

# Paul Describes Living by God's Spirit

Romans 8:9-17

Five- and six-year-old children think in concrete ways. A mental understanding of the doctrine of the Trinity is beyond them at this age. Although children have been taught about God as Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit, few will notice the seeming conflict with the truth that there is only one God. Answer any questions that do arise by telling children that because God is awesome and mighty, there are things about him that are hard for us to understand. Children are often more comfortable than adults in accepting things beyond our understanding. Kids can learn that God is greater than our ability to understand.



► **Bible Point**  
We can live for God.

**Key Verse**  
"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Children will discover new ways of living for God.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Welcoming Song</b> Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Not by Works</b> Work at tossing a ball into two different boxes.	Bible, 1 small box, 1 big box, ball, scrap paper	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 20 min.</i>	<b>Theo's News</b> Find out what a collar and leash have to do with the Bible story.	CD player, Surprise Box, Theo puppet, small dog collar and leash <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Place the small dog collar and leash in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	<b>Bible Time</b> Learn that the Holy Spirit helps us live for God.	Bible, crepe paper streamers, scissors, electric fan	Cut crepe paper streamers into 24-inch sections, one for each child. Position a portable electric fan so it will blow on the children as you tell the story. You'll need to be able to reach the on/off switch as you teach.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



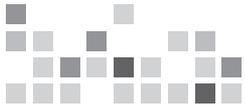


LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: Good News From Me</b> Create letters to tell others about Jesus.</p>	My Bible Playground, pencils, markers	Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	<p><b>Center 2: Letter Snacks</b> "Write" a letter and eat it!</p>	graham crackers, pretzel sticks, chocolate syrup, small dishes, napkins	
	<p><b>Center 3: Living for God</b> Play a game, and learn to live for God.</p>	newsprint, masking tape	Use masking tape to make a line on the floor down the center of the room. On one sheet of newsprint write "Living for Ourselves," and draw a picture of a sad face. On another sheet write "Living for God," and draw a picture of a cross and a happy face. Hang each on walls on opposite sides of the dividing line.
	<p><b>Center 4: God's Living World</b> Make a craft about living things.</p>	white and green construction paper, scissors, markers, glue sticks	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground	
	<p><b>"Live Lively" Prayers</b> Use actions to show God how they want to live for him.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*







## Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player  
**Teacher Pack**  
 CD: "Hurrah!"  
 (track 21);  
 "Love Is..."  
 (track 20)

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Welcoming Song

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle.

Play "Hurrah!" (track 21 on the CD) to the tune of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Lead children in singing.

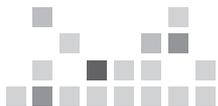
 **Let's come and sing at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah!**  
**Let's come and pray at church today. Hurrah! Hurrah!**  
**The girls will cheer, the boys will shout;**  
**We'll learn what love is all about.**  
**And we'll sing and pray**  
**With our friends at church.**  
*(Repeat 2x.)*

Say: **Today we'll learn that ► WE CAN LIVE FOR GOD. Let's sing another song together about how we can show God's love in our lives.**

Lead kids in singing "Love Is..." (track 20 on the CD) to the tune of "Do Your Ears Hang Low?"

 **Love is patient, love is kind.**  
**Love's not jealous, doesn't brag.**  
**Love's not proud or rude or selfish,**  
**Doesn't ever hold a grudge.**  
**Love is good; love is trust.**  
**Love is hope; love never fails.**  
**Love goes on and on.**  
*(Repeat 2x.)*





## 2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

### Not by Works

#### What You'll Do

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Acts 16:31, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." That means all we have to do is believe in Jesus and our sins will be forgiven. Then we can go to heaven someday and live with him forever. We can't do anything to earn our way to heaven; we just have to believe.** Lead the children in repeating the Key Verse with you.

Give each child a small piece of scrap paper.

Ask:

- **Have you ever gotten in trouble for doing a bad thing? Just tell me "yes" or "no."**

Say: **The bad things we do are called sins. A sin is when you disobey, hurt someone, or take something that isn't yours. Let's pretend that the papers are your sins. If you've ever done a bad thing and sinned, put your paper in the large box.**

Have the children put their papers in the big box; then set the large box aside, and bring out the small box.

**Now let's play a game and pretend that our sins will be forgiven if we can make the ball go into the boxes. Let's find out how much work it will take.** Place the small box in the playing area, and have the children line up about three feet away from the box. Let the kids try to toss the ball into the small box. Since the box is too small, they won't be able to do it.

Ask:

- **Were you able to get the ball into the box? Why or why not?**

Say: **Just like the ball wouldn't fit inside the box, the Bible says that our sins would keep us forever away from God.** Bring out the big box.

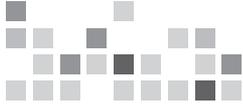
**Let's trade the small box for this big box and pretend that this box is God's power. Today we'll learn that ► WE CAN LIVE FOR GOD. Only God has the power to save us from our sins, and all we have to do is believe in Jesus. God loved us enough to send Jesus to take away our sins. God forgives our sins and saves us from having to be away from him forever.**



#### Not by Works Supplies

- 
- Bible
  - 1 small box
  - 1 big box
  - ball
  - scrap paper





### Theo's News Supplies

CD player  
Surprise Box (any box  
will do)  
Theo puppet  
small dog collar  
leash  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 3)

### Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the small dog  
collar and leash in the  
Surprise Box, and hide  
the box where it's easily  
accessible.

Let kids repeat the game, but this time let each child toss the ball so the ball lands inside the big box of God's power of forgiveness.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did you feel when you tossed the ball inside the box?
- How do you feel knowing God loves you and forgives your sins?

Say: **God has the power to save us from our sins. We can't do anything to earn his forgiveness. All you have to do is "believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved!"**

## 3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Theo's News

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

**Teacher:** Hi, Theo! How are you today?

**Theo:** I'm terrific! I have a new surprise today!

**Teacher:** Does your new surprise have something to do with our Bible Story?

**Theo:** Yep! Look inside the Surprise Box.

**Teacher:** Let's look inside and see what Theo's new surprise is.

*(Choose a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass around the collar and leash so the rest of the class can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what the Bible story might be about.)*

**Teacher:** Theo, why did you hid this new collar and leash in our Surprise Box?

**Theo:** I need these so my owner can guide me.

**Teacher:** Friends, who are the people that guide you and help you know what to do?

*(Pause for kids to answer the question.)*

**Teacher:** Why is it important to have someone to guide us?

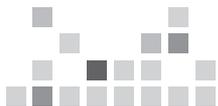
*(Pause for kids to answer the question.)*

**Theo:** In our Bible story today, a man named Paul listened to the Holy Spirit and learned how he could live for God.

**Teacher:** Let's find out how ► **WE CAN LIVE FOR GOD, too!**

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.





## Bible Time

### What You'll Do

Distribute one streamer to each child. As you tell the story, turn the fan on and off as indicated. Tell children that when the fan is turned on, they should hold their streamers up so the air can blow on them.

Say: **We can learn how to let the Holy Spirit lead us by reading a letter from a Christian named Paul. This letter is in the Bible. Listen as I tell you about Paul's letter. When I talk about the Holy Spirit, I will turn on the fan. Feel the air on your face, and hold your streamer up so the air can blow it. Let's try it now.** Turn on the fan, and let it run for a few seconds so children can feel the air and fly their streamers. Then turn the fan off.

**Paul had good friends in the city of Rome. His friends believed in Jesus and wanted to know how to follow him. So Paul wrote them a letter. God helped Paul know what to write so his letter became part of the Bible. It is God's message for us, too!** Open your Bible to Romans 8:9-17, and show children the words.

**Paul's letter tells us that when we believe in Jesus, God sends his Holy Spirit to be in charge of us.** Turn the fan on for a few seconds and then off.

**The Holy Spirit lives inside of us because we belong to Jesus. We can't see him, just like we can't see the air from the fan. But we can see what the air does—it flies our streamers! And we can see what the Holy Spirit does, too. When we do good things like help others, we know it is because the Holy Spirit is leading us.** Turn the fan on and then off.

**We can't live the way God wants us to by ourselves. When we try to be in charge, we make a lot of mistakes. We make wrong choices. We need help. God tells us to let him be in charge. When God's Spirit leads us, ► WE CAN LIVE FOR GOD.** Turn the fan on and then off.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How could you tell the air was moving, even though you couldn't see it?
- How can you tell the Holy Spirit is in you, even if you can't see him?

Say: **When the Holy Spirit lives in us, he helps us believe in Jesus. He reminds us that we are God's children, and he helps us live for God. Let's feel the fan and fly the streamers once more to praise God for sending the Holy Spirit to guide us.** Turn on the fan, and allow children to enjoy the breeze and exuberantly praise God with their streamers.



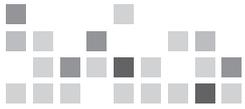
### Bible Time Supplies

Bible  
 crepe paper streamers  
 scissors  
 electric fan

### Bible Time Easy Prep

Cut crepe paper streamers into 24-inch sections, one for each child. Position a portable electric fan so it will blow on the children as you tell the story. You'll need to be able to reach the on/off switch as you teach.





### Center 1: Good News From Me Supplies

My Bible Playground pencils markers

### Center 1: Good News From Me Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

### CENTER 1:

## Good News From Me

### What You'll Do

Distribute the Lesson 12 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their pages.

Say: **Paul wrote letters to his friends to help them learn how to live for God. We, too, can write letters or draw pictures for others to help them learn about Jesus.**

Encourage children to create a message on the stationery. They may write simple words about God, such as "love," "Jesus," or "cross," or they may draw pictures about Jesus. Help children think of others who might like to learn more about Jesus.

### Talk With Kids

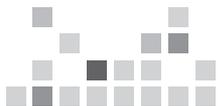
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why did Paul write letters to his friends?
- What can you tell others about following Jesus?

Say: **Paul's letters tell us how to follow Jesus. We can tell others about following Jesus, just as Paul did, and encourage them to live for God.**





**CENTER 2:**

## Letter Snacks

### What You'll Do

Have children wash their hands (or use wet wipes). Set out a small dish of chocolate syrup for every two or three children, and provide each child with a graham cracker, several pretzel sticks, and a napkin. Tell children to pretend to write a letter on the graham cracker by dipping the pretzel stick in the chocolate syrup.

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Have you ever received a letter? How did you feel?
- How do you think Paul's friends felt when they received his letter?
- To whom could you send a letter about Jesus?

Say: **It's exciting to get a letter. Paul wrote many letters to his friends about Jesus. Some of those letters became part of the Bible, so they are letters to us, too! Paul's letters tell us how ► WE CAN LIVE FOR GOD.**

**CENTER 3:**

## Living for God

### What You'll Do

Say: **Living for God means doing what God wants us to do. Living for ourselves means doing what we want to do, without thinking about whether or not it hurts others. Let's play a game to learn more about this. I will describe an activity. If you think it shows living for ourselves, stand on this side of the room. Indicate where you want children to stand. If you think it shows living for God, move to the other side of the room.** Read each of the following phrases, allowing time for kids to choose where they will stand.

- Singing praises to God
- Taking a toy away from someone else
- Inviting a friend to church
- Pushing your brother or sister when you are mad
- Picking up toys when asked
- Calling someone mean names
- Giving a hug to someone who is sad
- Complaining when I don't get my way
- Sharing toys with a new friend

Add other scenarios that pertain to your class as time permits.



### Center 2: Letter Snacks Supplies

- .....
- graham crackers
- pretzel sticks
- chocolate syrup
- small dishes
- napkins



### Center 3: Living for God Supplies

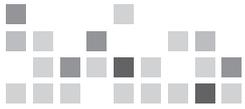
- .....
- newsprint
- masking tape

### Center 3: Living for God Easy Prep

.....

Use masking tape to make a line on the floor down the center of the room. On one sheet of newsprint write "Living for Ourselves," and draw a picture of a sad face. On another sheet write "Living for God," and draw a picture of a cross and a happy face. Hang each on walls on opposite sides of the dividing line.





### Center 4: God's Living World Supplies

white and green  
construction paper  
scissors  
markers  
glue sticks

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Gather children together, and lead them in this discussion.

Ask:

- What can go wrong when we live for ourselves?
- How can you tell if you are living for God?
- How do you feel when you live for God?

Say: **We often live for ourselves, not for God. But even then, he loves us and promises to forgive us. Let's remember that God gives us his Holy Spirit to guide us and help us live for God!**

### ■ CENTER 4:

## God's Living World

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Help kids make a craft that shows living things in God's world.

Provide each child with a background sheet of white construction paper and a strip of green construction paper. Set out scissors, glue sticks, and markers. Show children how to use scissors to snip along one long edge of the green strip of paper. Then show them how to use their fingers to curl the snipped edge forward to create a three-dimensional effect for the grass. Kids can then glue the grass to the background and draw pictures of other living things such as plants, animals, or people.

Say: **I like the pictures of living things that you have created! We know grass is a living thing because it grows. God created many different plants and animals that are alive.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

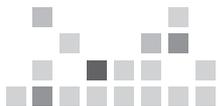
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are other examples of living things?
- What's your favorite living thing God created?
- How do you feel about God when you think of all the wonderful living things he created?

Say: **God's amazing creation shows us that he is powerful and loving. When we see living things such as grass, flowers, or animals, let's remember that ► WE CAN LIVE FOR GOD.**





## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge to encourage your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► WE CAN LIVE FOR GOD. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to live for God.**

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. **Share your lunch with a friend at school, and tell him or her that we can live for God.**
2. **Hug each of your family members, and tell them that God wants us to live for him!**
3. **Help your mom or dad clean the kitchen one evening—and do it with a smile! Serving others is one way to live for God!**

Say: **If you want to share your lunch, circle choice number 1. If you want to hug your family, circle choice number 2. If you want to help your parents, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

### “Live Lively” Prayers

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Close with the following prayer. Allow time for each child to act out an activity that would be “living for God” and to tell what they are doing.

Say: **Dear God, we want to live for you. Help us do this by...**

Give each child a turn to act out an activity that demonstrates living for God.

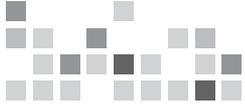
Say: **Thank you for sending us your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, amen.**



#### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground





## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground book pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

