the Apostle P Bus.**

**This is our ticket booth.** (Point to the ticket booth.) **Don't forget to stop here each time you arrive to pick up your round-trip ticket and your passport from the ticket agent.**

**Who knows what a passport is?** (Allow children time to answer.)

**Have any of you have traveled outside the United States?** (Allow children time to answer.)

**If so, you know you need a passport for travel. A passport contains your name and your photo. We will take a picture of you and place it inside your passport. Your passport will be ready for you the next time we gather. You will also use your passport as your name tag. When you pick up your passport, put it around your neck and wear it throughout each journey. You will also receive a round-trip ticket to board the Apostle P Bus. We will give you that ticket when you receive your passport. Hold on to your ticket and put it in the basket when you board the Apostle P Bus.**

**Let's meet our travel agents. These are friends who will help us with our passports and tickets and will help us learn.** (Introduce the travel agents to the children.)

**Traveling Groups:** Form six traveling groups. The children will remain in these groups for each session as they visit the six travel centers. Place two or more travel agents with each group. Let the children select a name for their traveling group and share their name with the entire group of travelers. (*Suggestions:* Paul's Pals, Travel Buddies, Adventure Club, Road Rookies, Trailblazers, Explorers, Adventure Seekers.)

**Making the Passports:** The passports will serve as the children's name tags. One piece of 8½ x 11-inch card stock will make two passports. Fold your paper down the middle and cut. Fold to make a small booklet. Have each child write his or her name on the front of the booklet and the name of his or her traveling group. Allow them to decorate the outside of the booklet and give each child a flag sticker to place on the front of the passport beside his or her name. Help the children punch a hole in the top left corner of each passport and pass a piece of yarn through the hole and make a loop large enough to easily slip over their heads. Take a photo of each child. Take up the children's passports and glue the photo of each child into his or her passport before the next learning session.

**Right Direction Bible Study:** Introduce the children to the apostle Paul. Have the person playing the role of Paul enter the room and speak to the children.

**Hello, boys and girls. I am the apostle Paul. You are going to be learning about my wonderful adventures and about how God used me to tell others the story of Jesus. I so look forward to traveling with you on the Apostle P Bus. We are going to have a great time journeying to many of the places God sent me. Before we can travel, however, we have to prepare for our journey. Let's learn some stories about me from the Bible. These stories will teach you about how Jesus changed my life. Listen carefully!**

Have the children assemble in their learning groups. Read Acts 7:54–8:1 from an age-appropriate Bible, or tell the story to the children. Explain to the children that since Paul/Saul was a Roman citizen, he was born with two names. State the following information:

**Saul was his Jewish name, and Paul was his Roman name. After Jesus sent Paul to preach and work with people who were not Jewish, Saul preferred to use his Roman name of Paul. That name was more familiar to these people. That is the name we will use when traveling with our friend Paul on the Apostle P Bus.**

**What words would we use to describe Saul in our story?** (*Suggestions:* mean, sad, angry, afraid, scared.)

**What words would we use to describe Stephen in our story?** (*Suggestions:* calm, happy, peaceful, unafraid, loving, trusting.)

**Stephen followed Jesus. He loved Jesus and served him. Stephen was killed because he was preaching about Jesus. The angry people who heard him did not like what Stephen said about Jesus. At this time, Saul was not a follower of Jesus. He was a faithful Jewish man and obeyed the laws of God and his religion. He thought he was doing what was right by having the followers of Jesus arrested and put in jail. Saul failed to realize that his actions were very wrong. Saul watched as the people stoned Stephen, and he even approved of their killing him. You are going to hear another Bible story about Saul and the way Jesus changed Saul's life. Before we hear that story, let's learn the first verse of our Bus Sing-along Song.**

Teach the children the first verse and the chorus of the Bus Sing-along Song. Sing several times.

Read Acts 9:1-9 from an age-appropriate Bible, or tell the story to the children. Then state the following:

**Saul's life changed when he met Jesus. He became a follower of Jesus. Before Jesus, Saul was headed in a different direction. Jesus helped Saul, also named Paul, to head in the right direction.**

Encourage the children to follow Jesus. Assure them that Jesus will guide them in the right direction.

Invite some adults and/or youth to tell the children about the wrong direction their lives took when not following Jesus and the right direction their lives took when following Jesus. Those who speak can encourage the children to follow Jesus and allow him to lead them.

**Pack Your Suitcase Relay Race:** Form two relay teams. One child on each team races toward the open suitcase containing a scarf, a coat, and a pair of gloves. That child puts on the apparel; circles the suitcase;

removes the scarf, coat, and gloves; places all the items back in the suitcase; then races back to his or her team and tags the next child, who repeats the actions. This continues until all have participated.

*Road Sign Rally:* Show the children pictures of traffic signs. Let the children prepare for their journey by making traffic signs out of colored construction paper and placing them along the walls near the Apostle P Bus and in other visible places.

Sing the first verse and chorus of the Bus Sing-along Song (found in the introduction).

**A New Direction:** Have the children return to their traveling groups to learn about John Wesley and the new direction he took in his life. Provide books for the children to read and show pictures and tell stories about John Wesley. Include stories about his trip as a missionary to Georgia, his experience on the boat to America with the Moravians, and his Aldersgate experience. Gather information from your pastor or church historian. Talk to the children about the change in John Wesley's life. Remind them that God wants to lead each of them in the right direction.

Sing the first verse and the chorus of the Bus Sing-along Song. Let the children clap their hands as they sing. Encourage the use of musical instruments and suggest that they march in place as they sing.

## TRAVELER'S PRAYER

Pray the Traveler's Prayer (found in the introduction). Ask the children to repeat each line of the prayer after the leader. Send them off with these words:

**See you next time, tourists. Bon voyage! That means "Have a safe and happy trip!" Say it with me: "Bon voyage!"** (Ask all the travel agents to say "Bon voyage!" while waving good-bye to the children. Give the children time to say "Bon voyage!" in return.)

## SESSION ONE

# Packing for the Trip

### PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY

Set up a road down one of your hallways to represent the Damascus road. You may use gray butcher paper for the road. Also use butcher paper to place some one-dimensional trees on the walls alongside the road or use some artificial trees. Make some rocks by stuffing newspaper into a brown garbage sack or place some rocks from nature along the road. Use a spotlight to shine along the road to represent the bright light Paul encountered on the road or have a volunteer shine a bright flashlight.

**Itinerary:** On a dry-erase board, under the heading Itinerary, write the schedule for the learning session and place the board in a visible location in the Heavenly Travels Bus Station.

#### *Itinerary*

- Board the Apostle P Bus.
- Travel on the Damascus road.
- Arrive at the house of Judas on Straight Street in Damascus, Syria.
- Visit other tourist stops: Jerusalem.
- Board the Heavenly Travels Bus and unwind and reflect.
- Return to the Heavenly Travels Bus Station.

**Daring Destination Center:** Set up the room or space to look like the house of Judas in Damascus. Scatter pottery pieces around the area. Use some cushions for the children to sit on. Gather some clay oil lamps. Hang a few tunics that resemble the dress in biblical times in the room. Construct a cardboard road sign outside Judas's house that reads "Straight Street." Construct a cardboard door for Judas's house that reads "Welcome to the Home of Judas."

*Paul Puzzle:* Make a Paul puzzle based on Acts 9:10-22. Write the following words and phrases on a piece of cardboard, poster board, or some other thick paper: *Judas, Ananias, Straight, Saul, Tarsus, praying, go, laid hands, Brother Saul, scales, baptized, food, proclaimed, amazed.* Cut out each word or phrase in different shapes and place your puzzle pieces in various spots around the room.

**Tourist Lounge Center:** Trace a large outline of a suitcase onto an 8½ x 11-inch sheet of paper. Copy one for each child. Trace smaller outlines of the following onto an 8½ x 11-inch piece of paper: a Bible, a church, praying hands, a child, a family member, and an adult. Copy one for each child. Make scissors and glue available, as well as some building blocks and a doll. Tie a cord around a wicker basket. Have in the room a map of Damascus, a map of Tarsus (modern-day Turkey), and a bowl of water.

**Scenic Route Center:** Blindfolds, a small flashlight, a small basket, a cup filled with water, a cracker, a rope, sunglasses, a leather sandal, paper, and pencils.

**Souvenir Shop Center:** Ask church members to collect cardboard berry baskets or ask for a donation of baskets from your local grocery store. You can purchase baskets online. Provide markers or colored pencils, hole punches, and pipe cleaners. Purchase small art canvases, one for each child. Provide watercolor paint, paintbrushes, and paint smocks.

**Tourist Attractions Center:** Construction paper, crayons, markers, stickers, and musical instruments. Provide information, books, and pictures about the life of Corrie ten Boom.

**Rest Stop Center:** Donuts and/or apple slices, juice, dry-erase board for writing snack menu

## HEAVENLY TRAVELS BUS STATION BUZZ

Welcome each child as he or she arrives. Instruct each child to go to the Heavenly Travels Bus Station ticket counter to pick up his or her stamped passport and round-trip ticket from the ticket agent.

Gather the children inside the Heavenly Travels Bus Station. Ask the apostle Paul to move around the bus station, greeting the children. Then state the following or similar words:

**Welcome, travelers. Are you ready to travel with the apostle Paul for an exciting adventure? Before we leave on our journey, let's check: Are you all wearing your passport as your name tag? Do we all have our round-trip tickets for boarding the Apostle P Bus? Great! Let's look at our itinerary. What is an itinerary? An itinerary tells us where we are going to travel for the day.** (Show the children the itinerary board with the travel destinations listed.)

The last time we met, we learned the story of the apostle Paul. Let's review that story quickly. Remember that Paul, also called Saul, was a Jewish man who loved God and was careful to follow all of God's laws. Saul wanted to harm the followers of Jesus because he thought what they were teaching people about God was wrong. He worked to arrest them and put them in jail. Then one day he was traveling along the road from Jerusalem to Damascus. He was carrying some letters from the authorities that gave him the right to arrest the followers of Jesus who lived in Damascus. While traveling on this road, Saul was blinded by a brilliant light. Jesus spoke to Saul, asking him why he wanted to hurt those who followed Jesus. After Saul heard the voice of Jesus speaking to him, Saul became a follower of Jesus. Jesus changed his life completely! No longer did Saul hate the followers of Jesus or try to have them arrested. His life was different! His fellow travelers helped Saul complete his travel into the city of Damascus.

After boarding our Apostle P Bus, our tour guide, Apostle Paul, will tell us more about our travels for today that will take us along the Damascus road and then into the city of Damascus. Let's get into our traveling groups with our travel agents and board the Apostle P Bus.

Instruct the travel agents to gather the traveling groups. Assign any newcomers to a traveling group. Board the Apostle P Bus. Have each child place his or her ticket in a basket while boarding the bus.

## APOSTLE P BUS EXCURSION

Once all the children are seated, share the Traveler's Prayer. Remind the children of the Traveler's Code of Conduct. The apostle Paul enters the bus and sits in the driver's seat. He pretends to drive the bus as he shares his story with the children:

**Welcome aboard the Apostle P Bus. Don't forget to keep your hands inside the bus at all times. Soon we will arrive at the road to Damascus, the very road I was traveling when I saw a bright light and was blinded. You will get to travel that road with me into the city of Damascus. Damascus is the capital city of a country called Syria in the Middle East. When we arrive in the city of Damascus, our travel agents will show you the city on a map. Syria is located between the Mediterranean Sea and Iraq. The Bible mentions Damascus in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Damascus is a very old city. People have discovered clay tablets from Damascus that go back to seven thousand years before Jesus was even born. That's a long time, isn't it?**

**A friend of mine has invited us to visit in his home when we arrive in Damascus. His name is Judas (not the Judas who betrayed Jesus). Judas allowed me to stay at his house after I was blinded on the road to Damascus. You will also learn about some of my friends, one named Ananias and another called Barnabas. God sent Ananias to help me in Damascus; and Barnabas, nicknamed the Encourager, stood up for me in Jerusalem. Trust me, you will learn some other exciting stories about my adventures in Damascus and later my experiences in the big city of Jerusalem.**

**Let's sing our Bus Sing-along Song.**

Sing the first verse and the chorus of the song. Teach the children the second verse. Sing both verses and the chorus several times as you travel to Damascus.

## TRAVEL TREK

Have the children exit the Apostle P Bus. Check their passports. Let the travel agents on the bus lead them down the Damascus road in their traveling groups. Sing the first two verses and the chorus of the Bus Sing-along Song while walking. Have someone shine a bright light on the children halfway down the road or use a spotlight.

Allow the children to visit the six travel centers. Advise the children to stay with their travel groups as they journey to the six centers.

### **Daring Destination Center**

Have Judas welcome the children to his home. Show the children the location of Damascus on a map. Read the story of Ananias and Saul in Acts 9:10-19 from an age-appropriate Bible, or recruit a storyteller to relate the story, perhaps Judas. Remind the children that at first, Ananias was not happy about being asked by God to help Paul. Ananias was afraid because Paul had previously wanted to kill the followers of Jesus. Jesus had changed Paul into a believer. Discuss with the children times in their own lives when they found it hard to reach out to others of whom they were afraid or didn't know well because they were uncertain about what might happen.

**Paul Puzzle:** Ask the children the questions listed below about the Bible story. Explain that the answers are found somewhere on a puzzle piece in Judas's house. Ask the children to raise their hands if they know the answer. If a child provides the correct answer, allow him or her to search for the place in Judas's house where the puzzle piece with the answer is located. After all of the puzzle pieces are found, have the children work together to complete the puzzle. After the children have left, have Judas replace the puzzle pieces around his house for the next traveling group to find.

- Whose house did Paul stay at in Damascus? (the house of *Judas*)
- Who did God send to help Paul? (*Ananias*)
- What was the name of the street where Judas lived? (*Straight Street*)
- What name is Paul called by in our Bible story? (*Saul*)
- What was Paul doing when Ananias arrived at Judas's house? (*praying*)
- Where was the name of Paul's hometown? (*Tarsus*)
- What did God tell Ananias to do? (*go*)
- When Ananias arrived at the house of Judas, what did he do? (*laid hands on Saul*)
- What words did Ananias use to greet Paul? (*Brother Saul*)
- What fell off Paul's eyes when Ananias laid hands on him? (*scales*)
- After Paul regained his eyesight, what happened to him? (He was *baptized*.)
- What did Paul do after being baptized? (He took *food*.)
- What did Paul do in the synagogue? (He *proclaimed* that Jesus is the Messiah.)
- How did Paul's listeners respond? (They were *amazed*.)

**Brother Saul Exercise:** Form two groups. Each group lines up facing the other. Designate one group as Saul and the other as Ananias. Have the Saul group get on their knees in prayer. Have a member of the

Ananias group approach the child facing him or her, walk toward the child, lay hands on the child, and say, “Brother Saul.” Then reverse the group names and repeat the action.

Remind the children that Ananias treated Saul kindly. Discuss times when the children find it difficult to show kindness toward others who wrong them. Let the children reflect on the way Ananias treated Saul and the way God wants each child to treat others. Convey the following information using the words below or others like them:

**God sent Ananias to help the apostle Paul move in the right direction. Before following Jesus, Paul was headed in the wrong direction. Even after deciding to follow Jesus, Paul needed help to continue in the right direction. In the same way God sent Ananias to help Paul, God sends friends to help us go in the right direction.**

Allow the children to share the names or roles of some friends who have guided them in the right direction.

## Tourist Lounge Center

Tell the children the following:

**God sent a friend by the name of Ananias to help Paul. Ananias led Paul in the right direction.**

Remind the children that many people help them in their life journeys.

*Packing My Suitcase:* Give each child an outline of a suitcase pattern and one sheet of paper with the outline of a Bible, a church, praying hands, children, a family member, and an adult. Let the children cut out the patterns using the outlines. Have them glue the smaller cutouts inside their cutout suitcase. Allow them to color the pictures inside their suitcases. Discuss some of the direction helps God gives us depicted by the cutouts the children have glued into their suitcases (Bible, church, prayer, friends, family members, adult friends). Invite the children to write inside their suitcase the names of friends who have helped them in their life journeys. Encourage the children to pray for these friends.

*Building the Wall of Damascus:* Read from an age-appropriate Bible, or tell the children the story of the apostle Paul found in Acts 9:23-25. Let the children build the wall of Damascus with building blocks. Leave a space in the wall large enough for the wicker basket to go through.

*Daring Escape:* Select some children to play the role of those who sought to kill Paul. Have them stand with frowns on their faces watching for Paul. Select other children to play the role of the disciples of Jesus who helped Paul escape. Have them carry the wicker basket to the wall. Select one child to lower the wicker basket with a doll inside (representing Paul) through a hole in the wall of Damascus. Then lead the children in the role-play below:

**After Saul had spent some time in Damascus, some people wanted to kill him.** (Have the group playing the roles of Saul’s enemies nod and say, “Yes, we did!” Have the group playing the role of Saul’s friends shake their heads and say, “Oh, no!”)

**These people watched the gates day and night, hoping to spot Paul.** (Ask the group of children playing the roles of Saul’s enemies to raise their hands over their eyes as if searching for Paul.)

**Some disciples of Jesus helped Saul. They placed Paul in a basket.** (Have one child in the group playing a disciple place the doll in the basket.) **They sneaked Paul out of the city of Damascus at night.** (Have the children in the group playing the role of the disciples tiptoe quietly toward the wall.)

**These friends helped Paul escape by lowering him in a basket through an opening in the wall.**  
(Have one child lower the basket through the hole in the wall.)

*Damascus Jive:* Read each statement and have the children pantomime the corresponding actions:

- **When Saul saw a bright light, he fell to the ground.** (Children fall down.)
- **Ananias laid his hands on Saul to heal him.** (Each child gently lays his or her hands on a friend.)
- **The men traveling with Saul heard the voice of Jesus, but they did not see Jesus.** (Children look up to heaven with a surprised expression.)
- **Paul's friends led him to Damascus.** (Assign each child a partner. One child closes his or her eyes and lets the partner lead him or her to the wall and back. Then reverse roles.)
- **Paul arrived at the home of Judas on Straight Street in Damascus.** (Have the children line up single file and walk in a straight line.)
- **Paul's hometown was Tarsus.** (Ask the children to help find Damascus and Tarsus on a map.)
- **Ananias again laid his hands on Saul to heal him.** (Each child gently lays his or her hands on a friend.)
- **Saul was baptized.** (Have the children make the motions of dipping their hands into clean water and sprinkling a friend gently with water.)
- **After his baptism, Saul ate. He had not eaten in three days.** (Children pretend to eat.)
- **Something like scales fell off Saul's eyes, and he could see!** (Children close their eyes, then move their hands downward swiftly as if scales are falling off and open their eyes.)

## Scenic Route Center

*Blinded by the Light:* Invite each child to select a traveling companion. One child will blindfold his or her traveling companion. The child not blindfolded leads the blindfolded child. Set up obstacles to avoid. Reverse roles.

*Damascus Sightings:* Form small traveling teams (three or four children). Give each team a piece of paper and a pencil. Place the collected items: a small flashlight, a small basket, a cup of water, a cracker, a rope, sunglasses, and a leather sandal in view of the children. Give them a minute to look at the items. Cover the items from view. Have the traveling teams write down as many items as they can recall. Encourage the traveling teams to take turns calling out the items. Then discuss what each item has to do with the story of Saul at Damascus.

- Small flashlight: Saul experienced a blinding light on the road to Damascus.
- Small basket: Disciples used a basket to lower Saul through a hole in the wall at Damascus.
- Cup of water: Saul was baptized in Damascus.
- Cracker: After his baptism, Saul took some food.
- Rope: A rope was tied onto the basket to lower Saul over the wall.
- Sunglasses: A brilliant light blinded Saul.
- Leather sandal: God told Ananias to go (walk) and help Saul.

## Souvenir Shop Center

**Travel Items Basket:** Give each child a cardboard berry basket. Help the children punch a hole on each side of the baskets. Let the children decorate their baskets. Provide each child with a pipe cleaner to attach to the basket as a handle. Then state the following:

**Saul traveled to Damascus. Some people did not like Saul and wanted to kill him. They were upset because Saul had changed. He now followed Jesus. When some of the disciples heard about the danger Saul faced, they put him in a basket and lowered him through a hole in the wall of Damascus. Saul was able to escape and traveled to the city of Jerusalem. His caring friends helped Saul go in the right direction.**

Give the children small strips of paper. Have them write one word on each strip of paper that reminds them that God helps us go in the right direction. Include the words *Bible, prayer, friends, church, teachers, parents, grandparents, pastor, and Holy Spirit*. Have the children place their strips of paper inside their Travel Items Baskets. Tell the children that each word represents a helpful item or person to take along on their life journeys.

**Portraits of Paul:** Give each child a small art canvas. Provide smocks, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, and water for cleaning the brushes. Let the children paint a portrait of the apostle Paul.

**Tourist Attractions Center:** Read from an age-appropriate Bible, or tell the children the story of Paul after he left the town of Damascus as recorded in Acts 9:26-30. Explain to the children that a Hellenist was a Jewish person who spoke Greek. Then tell the children the following:

**It seems that everywhere Paul traveled, he faced people who refused to believe he had changed. Paul encountered many dangers. Barnabas was a good friend. Barnabas's name means "encourager." Who encourages you?** (Allow the children time to discuss and name persons who encourage them.)

Provide information about the life of Corrie ten Boom. Show a video or allow the children to spend time researching her life. Give the children an opportunity to share what they've learned. Then tell the children the following:

**Like Paul, Corrie ten Boom faced hatred in her life. Yet she treated others with kindness and respect. Like Barnabas, Corrie ten Boom encouraged others, especially the people she met in the concentration camp. God wants us to encourage others, especially those who are going through difficult times. God provided both Paul and Corrie ten Boom with helpful friends for their journeys in life. God provides each of us with helpful travel items as well. Let's name some of the helpful items and people God provides to help us on our journeys.** (Have each child read a word from one of the strips of paper in his or her Travel Items Basket.)

Pass out musical instruments. Sing a song of praise to God. Remind the children to praise and thank God for help in their travels.

**Rest Stop Center:** Serve Ananias Apple Slices and Damascus Donuts along with Judas Juice. Write the snack menu on a dry-erase board and place in a visible spot.

## JET LAG JAUNT

Board the Apostle P Bus, and tell your travelers the following:

**Sometimes when people travel to a different place or time zone, it takes them awhile to get back on their regular schedule. They might feel tired and need to rest. We have traveled all the way to Damascus. You may be tired. We will spend this time on our bus to relax and think about our travel experiences.**

Ask the children to share their favorite travel experience. Sing a praise song. Then the apostle Paul closes out their time of travel with the following words:

**We are almost back to the Heavenly Travels Bus Station. What an adventure! One final thought. If you listened carefully to the story about my travels from the Bible, you know that I traveled to Damascus and Jerusalem. After this I traveled to my hometown of Tarsus. I spent some time there before beginning my many journeys to spread the teachings of Jesus.**

**Sometimes we have to be patient, don't we? The time I spent back in my hometown prepared me for all the wonderful destinations God had in store for me. That is a lesson God taught me. Learn to be patient. Wait, and soon you will discover the exciting opportunities that will arrive for you to serve God and learn the many ways God encourages you to share your love for Jesus. Until our next journey, bon voyage, tourists.**

## HEAVENLY TRAVELS BUS STATION

Travel agents assist children with returning their passports to the ticket booth. Make sure the children have all of their souvenirs to take home with them. Send them off with these words:

**Bon voyage!** (Say this to each child as he or she leaves.)

## SESSION TWO

# Traveling Companions

### PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY

**Itinerary:** On a dry-erase board, under the heading Itinerary, write the schedule for the learning session and place the board in a visible spot in the Heavenly Travels Bus Station.

#### *Itinerary*

- Board the Apostle P Bus.
- Arrive at the house church of Barnabas in Antioch.
- Visit other tourist stops: a synagogue at Pisidia; a synagogue at Iconium, Lystra.
- Board the Heavenly Travels Bus and unwind and reflect.
- Return to the Heavenly Travels Bus Station.

**Daring Destination Center:** Set up the room or space to look like a home church in Antioch. Place some clay oil lamps and a scroll on a small table. Place cushions or small rugs on the floor. Scatter pottery pieces around the area. Construct a cardboard sign above the house of Barnabas with the early Christian symbol of the fish (*ichthus*). Place a container of sand by the door of Barnabas's house. Select a person to play the role of Barnabas and provide him or her with clothing from biblical times.

Gather some Christian symbols and display them in various places around the room. Familiarize the travel agents who are assisting in the Daring Destination Center with their meanings. Suggestions:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Symbol of . . .</i>
cross	Our faith in Jesus Christ, who died on the cross
dove	The Holy Spirit and peace
candle	Light; we are to shine for Jesus
butterfly	Resurrection and new life
cross and flame	The United Methodist Church
crown	Jesus is our King
shell	Baptism
chalice	Communion
heart	Love
lamb	Jesus, who was called the Lamb of God

Purchase a package of small crosses (one for each child) and a package of small shells (one for each child).

Gather Communion elements and place them on a small table. Invite your pastor or an ordained elder to be present to consecrate the elements. Place a basin and a pitcher of water with towels on the table.

**Tourist Lounge Center:** Set up the room or area to look like a Jewish synagogue. Add a menorah, scroll, shofar, and rugs or benches for sitting. Provide musical instruments, pom-poms, scarves, and tunics that resemble the dress in biblical times.

**Scenic Route Center:** Make four bases out of sturdy cardboard. Label the bases as follows: Antioch (home plate); Pisidia (first base); Iconium (second base); and Lystra (third base). Place your bases in the shape of a baseball diamond.

**Souvenir Shop Center:** Provide small dowel rods (two for each child), parchment paper, yarn, tape, markers, construction paper, sheets of 8½ x 11-inch paper (one sheet for each child), staplers, religious stickers, note cards (blank inside), a stamp pad, and rubber stamps.

**Tourist Attractions Center:** Gather video and printed information about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., especially centering on his background (hometown, education, gifts).

**Rest Stop Center:** Prepare pretzels and/or ice cream sandwiches; apple juice and/or lemonade.

## HEAVENLY TRAVELS BUS STATION BUZZ

Welcome each child as he or she arrives. Instruct each child to go to the Heavenly Travels Bus Station ticket counter to pick up his or her stamped passport and a round-trip ticket from the ticket agent.

Gather the children inside the Heavenly Travels Bus Station. Ask the apostle Paul to move around the bus station and greet the children. The leader addresses the children using these or similar words:

Welcome, travelers. Are you ready for another exciting adventure with the apostle Paul? Does each of you have your passport and round-trip ticket? Wonderful! Let's look at our itinerary board to see where our the Apostle P Bus will take us. Looks like we are headed to Antioch. At first, the followers of Jesus were called people of the Way. In Antioch, they took on a new name. Can you guess that name? We still use it today for the followers of Jesus. (Give the children time to answer.)

The followers of Jesus were first called Christians in the city of Antioch. We will find it exciting to visit the home church of Barnabas in Antioch. Early believers in Jesus often met in homes. Our itinerary also includes visiting some synagogues where our tour guide, Apostle Paul, taught and preached. A synagogue is a place of worship for our Jewish friends. The first Christians were Jewish, so they continued to worship in the synagogue.

After boarding our Apostle P Bus, Paul will tell us about his hometown of Tarsus. Okay, tourists, time now to get into traveling groups with our travel agents and board the Apostle P Bus for our journey.

Instruct the travel agents to gather their traveling groups. Assign any newcomers to a traveling group. Board the Apostle P Bus. Have each child place his or her ticket in a basket while boarding the bus.

## APOSTLE P BUS EXCURSION

When the children find a seat, share the Traveler's Prayer. Remind the children of the Traveler's Code of Conduct. The apostle Paul enters the bus and sits in the driver's seat. He pretends to drive the bus as he shares the following:

**Welcome aboard the Apostle P Bus. Don't forget to stay in your seats at all times. We are going to be traveling down some curvy roads. Soon we will arrive at the home church of Barnabas in the city of Antioch. Before we arrive there, I have just enough time to tell you about my own hometown.**

**I was born in the city of Tarsus. Tarsus is a very old city. It goes way back—six thousand years—and that is pretty old, if you ask me. Traders brought all sorts of goods from many places to Tarsus to exchange. People spoke many languages. The city allowed many different religions to exist.**

**My hometown was noted for weaving and tent making. Before I became a preacher and missionary, I made tents and did a good job. Even after I began traveling and starting churches, I continued to make tents for a living.**

**In Tarsus many people studied philosophy, ideas about life and living. Teachers debated among themselves and asked their students many questions. I learned how to give a good speech by listening to the teachers and learning from them.**

**Living in Tarsus, I was both a Jewish citizen and a Roman citizen. I was raised in a devout Jewish home. I tried my best to obey the laws of God contained in our Jewish scrolls. I went to synagogue school. When I was older, I left Tarsus for Jerusalem. There, I studied God and the Jewish faith with a great teacher by the name of Gamaliel.**

**Many people helped me grow, learn, and change. My parents taught me about God and took me to the synagogue to learn and worship. Skilled tent makers taught me how to make good tents, and I enjoyed talking with my many customers who shared their stories with me. The philosophers of my city taught me how to think about important issues and voice my opinions in a logical way. My great teacher Gamaliel instructed me in the Jewish faith, and I memorized verses from the Torah (the first five books in our Old Testament). I diligently read the scrolls containing our Jewish scriptures and studied them carefully.**

The leader then raises these questions and thoughts for discussion:

**What is the name of your hometown?** (Give the children time to answer.)

**Think about the people who have helped you to grow, learn, and change. Call out the names of some of these people.** (*Suggestions:* parents, Sunday school teachers, pastors, schoolteachers, grandparents, coaches, Boy Scout/Girl Scout leaders.)

**Let's sing our Bus Sing-along Song.**

Sing the first and second verses of the song and the chorus. Teach the children the third verse of the song. Sing all three verses and the chorus as you continue traveling to Antioch.

## TRAVEL TREK

Have the children exit the Apostle P Bus. Check their passports. Instruct the travel agents to gather the children into traveling groups. Allow the children to visit the six travel centers. Advise the children to stay with their individual travel groups as they journey to the centers.

**Daring Destination Center:** Stop at the doorway of Barnabas's house. Explain to the children that an early sign for Christians was a fish. Tell them that it was a secret sign. Some people did not like the Christians and wanted to hurt them. Christians cautiously greeted other people. One person would draw half of the fish symbol in the sand. If the other person was a Christian, he or she would complete the drawing. Draw the symbol for the children in the container of sand by the door of Barnabas's house. Let the children select traveling partners. Instruct one child to trace one half of the fish symbol in the sand and let the child's traveling partner trace the other half; then instruct them to enter the house of Barnabas and be seated.

Show the children the location of Antioch on a Bible map. Then tell them the following:

**The city of Antioch was the third-largest city in the Roman Empire. Antioch was located three hundred miles north of Jerusalem next to the Orontes River in what is now known as the country of Turkey. Since Antioch was just sixteen miles from a port on the Mediterranean Sea, traders and merchants often arrived in Antioch from the sea bringing all types of goods. Antioch was also located near a major road, making it easy to carry goods to and from the city by land. The merchants of Antioch traded with people from all over the world.**

**Antioch grew very quickly. Many languages were spoken in the city. The population included Romans, Greeks, Syrians, and others. Antioch turned into a wealthy city.**

**A temple dedicated to the Greek god Apollo was located in Antioch.**

Barnabas then picks up the narration:

**Welcome to my home in Antioch, tourists. I am proud to tell you that the followers of Jesus were first called Christians in the city of Antioch. My home served not only as a place of comfort and rest for my family, but also as a house church. Early followers of Jesus often met in homes as well as the synagogue, a place to worship God similar to your church. I was glad to open my home to the believers in Antioch and to preach and teach them about Jesus. Our home church was growing so fast that I needed some help with the preaching and teaching. I heard that Saul, or Paul, as you call him, wanted to serve the Lord. I decided to go to Tarsus where I knew Saul was living. I asked him to come help me in Antioch, and he agreed. You can read this story in the book of Acts in your Bible. The book of Acts is a helpful book of the Bible to learn about the history of the early church.** (Show the children where to find the book of Acts in the New Testament.)

**Oh, by the way, my name means “encourager.” An encourager cheers others up when they are down. An encourager reminds people of how important they are to God and others. God used me to encourage your tour guide and friend Paul. Later on, God used me to encourage a man named John Mark. John Mark traveled with Paul on one of his many missionary journeys to spread the word of Jesus to others. A time came when Paul decided not to take John Mark with him on further travels. I encouraged John Mark and even traveled with him.**

Leader raises the following question:

**How can you encourage others?** (Allow the children time to answer. (*Suggestions:* encourage a child at school who does not have many friends, encourage a friend who is sad, say nice things to others, visit someone who is sick, offer to assist an older person with a chore)

Ask a travel agent at this center to read Acts 11:21-26 from an age-appropriate Bible.

**Christian Travel Symbols:** Tell the children that hidden around Barnabas’s house church are various symbols of the Christian faith. Remind them that Antioch was the first city in which the followers of Jesus were called Christians. Let the children look for and gather the symbols. Ask them to share with a travel agent the meaning of each symbol. As the groups leave Barnabas’s house, give each child a cross and a shell. Have Barnabas hide the symbols again for the next traveling group.

**House Church Communion:** Invite your pastor or an ordained elder to consecrate the Communion elements. Allow Barnabas to assist in serving Communion.

**Tourist Lounge Center:** The children enter the synagogue. They may put on the tunics that resemble the dress in biblical times. Explain to the group that the synagogue was a place of worship for the Jewish people. The early Christians met in homes for worship, but they also continued to meet in the synagogue for some time. Tell them that the apostle Paul and his traveling companions often worshiped in the synagogue.

Read Acts 13:2-5, 13-14; and Acts 14:1 from an age-appropriate Bible. Write on a dry-erase board all the places mentioned in the scriptures where the apostle Paul and his traveling companions journeyed (Seleucia, Cyprus, Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Antioch in Pisidia, and Iconium). Have the children repeat the names of the towns after you say them.

Then say the following aloud:

**Paul stayed very busy traveling to various cities in parts of Asia. In these towns, he preached about Jesus. He often worshiped in the synagogue.**

Blow the shofar. Light the menorah. Explain to the children that the shofar and the menorah were often used in the synagogue during worship.

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Tell the children that Jewish people consider these verses as very important to their faith. They are often read in worship and used for prayer time in the morning and evening.

Allow the children to select some songs to sing.

Play worship music. Let the children play musical instruments with the worship music. Let them shake pom-poms to the music. Let them wave scarves and move to the beat of the music.

Lay hands on each child and encourage him or her.

Take a traveling group picture.

**Scenic Route Center:** Review with the children what they have learned about Paul. Provide the children with some new information about Paul that they will pick up in other traveling centers as well. Then say the following aloud:

**You are learning new information about the travels of Paul as you visit the traveling centers. Listen carefully to what I am going to share with you because you will use this information in a game we are going to play.**

**After traveling to Damascus, Paul went to Jerusalem and then to his hometown of Tarsus. A man named Barnabas came to Tarsus searching for Paul. Barnabas's name means "encourager." Barnabas was a leader in a house church in the town of Antioch. Early Christians worshiped in homes as well as synagogues.**

**In the city of Antioch, people started calling the followers of Jesus Christians. This was the first time the followers of Jesus were called by that name.**

**Barnabas urged Paul to come to Antioch. The church was growing fast, and Barnabas needed help with preaching and teaching. Paul agreed to come. While in Antioch, the Christians were told by God to lay hands on Paul and Barnabas and send them traveling to share the good news of Jesus. The Christians did just that and sent Paul and Barnabas out as missionaries.**

**When Paul and Barnabas arrived in a new town, they often went to the synagogue to worship God and to teach and preach about Jesus.**

*Travel Baseball:* Set up your baseball diamond. Use the following questions for your baseball game. Ask the questions in order. Once all the questions are asked, repeat as needed.

Explain to the children that the bases have been named for various cities where Paul and Barnabas traveled. Let the children repeat after you the names of the bases.

**GAME DIRECTIONS:** A child is asked a question. If the child answers the question correctly, he or she goes to first base. If the child answers "True," but the correct answer is "False," that child does not get on base. The next child in line must answer the question correctly to get on base. Keep repeating the same question until a child gets on base. Then a new question is asked of the next child. Each time a question is answered

correctly, the children already on base move to the next base. The idea is not to score points, but to get on base, move around the bases, and eventually land on home plate. Remind the children that others help us move forward in our journeys of life.

Use these questions for your true-or-false travel baseball game:

1. Paul was born in Jerusalem. (*False*; Paul was born in Tarsus.)
2. Paul was Jewish. (*True*.)
3. Paul traveled on the Antioch Highway. (*False*; Paul traveled on the Damascus road.)
4. Paul was carrying letters allowing him to arrest Christians and put them in jail. (*True*.)
5. A brilliant light on the road to Damascus blinded Paul. (*True*.)
6. Paul's traveling companions helped him arrive in Damascus. (*True*.)
7. In Damascus, Paul stayed at the home of Stephen. (*False*; Paul stayed at the home of Judas.)
8. Judas lived on Crooked Street. (*False*; Judas lived on Straight Street.)
9. God sent a man named Ananias to help Paul. (*True*.)
10. Eyelashes fell off Paul's blinded eyes, and he could see. (*False*; scales fell off Paul's eyes.)
11. Paul was baptized at the house of Ananias. (*False*; Paul was baptized at the house of Judas.)
12. Some people in the city of Damascus wanted to kill Ananias. (*False*; the people wanted to kill Paul.)
13. When the followers of Jesus learned that Paul was in danger in Damascus, they shoved Paul through a hole in the city wall. (*False*; they lowered him in a basket through a hole in the wall.)
14. Paul was arrested and put in jail. (*False*; Paul escaped.)
15. Paul's Jewish name was Andrew. (*False*; Paul's Jewish name was Saul.)
16. From Damascus, Paul traveled to Jerusalem. (*True*.)
17. The name Barnabas means "follower of Jesus." (*False*; the name Barnabas means "encourager.")
18. Barnabas lived in Antioch. (*True*.)
19. The followers of Jesus were first called Christians in the city of Jerusalem. (*False*; Jesus' followers were first called Christians in Antioch.)
20. When Barnabas found Paul, he was living in Jerusalem. (*False*; Paul was living in Tarsus.)
21. Barnabas asked Paul to come and assist him in Antioch. (*True*.)
22. Paul said, "No, thanks." (*False*; Paul said yes.)
23. The church members at Antioch laid hands on Paul and Silas. (*False*; the church members laid hands on Paul and Barnabas.)
24. Paul and Barnabas traveled to several cities. In many of these cities, they worshiped, preached, and taught in the synagogues. (*True*.)
25. Many people heard the good news and believed in Jesus. (*True*.)

## Souvenir Shop Center

Tell the students the following:

**Early Christians worshiped in the homes of believers, but they also continued to worship in the synagogue. Synagogues are Jewish places of worship.**

**Synagogue Scrolls:** Give each child two dowel rods, parchment paper, and a piece of yarn. Have the children write the words of Deuteronomy 6:4-5 on their pieces of parchment paper. They will then tape the parchment paper to the dowel rods to make a scroll. Show the children how to roll up their scrolls and tie them together with the pieces of yarn.

**Helpful Instruction Booklets:** Give each child a piece of 8½ x 11-inch construction paper and a piece of 8½ x 11-inch writing paper. Instruct the children to fold both pieces of paper in half and place the writing paper inside the construction paper. Staple the two sheets to make a booklet. Give the children religious stickers and let them use markers to decorate the outside of the booklets. The children will write the following at the top of the pages: "My Family History" on the first page, "Important Places" on the second page, "What I Like" on the third page, and "My Gifts" on the fourth page. Explain that God provides them with helpful items and people for their journeys in life. These include family histories, places they have lived or traveled, activities they enjoy, their favorite foods, their hobbies, and their friends. Helpful items also includes their gifts and talents, the things they do well. Ask them to write on each page the helpful items and people God has given them. They will take their booklets home and finish them with their families. Grandparents and parents may assist.

**Barnabas Note Cards:** Provide each child with several note cards. The children decorate the cards by stamping pictures on them. Invite the children to write a brief note of encouragement to any homebound members or individuals in your congregation who are ill. Mail these to the homebound and the sick.

**Tourist Attractions Center:** Show a brief video of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. or provide books and other printed information. Tell the children about Dr. King's background: his hometown, education, gifts, faith, and contributions to the civil rights movement.

Remind the children that God provided Dr. King with some helpful items and people in his life. He took advantage of these to help others.

**Say:**

**God gives each of us help in our travels as well. Let's think about our helpful items.** (*Suggestions:* home, family, friends, education, faith, church)

Allow the children to share the towns where they were born, places they have lived, and places they have traveled to visit.

**Rest Stop Center:** Serve Pisidia Pretzels and/or Iconium Ice Cream Sandwiches, Antioch Apple Juice and/or Lystra Lemonade. Write your menu on a dry-erase board and display.

## JET LAG JAUNT

Board the Apostle P Bus. Apostle Paul tells the children the following:

**God gave me many helpful items for my travels. One source of help was my hometown of Tarsus. There, my parents taught me about God and the Jewish faith. My teacher Gamaliel taught me some good lessons in the faith. Another person who was of great help was my traveling companion Barnabas. My gifts and talents, such as preaching and teaching, were good skills I used in my journeys. Think about the helpful items and people God has placed in your life. How do they help you travel the road of life?**

Ask the children to share their favorite travel experiences in the session. Sing the first three verses of the Bus Sing-along Song with the chorus.

Depart the Apostle P Bus.

## HEAVENLY TRAVELS BUS STATION

Travel agents assist children with returning their passports to the ticket booth. Make sure the children have all of their souvenirs to take home with them. Send them off with these words:

**Bon voyage!** (Say this to each child as he or she leaves.)

## SESSION THREE

# Bumps in the Road

### PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY

Set up a river scene that the children will visit when they first exit the Apostle P Bus. Cut butcher paper into the shape of a body of water. Paint it blue. Make rocks out of crumpled butcher paper or stuff garbage bags with newspaper. Place some plants around the river. Select someone to play the role of Lydia and dress her in an outfit that includes a purple scarf, headpiece, or sash. Recruit some other women to dress in tunics to resemble biblical times.

Set up a small marketplace. Display fruits, breads, and spices that were used in Bible times. Hang or display pottery and baskets.

**Itinerary:** On a dry-erase board, under the heading Itinerary, write the schedule for the learning session and place the board in a visible spot in the Heavenly Travels Bus Station.

#### *Itinerary*

- Board the Apostle P Bus.
- Arrive in Philippi and visit Lydia at the river.
- Go to the Philippi jail.
- Visit other tourist stops: marketplace at Philippi.
- Board the Heavenly Travels Bus and unwind and reflect.

- Return to the Heavenly Travels Bus Station.

**Daring Destination Center:** Set up the room or area to resemble a jail cell. Use a large cardboard refrigerator box (or two boxes taped together) as your jail cell. Cut out only the front panel of the box. Use black or brown streamers taped to the top of your box and spaced evenly apart for the cell bars. If there's room, place a small bench inside the jail cell. Make several chains out of construction paper.

Purchase a large piece of faux leather fabric and cut it into six equal square pieces and six leather strings. Cut the leather strings long enough to tie around the square pieces when rolled up. Glue one sheet of paper onto each of the six square pieces of leather.

**Tourist Lounge Center:** Cut seven strips of colored construction paper for each child. Make each strip long enough so the children can bend the strips into connecting circles to make a chain. Provide several rolls of clear tape and several black markers.

On an 8½ x 11-inch piece of paper, write the following words in a list down the left-hand side of the paper: *Paul, Silas, jailer, chains, praying, singing, earthquake, family, baptized*. Reproduce a copy for each child. Provide colored markers.

On another 8½ x 11-inch piece of paper, write the following words in the left-hand column: *Lydia, Silas, Philippi, Philippians, river, purple cloth, midnight, hymns, praying, earthquake, and baptized*. In the right-hand column, write the following phrases: “city where Paul and Silas were jailed”; “name of one of Paul’s letters”; “traveling companion of Paul”; “woman Paul met at the river”; “place where Paul met Lydia”; “time Paul and Silas were singing”; “songs Paul and Silas were singing”; “what Paul and Silas did in jail along with singing”; “what Lydia sold”; “what shook the jail”; “what happened to the jailer and his family.” Reproduce a copy for each child. Provide pencils.

**Scenic Route Center:** Write the number 1 on an 8½ x 11-inch sheet of paper, the number 2 on another sheet of paper, the number 3 on another sheet of paper, and so on, continuing the numbering to 10. Laminate each sheet of paper. Tape the numbered squares in a circle in numerical order close enough to one another that the children can step from one square to another. Write the number 1 on a small strip of paper, the number 2 on another small strip of paper, the number 3 on another small strip of paper, and so on, continuing to the number 10. Place these strips in a small box or basket.

On index cards, write the following phrases and instructions, one on each card:

- Paul met Lydia by the river (move forward 2 spaces).
- Paul traveled to Philippi with Silas (move forward 1 space).
- Paul baptized Lydia (move forward 3 spaces).
- Paul and Silas were placed in jail (go back 3 spaces).
- Paul and Silas were chained in jail (go back 2 spaces).
- Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns (move forward 3 spaces).
- A huge earthquake shook the prison doors (go back 1 space).
- The jailer drew his sword and was about to kill himself (go back 4 spaces).
- The jailer was baptized along with his household (go forward 4 spaces).
- Lydia listened carefully to Paul’s teaching (go forward 2 spaces).

- An angry crowd dragged Paul and Silas into the marketplace (go back 3 spaces).
- Paul and Silas were beaten with rods (go back 4 spaces).
- The prison doors were opened by an earthquake (move forward 3 spaces).
- The jailer asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (move forward 5 spaces).
- The women by the river worshiped God (move forward 1 space).
- Lydia invited Paul and Silas to her house (move forward 5 spaces).
- Lydia sold purple cloth to make a living (move forward 2 spaces).
- Lydia learned about Jesus from Paul (move forward 5 spaces).
- A slave girl made her owners wealthy by fortune-telling (go back 1 space).
- Paul and Silas angered the owners of the slave girl (go back 3 spaces).
- Paul and Silas were accused of disturbing the city (go back 2 spaces).

Gather masking tape and a box or basket for the index cards.

**Souvenir Shop Center:** Gather small pieces of white fabric (one for each child); red and blue food colorings; small plastic bowls (one for each child); craft sticks.

Provide pieces of colorful felt (one for each child). Cut out a square piece inside the felt to make a frame. Provide each child with a piece of square white cardboard that will fit as the backing to his or her frame. Cut several strips of black felt the vertical length of the frame (five for each child). Provide markers and glue.

Gather craft sticks (several for each child); yarn; tape; markers; small round face-shaped ovals (several for each child); shoeboxes (one for each child); small pieces of fabric; scissors; and glue.

**Tourist Attractions Center:** Gather foam pool noodles and place around the area. Attach a sign to each noodle that shows one of the bumps in the road of life that children might face. (*Suggestions:* new school, new home, new town, new baby, illness of parent, death of family members, good friend moving, loss of pet, new job for parent, new teacher, new pastor)

Select and invite some church members to share with the children ways the bumps in the road in their life journeys slowed them down but did not stop them from attaining their goals in life.

**Rest Stop Center:** Serve purple seedless grapes and/or saltine crackers with peanut butter, grape juice boxes and/or water.

## HEAVENLY TRAVELS BUS STATION BUZZ

Welcome each child as he or she arrives. Instruct each child to go to the Heavenly Travels Bus Station ticket counter to pick up his or her stamped passport and round-trip ticket from the ticket agent.

Gather the children inside the Heavenly Travels Bus Station. Ask the apostle Paul to move around the bus station and greet the children.

Ask the apostle Paul to sit down, put his feet up, and pretend to be asleep.

**Say:**

Welcome, tourists. I hope our travel adventures are not wearing you out. Traveling can be exhausting, but it's also fun. Oh, no! Look at the apostle Paul. Seems as if he is so tired from traveling that he is taking a nap. Think we can wake him up? (Allow the children to make lots of noise.) Good job, travelers. Your noise woke him up! We are going to need the apostle Paul wide awake to drive us to our next destination.

Let's check our itinerary for today. Looks like we are going to travel to the city of Philippi. Not only will we get to spend some time relaxing on the riverbanks, but we will also tour the local jail. Don't worry! You will all get out of jail in time to go home.

We are going to learn that Paul and his traveling companion, Silas, encountered some bumps in the road on their journey. How many of you have traveled in a car and approached a bump in the road? Let me show you a picture. (Project on the television screen or projector screen a picture of a speed bump or speed hump.)

Traffic engineers use speed bumps and speed humps to slow down traffic. They use them in places where drivers must reduce their speeds, for both their safety and the safety of pedestrians. Today we are going to learn that Paul faced some bumps in the road on his journey that slowed him down. They were not speed bumps or speed humps but situations where he had to stop his work for a while. We will talk about some of the bumps in the road that come our way from time to time. Paul faced his bumps in the road with courage. He prayed to God for help. And we can do the same. I wonder if we will discover a bump in the road while traveling today on the Apostle P Bus. Apostle Paul is a smooth driver, but we'd better help him watch out for any bumps in the road. If we see one, we'll all shout, "Slow down, Apostle Paul!" Let's practice in case we encounter a bump in the road on our travels. (Allow the children to practice saying, "Slow down, Apostle Paul!")

**Time to climb aboard the Apostle P Bus for an exciting trip to the city of Philippi.**

Instruct the travel agents to gather the children into traveling groups. Assign any newcomers to a traveling group. Board the Apostle P Bus. Have each child place his or her ticket in a basket while boarding the bus.

## APOSTLE P BUS EXCURSION

Once all of the children are seated, share the Traveler's Prayer. Remind the children of the Traveler's Code of Conduct. Apostle Paul welcomes them with these words:

Welcome aboard the Apostle P Bus. We have so much to see and learn today, so let's be good listeners to our travel agents and our fellow travelers. Today we are visiting Philippi. I wrote the letter called *Philippians* in your Bible to the church at Philippi. Say the word *Philippians* with me. (Pause to let the children learn the correct pronunciation.) I helped start the church at Philippi, so the people were very dear to me. In Philippi, you will discover that I was put in jail because I preached about Jesus. Turns out, that would not be the last time I found myself in prison. I wrote the letter to the church at Philippi while I was in prison. And what is the name of my letter? (Let the children respond.)

In my letter, I instructed the Christians at Philippi to love one another and try to get along. I also included a beautiful hymn that was popular in the churches at the time. Let me get one of

**our travel agents to read it for you. I must keep my eyes on the road.** (Have one of the travel agents read Philippians 2:5-11.)

**I also wrote in Philippians these words: “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” Who do you think I was referring to when I said “him”?** (Allow the children time to respond.)

**Yes, Jesus. I was writing to the church at Philippi to tell them that they could do anything God wanted or asked them to do because Jesus gave them the strength to do the work of God. That is true for all of you travelers, as well.**

**Oh, no, children. Look ahead. What do you see? We are approaching a speed bump in the road.** (The children respond, “Slow down, Apostle Paul!”)

**Thank you, fellow travelers. That is good advice when approaching a speed bump on the road or a speed bump in our journeys of life. We have to slow down and take it easy. But a little speed bump won't keep us from our destination. Onward to Philippi!**

Sing the first, second, and third verses with the chorus of the Bus Sing-along Song. Teach the children the fourth verse. Sing the verses as you travel to Philippi.

## TRAVEL TREK

Have the children exit the Apostle P Bus. Check their passports. Lead the children to the river at Philippi to meet Lydia and her friends.

**Lydia says:**

**Welcome to Philippi, tourists. I hope you did not encounter too many bumps in the road on your way here. Isn't our river beautiful? I enjoy worshiping with my friends along the banks of the river. That is where I happened to be when I met your tour guide, the apostle Paul. Paul came into our city with his traveling companion, Silas. I was a strong believer in God, but I did not know about Jesus. Paul taught me about Jesus, and I became a Christian believer. I was baptized in this very river. I invited Paul and Silas to stay at my home while they were in Philippi, and they honored me when they agreed to accept my invitation.**

**Did you notice my purple cloth? I sell purple fabric. Purple cloth is very expensive, so I have made a great deal of money. I am a wealthy businesswoman. However, my greatest wealth comes from knowing Jesus and following Jesus each day.**

**Won't you join us in prayer and worship? I understand that you have been learning a song about my friend Paul. Please share it with my friends and me.** (Ask the children to sing a couple of verses from the Bus Sing-along Song for Lydia and her friends.)

**I know you are going to enjoy your time in Philippi. Just watch out for some of the leaders in our town. They try to find every opportunity to put Christians in jail, as Paul can tell you. Be careful in the marketplace. Don't make too much noise. The magistrates might arrest you and put you in jail. Right, Paul?** (Paul nods in agreement.)

**Have a great traveling day. If you need to buy any purple cloth, you know where to find me. I'll be here by the river, praying to God and worshiping Jesus.**

Instruct the travel agents to gather the children into traveling groups. Allow the children to visit the six travel centers. Advise the children to stay with their travel groups as they journey to the centers.

**Daring Destination Center:** Lead the children into the jail. Using an age-appropriate Bible, read the story of Paul and Silas in jail (Acts 16:16-23). Explain to the children that the slave owner was making lots of money because the slave girl could predict the future. Paul apparently got annoyed when the girl continued to follow Paul around the city yelling the words “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.” Perhaps her loud words made it hard for Paul to preach and teach and for the people to hear him, especially if she followed Paul everywhere he went. Or maybe Paul understood that the slave master was using this young girl’s gift only to make money. The Bible refers to her ability as coming from a spirit inside her. Paul commanded the spirit to leave the girl, and she was no longer able to tell people what was going to happen to them in the future. That upset the owner of the slave girl, and he ran to the officials in Philippi and charged Paul with disrupting the city. So Paul and Silas were arrested and taken to the jail.

*Jailhouse Rock:* Read the story in Acts 16:25-34 from an age-appropriate Bible.

Let the children act out the story. Select one child to be the jailer, one to be Paul, and one to be Silas. Choose some of the children to be prisoners. Give Paul, Silas, and the prisoners paper chains to slip on their hands. Have the jailer lie down in a corner of the jail and pretend to sleep. Ask the rest of the children to serve as the sound-effects crew. Lead the children in action and song:

**Around midnight, Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns.** (Paul and Silas pretend to pray; the children sing a familiar hymn.)

**Suddenly an earthquake shook the foundations of the prison.** (The sound-effects crew stomp their feet.)

**When the jailer woke up and saw the prison door wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself. He thought he would be punished because the prisoners had escaped.** (The sound-effects crew shout, “Oh, no!” The jailer wakes up and pretends to draw his sword.)

**Paul shouted in a loud voice, . . .** (Paul shouts, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.”)

**The jailer asked Saul and Silas, . . .** (The jailer asks, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”)

**Paul and Silas replied, . . .** (Have Paul and Silas say, “Believe on the Lord Jesus.” The sound-effects crew say, “And you will be saved, you and your household.”)

**The jailer washed the wounds of Paul and Silas.** (The jailer pretends to wash wounds.) **He then invited Paul and Silas to his house for a meal.** (The sound-effects crew say, “Yum, yum.”)

**The jailer’s entire family was baptized and rejoiced.** (Everyone claps their hands and shouts, “Hooray!”)

*Letters Home:* Show the children the location of Philippi on a Bible map. Then tell them the following information:

**Paul not only visited Philippi and started a church there, but he wrote a letter to the church at Philippi. He talked about his suffering. Paul wrote this letter from his jail cell. Paul also wrote about the joy of serving Jesus. He encouraged the Christians at Philippi to love one another. He instructed them to rejoice always.**

**We are going to write a letter to our church.** (Hold up the leather piece of fabric with the paper glued to it.) **What things do you like about our church?** (Give children time to respond to you and write their responses on the paper.) **What changes would you make?** (Give children time to respond to you and write their suggestions on the paper.) **What advice would you give our church leaders?** (Write down on the paper the advice offered by the children.)

Have each child sign the document, roll it up, and tie it with a piece of leather string. Assure the children that you will give the document to your church leaders.

**Tourist Lounge Center:** Review the story of Lydia and Paul. Tell the children the story of Paul and Silas found in Acts 16:16-34.

**Believer's Chain:** Give each child seven strips of colored construction paper. Ask the children to write the following letters, one letter on each strip of paper: *B-E-L-I-E-V-E*. Instruct them to write the letter on the middle part of the strip. Have the children make a believer's chain by linking their strips together. Secure each link with tape.

**Jailhouse Drawings:** Give each child a copy of the 8½ x 11-inch paper with the words *Paul, Silas, Jailer, chains, praying, singing, earthquake, family, and baptized* written on the left-hand side. Provide markers and let the children draw a symbol or a picture to represent each word on the right-hand side of the paper.

**Jail Match:** Give each child a copy of the 8½ x 11-inch paper with the two columns of words and phrases and a pencil. Instruct the children to look at the word in the left-hand column and draw a line to the correct answer in the right-hand column.

- Lydia—Woman Paul met at the river
- Silas—Traveling companion of Paul
- Philippi—City where Paul and Silas were jailed
- Philippians—Name of one of Paul's letters
- River—Place where Paul met Lydia
- Purple cloth—What Lydia sold
- Midnight—Time Paul and Silas were singing
- Hymns—Songs Paul and Silas were singing
- Praying—What Paul and Silas did in jail, along with singing
- Earthquake—What shook the jail
- Baptized—What happened to the jailer and his family

## Scenic Route Center

Acquaint the children with the story of Paul and Silas in jail:

**The apostle Paul and Silas were arrested and placed in jail in the city of Philippi. Some people who were not followers of Jesus accused them of disrupting the city with their teachings. While in jail, Paul and Silas sang hymns. Around midnight, an earthquake shook the jail. Paul and Silas did not try to escape. Instead, they taught the jailer about Jesus.**

**Jail Escape:** Each child stands on one of the numbered squares in the circle on the floor. Play music and instruct the children to walk around the circle, stepping on the numbered squares. When the music stops, the child stops on a numbered square. Draw a number out of the basket or box. The child standing on the square with that number escapes from the circle and is free! Put that number back in the basket or box. Continue playing until all the children are free.

**Bumps in the Road:** Make a starting line using masking tape. Select a finish line and mark with masking tape. Have the children stand side by side at the starting line, arm's length apart. One child draws a card and moves forward or goes back, depending on the instructions on the paper. (Regardless of the number of spaces directed, a child will "go back" only as far as the starting line.) The goal is for each child to arrive at the finish line.

**Earthquake!:** Have the children stand in a line side by side with their arms linked. Select a jailer and have him or her stand a few feet from the line of children. Have a designated safe space. When you yell "Earthquake!" the children are set free. They release their linked arms and run toward the safe space. The jailer tries to catch one of the children. If he or she succeeds, that child becomes the jailer. Repeat a few times. Try variations of the way you have the children start out playing the game. Have the children stand in a circle linking arms, with a partner linking arms, or with two or more children linking arms.

## Souvenir Shop Center

**Lydia's Dye:** Give each child a white piece of cloth and a plastic bowl. Place drops of red and blue food colorings in each bowl and let the child stir with a craft stick to make purple. (Add water as necessary.) Use their craft stick to dip their cloth into the dye. Hang the strips of cloth to dry.

**Mug Shots:** Tell the students the following information.

### **In Philippi, Paul and Silas were arrested and jailed for teaching people about Jesus.**

Give each child a felt frame and a piece of square white cardboard. The children will glue the felt frame around the square white cardboard. On the cardboard, they will draw a picture of Paul and Silas in jail. Give each child five felt vertical strips, which the children will glue vertically inside the frame, spaced apart, to form the bars of the jail.

**Philippi Puppets and Puppet Stage:** Give each child a shoebox. Remove the lid from a shoebox and show the children how to cut out the lid, leaving a border around the lid. Have the children add a piece of fabric, taped to each side of the lid, to serve as curtains.

The children make puppets by drawing eyes, nose, and mouth on the oval face-shaped pieces. Glue yarn on the puppet for hair. Add another craft stick horizontally to form arms. Small pieces of fabric may be glued to the craft stick for clothing. Children may wish to make several puppets to represent Paul, Silas, Lydia, and the jailer.

Encourage the children to use their puppets to tell their families the story of Paul and Lydia and the story of Paul and Silas in jail.

**Tourist Attractions Center:** Let the children walk around the Tourist Attractions Center observing the signs written on the foam noodle road bumps (*Suggestions:* attending a new school, moving to a new home, welcoming a new baby to the family, the illness of a parent, the death of a family member, having a

good friend move away, the loss of a pet, a new job for a parent, a new teacher, a new pastor) Ask the children if any of these road bumps have occurred in their lives. We learn to travel carefully on the road and on the road of life. Bumps do not keep us from reaching our goals. Road bumps remind us that God will help us through whatever situation we find ourselves in. A car going over a bump in the road slows down but keeps going. And so do we.

Invite some church members to share their own “bumps in the road” with the children.

**Rest Stop Center:** Serve Lydia's Seedless Grapes and/or Paul Peanut Butter atop Silas Saltines (crackers) with Jailer Juice (juice boxes) and/or Philippi River Water. Write the menu on a dry-erase board and display.

Allow the children time to visit the marketplace to smell spices and sample foods and fruits.

## JET LAG JAUNT

Board the Apostle P Bus. The apostle Paul greets them with these words:

**What a journey! It was a joy to return to Philippi to visit my friend Lydia. I won't say I was exactly thrilled to visit that jail again, but good things did come out of the time Silas and I spent there. We got to know the jailer and his family very well. We rejoiced when the entire family was baptized and became followers of Jesus.**

**Travelers, I hope we will not encounter too many road bumps on our way back; but if we do, don't worry. We will take things easy and stay safe on our Apostle P Bus. Those speed bumps may slow us down, but they won't stop us from getting to our destination. Alert drivers pay attention to them. Good drivers learn from them.**

**Oh, we are going over a speed bump right now. Well, I'm glad we had that speed bump to slow us down. We are on a street with lots of houses. We must watch out for any people in the area who may be walking or crossing the street.**

**I faced a speed bump or two in my own journey. One of those was the time Silas and I spent in the jail in Philippi. That bump in the road slowed us down in our work for a time, but we got right back on the road. You will face some bumps in the road in your journey of life too. Some of you travelers have already faced some in your lives. Maybe you had to move and go to a new school. That was a bump in the road for you. It slowed you down for a while, but then you got moving again. Or maybe a family member got sick and had to go to the hospital. That was a hard bump in the road. It slowed your family down. God helped you face that bump in the road.**

**Bumps in the road slow us down, don't they? At the same time, we all learn important lessons from them. You must not let them keep you from the destination God plans for your life. Keep moving, travelers, and watch out for those bumps in the road.**

Ask the children to share their favorite travel experiences in this session. Sing the first four verses of the Bus Sing-along Song with the chorus.

Depart the Apostle P Bus.

## HEAVENLY TRAVELS BUS STATION

Travel agents assist children with returning their passports to the ticket booth. Make sure the children have all of their souvenirs to take home with them. Send them off with these words:

**Bon voyage!** (Say this to each child as he or she leaves.)

## SESSION FOUR

# Detours

### PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY

Place a detour sign close to the Apostle P Bus. Make one out of cardboard, purchase a paper one, or borrow a metal detour traffic sign from your local public works department.

On a dry-erase board, under the heading Itinerary, write the schedule for the learning session and place the board in a visible location in the Heavenly Travels Bus Station.

#### *Itinerary*

- Board the Apostle P Bus and depart.
- On the road with Paul, Silas, and Timothy.
- Visit other tourist stops: Thessalonica, Beroea.
- Board the Apostle P Bus and unwind and reflect.
- Return to the Heavenly Travels Bus Station.

**Daring Destination Center:** Set up the room or area as a road. Use the props from your Damascus road in Session One. Find a megaphone. Write the following sentences on index cards, one on each card:

- No, I have better things to do.
- You have got to be kidding.

- I am headed somewhere else.
- I am too important to come to your town.
- Maybe one day but not now.
- This is only a dream. It is not real.
- I have other places to travel.
- That is not part of my travel plans.
- I'm in too big a hurry.
- Get someone else to help you.
- What's in it for me?

Gather a pile of sticks, dowel rods, or small stones.

**Tourist Lounge Center:** Set up your room or area like a marketplace. Display pottery, cloth, baskets, and other Bible time wares. On paper plates, write the following sentences, one on each plate:

- Jesus is the Messiah.
- Jesus must suffer.
- Jesus will rise from the dead.
- Follow Jesus.
- Believe in Jesus.
- We are followers of Jesus.
- We are teaching you about Jesus.
- These people are turning the world upside down.
- These people are not obeying the emperor.
- These people believe that Jesus is the king.
- These people are preaching about Jesus.
- These people claim Jesus is the Messiah.

Scatter these plates around your marketplace. Find two baskets with handles, each basket large enough to hold six paper plates.

Cut out small detour signs from orange construction paper (one for each child). Collect paint stir sticks (one for each child). Gather black permanent markers and masking tape. Provide a larger detour sign for the children to view.

Gather a Bible map of Thessalonica and markers. Purchase small wooden plaques (one for each child). Provide stickers and black and colored permanent markers.

**Scenic Route Center:** Gather a beanbag, a button, and a CD player with music.

**Souvenir Shop Center:** Purchase religious stickers, sports and hobby stickers, heart stickers, small square foam pieces, magnets, and foam door hangers (one for each child). Provide permanent markers, craft sticks, and colorful masking tape. Ask church members to collect plastic lid tops. Borrow a small plastic swimming pool.

**Tourist Attractions Center:** Provide books, video, and printed information about Joni Eareckson Tada.

**Rest Stop Center:** Serve doughnuts and/or trail mix and milk and/or juice.

## HEAVENLY TRAVELS BUS STATION BUZZ

Welcome each child as he or she arrives. Instruct each child to go to the Heavenly Travels Bus Station ticket counter to pick up a stamped passport and round-trip ticket from the ticket agent.

Gather the children inside the Heavenly Travels Bus Station. Ask the apostle Paul to move around the bus station and greet the children. Have the apostle Paul hold up a detour sign and then speak the following:

**Welcome, travelers. Have any of you seen this sign before? What must we do when we see this sign on the road?** (Give the children time to answer.)

**We have to go a different way, don't we? We may have planned to take a certain route, but a detour sign tells us that we must travel to our destination another way. Maybe the road is under construction, maybe there has been a traffic accident, or maybe the road is unsafe. Sometimes in our lives we have to take detours, too. We have to go a different way or do something different than we expected.**

**I had to take a detour in my own life. I had planned to travel to a certain place. My schedule was set. I was ready to go. However, God wanted me to go to another place. I obeyed God.**

**Detours in our journey of life are not always easy. They upset our plans. Think about something you really, really wanted but didn't get. Maybe it was a toy or a pet. At first, you were upset. But maybe later you understood why you did not get what you wanted. Perhaps the toy was too expensive for your family to buy. Or maybe your parents realized that you were too young to take care of a pet or that where you lived didn't have the right space for one.**

**How we handle these detours is important. My detours taught me that God cares about each of us. God loves us and helps us with the detours we face in life. Watch out! We might encounter a detour sign on our journey today. If so, we will have to take an alternate route. That will be okay. We will get to our destination anyway.**

Show the children the itinerary for this session.

Instruct the travel agents to gather their traveling groups. Assign any newcomers to a traveling group. Board the Apostle P Bus. Have each child place his or her ticket in a basket while boarding the bus.

## APOSTLE P BUS EXCURSION

Once all the children take a seat, share the Traveler's Prayer. Remind the children of the Traveler's Code of Conduct. Then the apostle Paul tells them this information:

**Here we go again on an exciting adventure. Guess what? We are going to take a detour in our travels today. Last week we were in Philippi, visiting with Lydia and touring the jail and marketplace**

there. We are going to take a little detour. Instead of going forward, we are going backward. You are going to learn what happened to me *before* I arrived in Philippi. Then you will learn about my travels *after* my time in Philippi.

Oh, no, travelers. Look what that sign says. Detour. That means we have to turn around and travel another way. Don't worry. I have found another route. Let me turn this bus around and go down another road. It may take a little longer than expected because of our detour, but we will reach our destination in plenty of time.

Let's sing our Bus Sing-a-Long Song while we are detouring. (Have the children sing the four verses with the chorus. Teach the children the fifth verse.)

Well, children, here we are. That detour could not keep us from our destination. And a detour in life should not keep us from doing what God wants us to do. Happy travels!

## TRAVEL TREK

Have the children exit the Apostle P Bus. Check their passports. Allow the children to visit the six travel centers. Advise the children to stay with their travel group as they journey to the centers.

**Daring Destination Center:** Ask the children to sit down alongside the road, and tell them the following:

We are going to learn about a detour in the life of Paul. During this time in Paul's travels, he takes on an additional traveling companion. His name is Timothy. Timothy's mother was Jewish and was a follower of Jesus. His father was Greek. Timothy's mother taught Timothy about God and Jesus. Paul recognized that Timothy would make a good worker. Paul traveled to Timothy's hometown of Lystra and asked Timothy to join him. Timothy was a good helper. As we hear our Bible story today, remember that Paul's travel companions are now Silas and Timothy. (Read Acts 16:6-10 from an age-appropriate Bible, or tell the story to the children.)

Paul faced a detour in his travels. He wanted to travel to Bithynia, but Paul realized God had other plans for him. While Paul slept, God spoke to him in a dream. In his dream Paul heard a man of Macedonia pleading with Paul to come and teach about Jesus. Paul immediately went to that area to share the good news of Jesus.

Show the children a map of the region of Macedonia. Tell the children that Paul wanted to minister in Asia, but God wanted him to go to Europe. Paul took a detour and went in a different direction in his travels. He reached his destination, where he still taught people about Jesus, but he taught in a different place than he first expected.

**Macedonian Plea:** Select one child to be the man from Macedonia who stands on one side of the road holding a megaphone. Another child plays the role of Paul who stands in the middle of the road. The rest of the children stand on the other side of the road opposite the man from Macedonia. Give the children standing across the road the index cards with excuse sentences written on them.

The man from Macedonia yells into the megaphone: "Come over to Macedonia and help us!"

One of the children reads an excuse response.

Paul says after each excuse response, "Yes, I will come."

Continue until all the excuse responses along with Paul's answer have been read.

Discuss with the children that people often make excuses when others ask for help. Paul wanted to serve God and believed God had led him to Macedonia. He was willing to go even though he had planned to travel somewhere else. Ask the children what they think might have happened to the people of Macedonia if Paul had chosen not to obey God and go there.

*Trail Signs:* Using sticks, dowel rods, or stones, ask the children to construct trail signs. Instruct the children to make the trail signs in such a way that a traveler would understand the directions to continue on the trail just by looking at the sticks, dowel rods, or stones. The traveler would not need written instructions. Form five small groups. Ask your travel agents to help the children, offering suggestions as needed:

- Straight ahead—Place items in a straight line or an arrow shape pointing ahead.
- Turn right—Place items curving toward the right or in an arrow shape pointing right.
- Turn left—Place items curving toward the left or in an arrow shape pointing left.
- Don't go this way—Place items in an X shape.
- Detour—Place items close together or piled up to form a barrier to walking.

**Tourist Lounge Center:** Read Acts 17:1-8 from an age-appropriate Bible, or tell the story to the children.

Show the children the location of Thessalonica on a Bible map. Have the children pronounce the word *Thessalonians*. Explain to the children that Paul wrote two letters to the church at Thessalonica. Show the children where to find First and Second Thessalonians in the Bible. Explain that these books of the Bible are the oldest in the New Testament.

*Thessalonian Hero Plaque:* Explain to the children that the Christians in Thessalonica considered Paul a hero. Ask the children to think of someone in their lives who is a hero. Give each child a plaque, and ask him or her to write the word *HERO* at the top of the plaque. In the middle of the plaque, each child will write the name of a hero in his or her life. Let the children decorate their plaques with stickers and take them home to keep or to present to or send to their heroes if possible.

*Marketplace Madness:* Form two groups. Group 1 represents the believers in Thessalonica. Group 2 represents the mob in the marketplace. Give each group a basket. Instruct them to look for paper plates in the marketplace that pertain to their group's actions in the Bible story and place them in the baskets. Have the children read aloud the sentences on the plates and discuss.

Read Acts 17:10-13 from an age-appropriate Bible, or tell the story to the children. Make this point:

**Even though Paul encountered some people who did not like him, he remained faithful to God and traveled to new places to teach others about Jesus.**

*My Detours:* Give each child a detour sign. Let him or her finish the detour sign using a black marker. Give each child a paint stir stick and instruct the children to attach the paint stir sticks to their detour signs.

Describe some detours the children may face in life. If a child has faced a similar detour in his or her life, have the child hold his or her detour sign in the air. Discuss and let the children share. Some possible examples include the following:

- I wanted a dog, but my parents said no because our house did not have a fenced-in yard. Later we moved to a house with a fence. I was able to get a dog then.
- We planned a vacation to Disney World, but my grandmother got sick and was in the hospital for a while. We had to cancel our trip, but we were able to go at a later time.
- I was making good grades at my old school. We had to move, but I got used to my new school, and I am making good grades there too.
- A good friend in my neighborhood moved away when her parents divorced. She lives with her mother in a new neighborhood. I miss her, but I visit her sometimes at her new house.
- My dad lost his job. Now he has a new job.
- My favorite teacher had to take some time off when she had her baby. I missed her so much. But our new teacher was nice, and my favorite teacher returned to school later.
- My dog Pluto died. I was sad and I cried. Now I have a new dog named Ginger. I will always remember my dog Pluto, but I love my dog Ginger.
- I wanted to go to the movies with my friends. My parents did not approve of the movie they were going to see. My friends decided to go to the movie anyway, without me. I decided to invite another friend to see a movie with me that my parents approved of. We had a good time.
- I wanted to be in the same class as my best friend. That did not happen, but my best friend and I still do things together outside of class.

**Scenic Route Center:** Tell or review the story of the Macedonian call in Acts 16:6-10.

**Macedonian Call Game:** Have the children stand side by side in a straight line, arm's length apart. The leader stands some distance from the children. The leader says, "Come over and help us by hopping." All of the children hop to the leader and the first one there tags the leader. That child then gives a command to the other children: "Come over and help us by \_\_\_\_\_" and is tagged by another child. After that child gives a command, he or she returns to the line to continue playing. (Some suggested commands you can whisper to the children: run, skip, walk, jump, walk backward, twirl in a circle, walk sideways, hop on two feet.)

**Beroea Beanbag:** Tell the children that one of the places Paul visited was the small town of Beroea. In Beroea, the townspeople welcomed Paul. However, some people who did not like Paul arrived from the city of Thessalonica and stirred up trouble. Paul had to leave Beroea quickly for his own safety.

The beanbag represents how fast Paul left the town of Beroea. Have the children sit in a circle and imagine they live in the town of Beroea. Play some music and pass the beanbag. Stop the music, and whichever child is holding the beanbag leaves Beroea. Continue playing until one child remains in the circle.

**Detour Button:** Remind the children that unexpected detours often happen in life. Invite the children to sit in a circle. Select one child to sit in the middle. Tell the child to close his or her eyes as the other children pass the detour button behind their backs. The leader yells out, "Detour!" The children must stop passing the button but keep their hands behind their backs. The child in the middle has three chances to guess who

holds the button. If he or she guesses correctly, that child takes the seat of the child holding the button. The child holding the button then sits in the middle, and the game continues. If the child in the middle of the circle cannot guess after three tries which child is holding the button, he or she “detours” around the room to join the other children in the circle, and the child holding the button takes his or her place in the middle.

**Paul and Silas Chase:** Remind the children that Paul and Silas traveled together. Eventually Paul invited Timothy to be one of his traveling companions. Select two children to play the roles of Paul and Silas. Have these two children link arms and chase the other children. The other children are to play the role of Timothy, who joined Paul. The first “Timothy” caught links arms with Paul and Silas. After the second “Timothy” is caught, that child links arms with the first Timothy, who breaks away from Paul and Silas. These four children chase the other children, who must link arms with another child when caught. Continue playing until all the children are tagged.

### Souvenir Shop Center

**I Love Jesus Magnet:** Give each child a square piece of foam and a heart sticker. Have the children place the heart sticker in the middle of the foam piece. Instruct them to write “I” above the heart sticker and “Jesus” below the heart sticker using permanent markers. Attach a magnet to the back of the foam piece.

**Follower of Jesus Door Hanger:** Give each child a foam door hanger and instruct the children to each write his or her name on the door hanger with a black permanent marker and the words “Follower of Jesus” in a colored permanent marker. Let the children select some sports or hobby stickers that they like and place the stickers on their door hangers.

**Sailing with Paul:** Explain to the children that Paul sometimes took a boat and sailed to various port cities on his travels. Give each child a plastic lid. Ask your travel agents to cut a small slit in each lid, wide enough to insert a craft stick. Ask your travel agents to break several craft sticks in half. Give each child half of a craft stick. Have the children tape one or two pieces of colorful masking tape on the craft stick to make a sail. Let the children insert the sails into the slits in the plastic lids. Allow the children to sail their boats in the plastic swimming pool.

**Tourist Attractions Center:** Tell or review the story of Paul’s detour found in Acts 16:6-10. Explain to the children that the apostle Paul had to take some detours in his life to continue to follow God’s guidance. Provide the children books and information on Joni Eareckson Tada. Explain to the children that Joni had to take some detours in her life. Discuss what happened to her and how she overcame her challenges with God’s help and through her faith in Jesus. Remind the children that God is faithful even in the detours of our lives.

**Rest Stop Center:** Serve Detour Doughnuts and/or Thessalonian Treats (trail mix) and Macedonian Milk and/or Berea Berry Juice.

## JET LAG JAUNT

Board the Apostle P Bus. Sing several verses and the chorus of the Bus Sing-along Song as you travel.

Ask the children to share their favorite travel experiences from the session. Apostle Paul then speaks these words:

**If you listened carefully to the story we heard today about Paul and Silas in Thessalonica, you heard the name of Jason, a follower of Jesus.**

**Does anyone remember what happened to Jason?** (Give the children time to answer.)

**Jason was dragged from his house and brought before the rulers in the town. The crowd was angry because Jason had entertained Silas and me in his house. The mob went on to say, “These Christians have been turning the world upside down.” What did they mean by this statement?** (Give the children time to answer.)

**The Christians were telling others about Jesus. Many people believed in Jesus. Jesus changed their lives. These followers of Jesus showed kindness and love to others.**

Ask the children to think of ways they can “turn the world upside down.” (*Suggestions:* help others, show kindness, show love, follow God’s commandments, pray for others, be courteous to all people—regardless of how they treat us.)

Depart the Apostle P Bus.

## HEAVENLY TRAVELS BUS STATION

Travel agents assist children with returning their passports to the ticket booth. Make sure the children have all of their souvenirs to take home with them. Send them off with these words:

**Bon voyage!** (Say this to each child as he or she leaves.)

## SESSION FIVE

# Unfamiliar Territory

### PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY

**Itinerary:** On a dry-erase board, under the heading Itinerary, write the schedule for the session and place the board in a visible area of the Heavenly Travels Bus Station.

#### *Itinerary*

- Board the Apostle P Bus.
- Arrive in Athens, Greece.
- Visit other tourist stops: Corinth, Ephesus.
- Board the Apostle P Bus and unwind and reflect.
- Return to the Heavenly Travels Bus Station.

**Daring Destination Center:** Set up your room or area to depict the city of Athens. Secure pictures of Greek gods and glue them to cardboard boxes and scatter around. Place a wooden platform to represent Mars Hill. Gather a Bible map and display a picture of the Acropolis. Use a flip chart and markers. On the first sheet of paper on the flip chart, write “Face Problems”; on the second sheet of paper, write “Avoid Comparisons”; and on the third sheet of paper, write “Obey God.” You will need to repeat this for each of the traveling groups.

**Tourist Lounge Center:** Secure a pattern of a door and a pattern for a key. Trace ten of each on poster paper and cut out. Write the following phrases on the doors, one on each door:

- Paul was distressed to see that the city of Athens was full of . . .
- In Athens, Paul debated with the . . .
- In Athens, Paul spoke about Jesus on . . .
- Paul said, “In him we live and move and have our . . . .”
- In Ephesus, Paul became friends with . . .
- Aquila and Priscilla made their living by making . . .
- While in Ephesus, Paul lived at the home of . . .
- Aquila and Priscilla explained about Jesus in detail to . . .
- In Corinth, a man named Demetrius made his living as a . . .
- In Corinth, some of the people worshiped a god named . . .

Write the following words on the keys, one on each key: *idols, philosophers, Mars Hill, being, Aquila and Priscilla, tents, Apollos, silversmith, Artemis.*

Using index cards, write these phrases, one on each card:

- City where Paul saw statues to many gods (*Athens*).
- City where Paul debated the philosophers (*Athens*).
- City where Paul talked about the unknown God (*Athens*).
- City where Paul was laughed at (*Athens*).
- City where Paul met Aquila and Priscilla (*Corinth*).
- The books of First and Second Corinthians is written to Christians in this city (*Corinth*).
- City where Paul made tents with Aquila and Priscilla (*Corinth*).
- City where Paul stayed in the home of Aquila and Priscilla (*Corinth*).
- City where Aquila and Priscilla met Apollos (*Ephesus*).
- City where Aquila and Priscilla instructed Apollos (*Ephesus*).
- The book of Ephesians is written to Christians in this city (*Ephesus*).
- City where a silversmith named Demetrius lived (*Ephesus*).
- City where the god Artemis was worshiped (*Ephesus*).

Make three signs and place them in different areas of the Tourist Lounge Center. Write “Athens” on one sign, “Corinth” on another, and “Ephesus” on another.

Recruit three storytellers and provide them with tunics to resemble the dress in biblical times.

Ask your pastor to provide some of the names of missionaries serving your church or denomination. Provide addresses, note paper, and pencils.

**Scenic Route Center:** Towels (one for every two children), foam balls (one for every two children), six aluminum cans (glue picture of a Greek god on each of the cans), beanbag, tent awning, bouncy ball.

**Souvenir Shop Center:** Paper plates (two for each child); jingle bells (four for each child); pipe cleaners (four for each child); markers; hole punch; craft sticks (three for each child); blue, red, brown, and white construction paper; glue; 11 x 17-inch sheets of white paper (one for each child); laminator.

**Tourist Attractions Center:** Provide information and books about the life of Mother Teresa.

**Rest Stop Center:** Serve applesauce and/or cookies and fruit punch juice boxes and/or apple juice boxes.

## HEAVENLY TRAVELS BUS STATION BUZZ

Welcome each child as he or she arrives. Instruct each child to go to the Heavenly Travels Bus Station ticket counter to pick up his or her stamped passport and round-trip ticket from the ticket agent.

Gather the children inside the Heavenly Travels Bus Station. Ask the apostle Paul to move around the bus station and greet the children. Apostle Paul offers words like these:

**How many of you have had the experience of people laughing at you when you have done or said something? Maybe you were not telling a joke, and so you were embarrassed when people made fun of you. That happened to me when I visited the city of Athens, Greece. I was talking to the people about Jesus, and I was not telling any jokes at all. But the people who heard me thought I was filled with silly ideas.**

**The people who lived in Athens were very educated and liked to debate and argue. I tried to reason with them, but they made fun of me. I am a highly educated man myself. I thought I could argue with other educated people, but I was wrong. Maybe I thought I was greater than I really appeared to be to some people. That experience humbled me. It also taught me several lessons.**

**I want to share with you three lessons I learned on my travels to Athens. Maybe these lessons will help you on your life journeys. Listen carefully and try to remember these three important lessons.**

**One lesson was to face my problems head-on and not run from them. I had to face criticism, but I could not let it destroy my faith. I learned to rely on God for strength and courage. So our first lesson is: *Face your problems and rely on God.* Repeat that after me: “Face your problems; rely on God.” (Allow time for the children to repeat.)**

**Isn't it easy to compare ourselves to others and think we are less than God made us? The truth is that all of us are wonderfully made. We are special children of God. When I arrived in Athens, I was in unfamiliar territory. I observed some new ways of worship that made me very uncomfortable. People lived and acted in ways I did not understand. I learned not to compare myself to others but to use the talents God gave me. I discovered I was a unique person. God made me that way. So our second lesson is: *Don't compare yourself to others.* Repeat that after me: “Don't compare yourself to others.” (Allow time for the children to repeat.)**

**God taught me to obey. I would not let what others thought of me or what others said about me keep me from obeying God. So our third lesson is: *Obey God.* Repeat that after me: “Obey God.” (Allow the children time to repeat.)**

These are some of the lessons we will learn on the road today. Keep these lessons in mind not just for today, but for every day as you travel the road of life. Let's review the three lessons one more time:

1. **Face your problems; rely on God.**
2. **Don't compare yourself to others.**
3. **Obey God.**

Okay, tourists, let's get busy traveling.

Instruct the travel agents to gather their traveling groups. Assign any newcomers to a traveling group. Board the Apostle P Bus. Have each child place his or her ticket in a basket while boarding the bus.

## APOSTLE P BUS EXCURSION

Once all of the children find a seat, share the Traveler's Prayer. Remind the children of the Traveler's Code of Conduct. Apostle Paul tells more of his story:

**Welcome aboard for another fun adventure and a busy day of travel. We are going to be journeying to many different cities, so be sure to stay with your traveling groups at all times. You are going to meet some friends that I met during my travels. They are good people, and I learned to trust them. How many of you have friends you can trust? Raise your hands. I see many hands being raised. That is great. Friends are important. As you travel today, I want you to learn the names of the friends I met, but I want you also to think about the names of your friends. Thank God every day for good friends you can trust.**

**How many of you have ever traveled to an unfamiliar place? Maybe you went to a foreign country where no one spoke your language. Have any of you arrived at a new school and discovered that the rules were different from your previous school? Perhaps you moved and the kids in the new neighborhood played games that were different from the ones the kids played in your old neighborhood. Those situations placed you in unfamiliar territory.**

**When I arrived in Athens, I found myself in unfamiliar territory. God helped me to survive. Let me warn you: Watch out for unfamiliar gods in the city of Athens. They are everywhere. Keep keep worshipping the true God, the one God, and you will survive. Just like I did.**

Sing the Bus Sing-along Song.

## TRAVEL TREK

Have the children exit the Apostle P Bus. Check their passports. Instruct the travel agents to gather the children into traveling groups. Advise the children to stay with their individual travel groups as they journey to the six travel centers.

**Daring Destination Center:** Show the children the location of Athens, Greece, on a Bible map. Show the children some pictures of the Greek gods. Explain that Athens was a city where the people

worshiped many gods. Inform the children that Athens was also a city where many educated people lived. These people enjoyed debating one another. They were called philosophers. Look up the word *philosophy* online. Help the children understand the meaning of philosophy. Tell the children that not only did the people of Athens worship many gods, but they also debated one another using various types of philosophies.

From an age-appropriate Bible, read the story of Paul's experiences in Athens found in Acts 17:16-20. Ask the children how they think Paul felt when the people criticized him. How do they feel when others criticize them?

Select a few excellent readers to stand on the platform and read Paul's speech found in Acts 17:22b-31. Divide the speech among the readers. Prior to the reading, tell the children that Paul was asked to teach others about Jesus. The people thought Paul was teaching a new and strange philosophy. In the city of Athens, there were so many different philosophies and teachings that a new one had to be approved by the leaders of the city. Show the children a picture of the Acropolis. Explain that Paul's speech was given on Mars Hill in Athens, which was close to the location of the Acropolis.

**Lessons from Paul:** Remind the children of the three lessons the apostle Paul shared with them in the Heavenly Travels Bus Station before they departed on their journey. Ask the children to look at the chart with the three headings. Give the children time to ponder ways they face problems. Write their thoughts down under the heading "Face Problems" on the flip chart. Ask the children to think of ways they can avoid comparing themselves with others. Write these down under the heading "Don't Compare Yourself to Others." Ask the children to consider ways they obey God. Write these down under the heading "Obey God."

**Mars Speech:** Teach the children Acts 17:28: "In him we live and move and have our being." Allow each child to step up on the platform and say the words in a loud voice for all to hear.

Say the verse as a group using these motions when the following words are spoken:

- *Live*—Lift hands to the side.
- *Move*—Sway from side to side with hands lifting to the side.
- *Being*—Raise hands high above head.

Form groups of two or three. Instruct each group to write a short speech about Jesus. Ask the children to select a child in their group to read their group's speech. Let that child stand on the platform to read the speech. Repeat until all the groups have shared their speeches.

## Tourist Lounge Center

**Storyteller's Tales:** Tell the children to listen carefully to three stories about Paul's travels and try to remember particular events that took place in each city. Select three storytellers. Have the first storyteller share the story of Paul's time in Athens found in Acts 17:16-34. Have the second storyteller share the story of Paul's time in Corinth found in Acts 18:1-4. Have the third storyteller share the story of Paul's time in Ephesus recorded in Acts 19:23-29.

**City Shuffle:** Review the location of events that took place in the three stories. Instruct your storytellers to stand under the sign that relates to the city in the story each of them shared with the children. Draw one index card and read aloud the event mentioned on the card. Have the children run to join the storyteller in whichever city they believe the event occurred. Remind them that children may end up in different places. This is a learning event. Have the children stay in that city until you read the next event and instruct them

to move to another city or stay. Continue until all of the events on the index cards are read. Play again if time permits.

**Door and Key:** Form two groups. Give a door pattern to each child in one group. Give a key pattern to each child in the other group. Ask the children to move around the room and connect with another child to complete a correct sentence about Paul's travels. Have each pair read their sentence aloud.

**Missionary Letters:** Explain to the children that Paul wrote letters to two of the cities in our learning session: Corinth and Ephesus. Show the children where to find these letters in the Bible and tell them their names. Have the children repeat after you the words *Corinthians* and *Ephesians*.

Instruct the children to write their own letters to missionaries serving The United Methodist Church. Provide notepaper, envelopes, pencils, and addresses. Assure the children that their letters will be mailed and be sure to follow up with any responses.

### Scenic Route Center

**No More Idols:** Explain to the children that upon Paul's arrival in Athens, he was distressed to see the many idols representing the Greek gods the people worshiped. Let a foam ball symbolize one of the Greek idols. Invite the children to find a partner, and give each pair a towel. Have the children line up side by side in pairs, close to the next pair in line. Begin the game by giving the first pair of children the foam ball to toss in the air on their towel and then try to toss it into the towel of the next pair of children. Continue tossing down the line, trying not to drop the foam ball. When the foam ball reaches the last pair of children, have them toss the foam ball onto the ground to represent getting rid of the idol.

**Idol Freeze:** Select one child to portray Paul. Have the children run in a designated area and be chased by Paul. When he tags any child, he or she must pose as a statue. Other children can run by and touch and unfreeze the child.

**Knock Down the Idols:** Stack up the cans three on the bottom, two in the middle, and one on the top. Let the children take turns throwing a beanbag to knock down the cans.

**Tent maker Toss:** Tell the children upon Paul's arrival in Corinth, he met Aquila and Priscilla who were tent makers. Paul, a tent maker by profession, made tents with Aquila and Priscilla and lived in their home.

Use a tarp or parachute fabric. Ask each child to hold on to the edge of the tarp. Toss a bouncy ball into the center of the tarp. Let the children move the tarp up and down while trying to keep the ball on the tarp. After a few tries, have the children repeat this action while saying: "Tent makers, tent makers, who are you? Aquila, Priscilla, and Apostle Paul too." Form two teams. Repeat the action, asking one team to chant, "Tent makers, tent makers, who are you?" and the other team responds, "Aquila, Priscilla, and Apostle Paul too."

### Souvenir Shop Center

**Live and Move Tambourines:** Read Acts 17:28 from an age-appropriate Bible. Explain that Paul speaks these words in the city of Athens. He expresses his distress about the large number of idols erected to the many gods of the city. He wanted to convince the people of Athens that God was the true God, not all the gods represented by the idols that Paul saw. He also told the people that God had created them.

Give each child two paper plates. Have the children decorate the outside of the plates and write on their plates "In him we live and move and have our being." Let the children draw some religious symbols on their plates. Help the children staple their plates together. Give each child four jingle bells. Have your travel agents help each child punch four holes evenly spaced through the two plates. Give each child a pipe cleaner to attach the bells to the plates. Sing a praise song and allow the children to shake their tambourines to worship the true God.

***Aquila and Priscilla Tents:*** Tell the children the story of Paul meeting his friends Aquila and Priscilla in the city of Corinth. Explain that Aquila and Priscilla made their living as tent makers. Paul was also a tent maker. While in Corinth, Paul lived at the house of Aquila and Priscilla and made tents with them.

Give each child three craft sticks. Show the children how to glue their craft sticks in the shape of a tent. Let the children select a partner. Have one of the partners cut out a round circle from the white construction paper and cut the circle in half to form two semicircles. Have the child who cut out the circle share one of the semicircles with the partner who did not cut out a circle. Glue this white shape in the middle of the bottom craft stick to make a tent flap. Make a fire by cutting out the shape of a flame from the red construction paper and two logs from the brown construction paper. Glue the flame on one corner at the bottom of the tent. Glue the logs crisscrossing under the flame.

***Tourist Place Mats:*** Give each child an 11 x 17-inch piece of paper. Ask the children to draw a picture of their favorite story of Paul and his travels. Laminate these to be place mats for the children and have them ready at the next learning session.

**Tourist Attractions Center:** Remind the children of what the apostle Paul shared with them about unfamiliar places. Paul traveled to Athens and realized that he had arrived in unfamiliar territory. Paul saw numerous idols erected around Athens in honor of the variety of Greek gods the citizens of the city worshiped. Paul was disturbed and began to tell the people about the true God he worshiped.

Provide the children information to learn about Mother Teresa. Ask them to consider ways Mother Teresa found herself in unfamiliar territory in her ministry in India. Discuss with the children ways they may find themselves in unfamiliar territory in their own life journeys. Remind them that God helped Paul and Mother Teresa when they found themselves in unfamiliar territories in their life journeys. Assure the children that God will guide them in the unfamiliar territories of their life journeys as well.

**Rest Stop Center:** Serve Priscilla and Aquila Applesauce and/or Corinthian Cookies and Asia Punch (fruit punch juice boxes) and/or Athens Apple Juice (juice boxes). Write the menu on a dry-erase board and display in the Rest Stop Center.

## JET LAG JAUNT

Board the Apostle P Bus. Allow the children to worship and praise God on the way back to the Heavenly Travels Bus Station. Sing all the verses of the Bus Sing-along Song with the chorus. Encourage the children to shake their tambourines during the chorus.

Review Acts 17:28 with the children: “In him we live and move and have our being.” Have the children say the verse aloud several times and then shake their tambourines as they say the verse. Apostle Paul closes the session with these words:

**Travelers, we have journeyed to some unfamiliar territory today. It sure is good to get back to the Heavenly Travels Bus Station and familiar territory.**

Depart the Apostle P Bus.

## HEAVENLY TRAVELS BUS STATION

Travel agents assist children with returning their passports to the ticket booth. Make sure the children have all of their souvenirs to take home with them. Send them off with these words:

**Bon voyage!** (Say this to each child as he or she leaves.)

## SESSION SIX

# Keep Traveling!

### PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY

**Itinerary:** On a dry-erase board, under the heading Itinerary, write the schedule for the learning session and place the board in a visible area of the Heavenly Travels Bus Station.

#### *Itinerary*

- Board the Apostle P Bus.
- Arrive on the island of Malta.
- Visit other tourist stops: a home in Rome.
- Board the Heavenly Travels Bus and unwind and reflect.
- Return to the Heavenly Travels Bus Station.

Gather a straw hat; sunglasses; beach towel; lei (one for each child, travel agents, and Apostle Paul); beach ball; and suntan lotion. Write on balloons the words “KEEP TRAVELING.” Do not blow up the balloons.

**Daring Destination Center:** Set up your room or area to depict the island of Malta. Place some artificial trees around the room or cut trees from construction paper and tape to the wall. Place some blue construction paper in a section of the room to depict a body of water. Construct planks out of cardboard to depict the shipwrecked boat. Place some ropes and an oar in the area. Make a fire out of construction paper,

pile up a few logs, or bring a fire pit. Gather a Bible map showing Malta and a picture of a viper snake. Provide children's Bibles.

On an 8½ x 11-inch piece of paper, write the following words for the children to unscramble and make one copy for each child:

- altMa (*Malta*)
- iprev (*viper*)
- tanienvs (*natives*)
- ubliusP (*Publius*)
- nkidessn (*kindness*)
- ifre (*fire*)
- sfaeyt (*safety*)
- aulP (*Paul*)
- onorhs (*honors*)
- dgo (*god*)

Provide tunics to resemble the dress in biblical times. Order award medals with ribbons for each child. These can be ordered in bulk online. On an 8½ x 11-inch piece of parchment paper, create an honor certificate that reads:

#### ***CERTIFICATE OF HONOR***

Presented to \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

I will honor you by: \_\_\_\_\_

Copy one for each child. Provide colorful construction paper and glue.

**Tourist Lounge Center:** Set up your area or room to look like a Roman house. Gather baskets, pottery, Roman coins, or a statue of a Roman god.

Provide some Roman soldier costumes for children. Have plastic swords, plastic shields, and red pieces of cloth. Gather pictures of Roman soldiers.

On separate index cards, print the following verses of scripture:

- “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud” (1 Corinthians 13:4, NIV).
- “I can do all things through him who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).
- “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31, NIV).
- “Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God” (Romans 8:14, NIV).
- “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (Philippians 4:6, NIV).

- “So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!” (2 Corinthians 5:17, CEB).
- “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23).
- “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right” (Ephesians 6:1, NIV).
- “Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ” (Philippians 1:27).
- “Rejoice in the Lord always” (Philippians 4:4).
- “Love should be your guide” (1 Corinthians 14:1, CEV).
- “Show love in everything you do” (1 Corinthians 16:14, CEV).
- “Live in harmony with one another” (Romans 12:16).
- “See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all” (1 Thessalonians 5:15).
- “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).
- “Be obedient, . . . be ready for every good work, . . . speak evil of no one, . . . avoid quarreling, . . . be gentle, and . . . show every courtesy to everyone” (Titus 3:1-2).
- “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8, NIV).
- “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing” (1 Thessalonians 5:11, NIV).

**Scenic Route Center:** Fill a small plastic swimming pool with sand. Add some plastic treasures. Provide plastic shovels, spades, and paper sandwich sacks. Provide clothespins, about five for each child.

**Souvenir Shop Center:** Gather egg cartons (one for each child); toothpicks; tape; and permanent markers. Cut small triangles from construction paper in a variety of colors (twelve for each child).

Trace a snake outline on cardboard multiple times to provide one snake outline for each child. Cut out the snake outlines. Provide several colors of yarn and buttons (two for each child).

Provide corks (three for each child). A bag of corks can be purchased for craft projects from craft stores or online. Gather sparkly foam sheets; wide, sturdy rubber bands (two for each child); small dowels (one for each child); hole punches; and nails and a hammer for adult use.

**Tourist Attractions Center:** Gather books about and pictures of Nelson Mandela.

**Rest Stop Center:** Serve pudding and/or trail mix and a variety of flavors of juice boxes.

## HEAVENLY TRAVELS BUS STATION BUZZ

Welcome each child as he or she arrives. Instruct each child to go to the Heavenly Travels Bus Station ticket counter to pick up his or her stamped passport and round-trip ticket from the ticket agent.

Gather the children inside the Heavenly Travels Bus Station. Ask the apostle Paul to move around the bus station and greet the children. Have Paul wear a straw hat, sunglasses, and a lei around his neck; and ask him to carry a beach towel, a beach ball, and sunscreen. Apostle Paul greets the children with these words:

**Travelers and tourists: I am sad to say our journeys aboard the Apostle P Bus are almost over. This will be our last trip together. We have traveled to many different places and enjoyed a variety of experiences, but our time must end. However, the journey of life continues. We are always on an exciting journey with God. So, regardless of what happens, we must keep traveling. I learned that time after time in my many journeys.**

**After leaving Ephesus, I enjoyed spending seven days in Troas and then traveled on to other cities. I appreciated the time spent in these various cities with the followers of Jesus; but, in my heart, I longed to visit Jerusalem. Several of the key leaders who taught and preached about Jesus lived in Jerusalem. On my way to Jerusalem, I sailed to several cities. When I reached Tyre, I was tired and decided to rest there for seven days. Some of the disciples of Jesus warned me not to go to Jerusalem. They feared that I would be arrested there. Yet I felt the Holy Spirit urging me to continue on my journey to reach Jerusalem.**

**I was again warned not to go to Jerusalem when I arrived in Caesarea. There I stayed in the home of my friend Philip the evangelist and his four daughters, who were prophets. While in the city, a prophet named Agabus came and took my belt. He bound his own hands and feet with my belt as a way to tell me that the leaders in Jerusalem would treat me likewise. My friends cried and begged me not to go to Jerusalem. I told them I must go.**

**Sure enough, not long after I arrived in Jerusalem, I was arrested and placed in jail. Some people plotted to kill me. For my safety, I was taken to a jail in Caesarea. I was kept in prison for two years. I defended my actions before Governor Felix and, later, the new governor, Festus. I even spoke to King Agrippa and his wife, Bernice, who agreed that I was innocent. However, I had asked to be able to go to Rome and speak to the emperor. So I was put on a ship as a prisoner. I will tell you what happened on that ship during our travels on the Apostle P Bus.**

Instruct the travel agents to gather the children into traveling groups. Assign any newcomers to a traveling group. Board the Apostle P Bus. Have each child place his or her ticket in a basket while boarding the bus. Place a lei around the neck of each child.

## APOSTLE P BUS EXCURSION

Once the children take a seat, share the Traveler's Prayer. Remind the children of the Traveler's Code of Conduct. Thank the children for obeying the Code of Conduct throughout their travels. Apostle Paul introduces the day's travels with these words:

**If you looked at our itinerary board in the Heavenly Travels Bus Station, you noticed we're headed for an island today. An island is a perfect vacation spot, right? I mean sunshine, warm breezes, surf, and sandy beaches. What could be better? Sure, island life is great, but getting there can sometimes be difficult. Just be glad you can arrive aboard the Apostle P Bus and not as I had to arrive. I sailed on a boat during a ferocious storm. A man named Julius was assigned to guard me,**

because I was a prisoner. Julius was a kind man; when we arrived in Sidon, he allowed my friends to visit me and care for me. Later, all of the prisoners, including me, were transferred to another ship.

When I realized how dangerous our journey might become due to the weather conditions. Do you think they listened to me, a prisoner? Of course not! Sure enough, we ran into a terrible storm. We had to throw cargo overboard. We went several days without food. I spoke to the men onboard and urged them to show courage. I told them of my faith in God to bring us safely to shore. I took some bread and gave thanks to God. After I blessed the bread, I urged the men to eat a little food.

Close to the shore, our boat shipwrecked. The force of the wind broke up the stern. The soldiers had decided to kill all of the prisoners onboard because they thought we might escape in the midst of all the chaos. But the man guarding us told us to jump overboard quickly, start swimming, and try to reach land. Those who could not swim grabbed some planks that had come loose from the ship and held on for dear life. Finally, we reached land safely. We learned that the island was called Malta. When we visit Malta today, you will learn about some of my adventures on that island.

Have the children sing the Bus Sing-along Song.

## TRAVEL TREK

**Daring Destination Center:** Read from an age-appropriate Bible the story of Paul's experience on the island of Malta found in Acts 28:1-6. Discuss with the children why the islanders viewed Paul as a god. Show the children a picture of a viper and explain to them that a viper is a poisonous snake. The natives thought this snake would surely kill Paul; but when Paul survived, the residents saw this as miraculous. Since Paul survived both the shipwreck and the snakebite, the natives viewed him as a god.

Show the children the location of Malta on a Bible map.

Read from an age-appropriate Bible the story of Publius recorded in Acts 28:7-10.

**Island Unscramble:** Give a Bible to each pair of children. Have the pairs share and work together to unscramble the words. Ask the children to tell how each unscrambled word fits in the story of Paul on the island of Malta.

**Act It Out!:** Let the children dress in tunics that resemble the dress in biblical times and act out the story recorded in Acts 28:7-10. Select one child to play the role of Publius, one child to play the role of Paul, and several children to play the role of Paul's traveling companions. Paul and his traveling companions knock on Publius's door and Publius greets them warmly. Have him pretend to serve them food, and the guests pretend to eat the food. Select one child to play the role of Publius's father. Instruct him to lie down and act very sick. Ask Paul to enter the room, pray for him, and lay hands on him. Tell Publius's father to then jump up and act overjoyed to be healed. Select a few children to play the role of sick persons on the island. Have them enter the area acting as if they are in pain and not feeling well. Have Paul and his traveling companions pray and lay hands on the sick. Have these children raise their hands in the air and praise God for

their healings. Give the remaining children medals. They hang these medals around the neck of Paul and his traveling companions as a way of honoring them.

Place a medal around the neck of each child. Remind them that they are heroes to many people. Invite them to act in honorable ways that please Jesus. Ask the children to name ways to act honorably.

**Certificates of Honor:** Give each child a certificate of honor. Ask each child to think of one person he or she wishes to honor, and invite them to write that person's name on the certificate. Help the children think of ways to honor that individual. For example, if the child selects a parent, he or she can honor the parent by helping with chores, cleaning his or her room, or feeding the family pet; if the child selects a teacher, he or she can honor the teacher by studying hard, helping the teacher in the classroom, and listening; if the child selects a pastor, he or she can honor the pastor by attending church and Sunday school, picking up bulletins in the sanctuary, serving as an acolyte, or singing in the children's choir.

Let each child glue his or her certificate of honor onto a sheet of colorful construction paper. Encourage the child to present his or her certificate to the intended recipient.

**Tourist Lounge Center:** Read Acts 28:16. Explain that even though Paul was a prisoner of Rome, he was allowed to live in a house with a soldier who guarded him at all times. Yet Paul was allowed to have visitors. Paul spent his time writing letters to the churches and teaching his visitors about Jesus.

Show a picture of a Roman soldier. Explain that Roman soldiers were well trained for their job.

**Roman Soldier Poses:** Let the children dress up as Roman soldiers and strike various poses. Take pictures of them in different areas of the Roman house.

**Letters of Paul:** Give each child a Bible. Show the children where the letters of Paul are located in the Bible. Let the children take a few moments to review the names of Paul's letters. Note the names of the cities where the churches that Paul wrote to were located and the letter in the Bible associated with that city. Have the children open their Bibles to the section containing Paul's letters. Call out one of the cities that received a letter from Paul. Ask the children to find the book of the Bible that contains the letter. When a child finds that book, have him or her yell out the name of the book.

- Rome—Romans
- Corinth—1 Corinthians; 2 Corinthians
- Galatia—Galatians
- Ephesus—Ephesians
- Philippi—Philippians
- Colossae—Colossians
- Thessalonica—1 Thessalonians; 2 Thessalonians

Ask the children if they remember which letters are the oldest of Paul's writings (First and Second Thessalonians).

**Paul's Teachings:** Give each child an index card containing a teaching of Paul. Have the children read aloud the teachings. Take time to discuss and advise the children to follow the teachings of Paul in their journeys of life.

## Scenic Route Center

*Malta Island Treasure Hunt:* Allow the children to use the shovels and spades to hunt for treasures in the sandbox. Provide sandwich sacks to hold the treasures. Ask your travel agents to hide new treasures for each traveling group.

*Traveling Companions Tag:* Give each child five clothespins to represent Paul's traveling companions. Review the names of some of these companions: Barnabas, John Mark, Silas, Timothy, and Silas. Remind the children that Paul had coworkers and helpers such as Aquila and Priscilla and Apollos. Instruct the children to fasten their clothespins somewhere on their clothing. Scatter the children around the playing area to represent the places where Paul traveled. On the signal, have the children run around, snatching clothespins from one another and attaching them to their clothes. At the end of the game, the child with the most clothespins wins; the clothespins must be attached to that child's clothing.

*Snake in the Gutter:* Tell the children that when Paul arrived on the island of Malta, a snake bit him. Select at least three children to act as snakes. Have the snakes form a gutter by standing in a line with wide spaces between them, facing the rest of the children, who stand at a distance from the snakes. Yell, "Snake in the gutter." The children attempt to run through the gutter without being tagged by a snake. Anyone who gets tagged must join the snakes. The remaining children try again to run through the gutter without being tagged by the snakes. Continue the game until all are tagged.

*What Time Is It, Apostle Paul?:* Select a travel agent to play the role of Apostle Paul. Instruct the children to stand in a straight line twenty to thirty feet back from the apostle Paul. The players call out, "What time is it, Apostle Paul?" Apostle Paul answers by saying a time, such as "Four o'clock." No fractions of the hour are allowed. The players take the same number of steps toward Apostle Paul as the hours he calls out. If Apostle Paul calls out, "Time to go to Jerusalem," then all the players attempt to run to the starting line without anyone being tagged by Apostle Paul. If a child is tagged, he or she must leave the game. Continue playing until all children are tagged.

## Souvenir Shop Center

*Egg Carton Travels:* Give each child an egg carton. Have him or her turn the egg carton upside down. Have the children write "Paul's Travels" somewhere on the side of the egg cartons. Give each child twelve pieces of triangular flag-shaped paper. Have the children write on each flag one of the places where Paul traveled: Damascus, Cyprus, Philippi, Athens, Corinth, Malta, Jerusalem, Antioch, Troas, Ephesus, Caesarea, Rome. Give the children twelve toothpicks. Have the children tape each flag to a toothpick and insert it into the mound shapes of the egg carton, one flag inserted into each mound shape.

*Snake Wrap:* Tell the children that when Paul arrived on the island of Malta, a snake bit him. Give each child a piece of snake-shaped cardboard. Provide various colors of yarn. Show the children how to wrap one color of their yarn around the body of the snake for several rows and tie the yarn. Then select another color to wrap around the body of the snake for several rows and tie the yarn. Keep wrapping various colors around the body of the snake until completely covered. Give each child two buttons to glue on the head of the snake for eyes.

*Bound for Rome Boat:* Tell the children that Paul traveled to Rome by boat. Paul often sailed to the places he visited. Prior to the learning session, hammer a nail into one of the three corks you will give each

child. Make a hole large enough to hold a dowel rod. Use the sparkly foam sheets and cut out a sail the appropriate size for the rod, one for each child. Give each child three corks, one of which has a hole in the middle; two rubber bands; one dowel; and a sail. Instruct the children to line their three corks up side by side. Tell them to be sure to put the cork with the hole in the middle. Have the children fasten the corks together by placing the rubber bands on each end of the three corks. Help the children punch two holes in the sail piece to make sails. Slip the foam piece onto the dowel rod and slip the dowel rod into the hole in the middle cork.

**Tourist Attraction Center:** Provide information about Nelson Mandela. Ask the children to look for ways Nelson Mandela continued on his journey to bring about justice even when the traveling was difficult. Remind the children that Paul encountered many problems and challenges on his travels, but he kept traveling and refused to let hardships keep him from sharing the love of Jesus with everyone he met. Encourage the children to continue traveling. Assure them that God journeys with them. Ask them to name and give thanks for some of their traveling companions, such as parents, grandparents, teachers, siblings, teachers, and pastors. Offer a prayer of thanks for these traveling companions.

**Rest Stop Center:** Serve Paul Pudding and/or Malta Mix (trail mix) and Jerusalem Juices (variety of flavors of juice boxes). Write your menu on a dry-erase board and display it in the Rest Stop Center.

## JET LAG JAUNT

Board the Apostle P Bus. Spend the travel time back to the Heavenly Travels Bus Station reflecting on all the travel sessions. Allow the children to talk about the activities, games, crafts, and experiences they enjoyed. Ask them to thank the travel agents, the apostle Paul, and other volunteers who made traveling a pleasure. Thank the children for traveling on the Apostle P Bus.

Depart the Apostle P Bus. Give each child a balloon as he or she departs the bus. Tell each child to go inside the Heavenly Travels Bus Station and blow up his or her balloon.

## HEAVENLY TRAVELS BUS STATION

Give the children time to blow up the balloons. Ask the travel agents to assist children with blowing up balloons and help the children tie their balloons in a secure knot. Ask the children to read what is written on the balloons: KEEP TRAVELING! Let them say that together. Have them bounce their balloons up and down in celebration of their many travel adventures with the apostle Paul.

Travel agents assist children with returning their passports to the ticket booth. Make sure the children have all of their souvenirs to take home with them. Send them off with these words:

**Bon voyage!** (Say this to each child as he or she leaves.)