

YOUTH WORSHIP LESSON –MAY 17, 2020

Focus Scripture: Acts 17: 22-31

Purpose: To renew our understanding of mission and evangelism

Preparation

Worship cloth-yellow, Bible

Make a sign that says: “Evangelism to proclaim the good news”

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle to remind us that God is always with us.

Prayer

One: Come and see what God has done.

All: God has cared for all the people and not let us fall.

One: Say to God “How wonderful are the things you do.”

All: Praise God with shouts of joy. Amen.

Introducing the Theme – What is Mission?

Ask your child (ren) about movies or TV shows they have seen which have an individual or group has been involved in a mission. E.g. Star Trek or Criminal Minds. How would you describe what a mission is? Today we are going to hear about someone from the early church who started out on one mission and ended up in another.

Exploring the Theme

Last week we heard about the story of the stoning of Stephen, one of the early church’s deacons. Why was Stephen put to death? By whom? Does anyone remember who Saul was? (Saul held the coats of the people who stoned Stephen) Read Acts 8:1-3 “Saul was a man with a mission.” What was his mission? Shortly after this, Saul was travelling to Damascus where he knew there were some groups of Christians living. On the way Saul found something that changed Saul’s life. ***(Discuss what your child (ren) know about the story of Saul’s conversation. If they do not know, have them look at Acts 9:3-20)*** How did Saul’s

mission change after this experience? What are the signs of this change? (***different attitude and action, changed his name etc.***) Eventually Saul, now called Paul became one of the apostles and began travelling around sharing the good news with others. Check the bible for maps of Paul's travels. Locate Damascus and Jerusalem. Notice where Paul's journey took him

Who remembers what "apostle" means? (***"One sent out"***)

The disciples, (***which means "learner"***) were now called apostles. What do you think they, (and other followers of Jesus) were "sent out" to do? (Post the sign: ***"Evangelism is"***) This is what the Greek word for Evangelism means. Would you state your understanding of what evangelism is?

Paul in Athens: Read Acts 17:22-32

Where was Paul preaching this? (***Look at the map in the bible.***) What did Paul proclaim? Why did Paul talk about the Athenians? Why do you think he did that? What was the outcome of Paul's talk? Paul carefully observed life in Athens before he found the right way to engage the people in discussion about Jesus. Do you ever look for ways to share what you believe with your friends and classmates? Have any issues or actions occurred that gave you the opportunity to speak up? What was the situation? How did people react? Would you consider inviting some of your friends or classmates to youth group? Have you ever stood up for someone who has been bullied or gossiped about? Speaking up in their defense is like speaking up for what you believe—even though Jesus' name is not mentioned.

If you were writing a mission statement for the Church what would it include? What kinds of issues do you think the church should be addressing? What kinds of mission work should be done in Stouffville? How would you finish the statement? " My personal mission is..." Read this to your parents.

Closing Song

May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
And the rains fall soft upon your fields
Till we meet again, we meet again
May God hold you in his hands

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