

Dive into the Bible!

Paul, Timothy, Lydia... and You!: The good news of Jesus never would have survived without the first followers' relentless travel schedule around the globe, and their encouragement of new followers. Paul, Timothy, and Lydia's stories (*Acts 16:1-15*) are recorded in the New Testament book of Acts. How can you share your faith with others? Try any of the following ideas that fit your family the best.

Pre-K: Random acts of Kindness. Take some time to talk about what a random act of kindness is. Brainstorm some things they can do to be kind and share God's love with others. Some examples could be coloring a picture for a family member, helping with chores, giving a hug, etc. We are called to share God's love with others, just like Paul, Timothy, and Lydia.

Elementary: Paul traveled all over the Mediterranean world sharing God's love. Imagine what his suitcase must have had in it! Invite campers to sit in a circle and talk for a minute about what things they would pack if they were traveling to tell people about God. Then, go through the alphabet one letter at a time, one person at a time, and fill the imaginary Travel Trunk with things you would bring with you. Each person repeats what the people before them have said. For example, "In my Travel Trunk I have an apple to snack on." The next person says, "In my Travel Trunk I have an apple to snack on and Bibles to share." Continue until you finish the alphabet. If campers have trouble remembering, have everyone chime in to recite the list each time. Think about ways that we can tell people about God and share God's love.

Junior High: Positive Adjective Tree

Pick a partner from the family, If there is an odd number, make a group of 3
Distribute paper and markers. Campers are going to draw a tree. On the tree, they will put five or more words that are encouraging, positive, and truthful about their partner. For example, trees might state "fast runner" or "funny at dinner." The purpose of the exercise is to think about the fruit that God is growing in each person.

*What are the skills and talents that partners have seen in each other over the week?
How has God helped them get to know someone new or to know an old friend better?*

Take time to reflect on both what it was like to affirm someone else and then to be affirmed.

Senior High: High school is riddled with ways people decide who is in and who is out. Have campers review the stories from the week and consider who God chose for important tasks—often the ones least expected.

Think of someone who is often overlooked in your high school. What do you know about that person, their interests and life situations? What are ways you'd be willing to find out more?

Is there anyone you have harmed or who has harmed you (resulting in hurt feelings, for example)? What might it take for the situation be turned around into a positive resolution?

What might sharing blessings look like in high school?

Share a concrete way they will do one of these things when they go to school. At the end of the sharing, ask the campers to repeat the phrase: "God's promises are true for me and for all people."

Adult: Faith Ancestry Timeline

Create a faith ancestry timeline! This is a chronological graphic that shows who and when significant people have come into their lives and helped them grow in faith. An example follows.

- 1970 My neighbor Mr. Hermanson forgave me for stealing tomatoes from his garden.
- 1974 Larry M., my counselor at confirmation camp, told me about God's grace.
- 1988 I met my future spouse, whose strong faith in God is an example for my own.
- 1992 Pastor Veronica asked me to help on the education committee at First Church.

The faith timeline lifts up both events and people. Reflect on those experiences and how you can be that person for others!

Craft: Baptismal Sensory Bottles

Materials:

clean, empty water bottles of any size with lids , one per camper

vegetable oil, enough to fill each camper's bottle $\frac{2}{3}$ full

water, enough to fill each camper's bottle $\frac{1}{3}$ full

blue food coloring (to represent the waters of baptism), two to three drops per camper

decorative items such as small shells, sand, and sequins (optional)

seltzer tablets (optional)

Directions:

1. Give each camper a water bottle with a lid.
2. Assist campers with filling their bottles $\frac{2}{3}$ full with vegetable oil.
3. Then have campers fill the rest of their bottles with water, leaving a little space at the

top.

4. Invite campers to put two to three drops of blue food coloring into their bottle.
5. Campers may then put in decorations as available.
6. For an added bit of fun, tell campers they can put small pieces of seltzer tablets into their bottle and watch the colored water act like a lava lamp.
7. Talk about baptism and today's Bible story about Paul, Timothy, Lydia, and all the people who were being baptized and the ways the message of God's love in Jesus was spreading.

Environmental Education: Nature Yoga

Directions

1. Invite campers to arrange themselves in a circle and tell them that they will be using stretching, deep breathing, and their imagination to transform themselves into nature.
2. Encourage campers to pretend to be any of the following plants or animals while doing the following poses:
 - Tree: Campers stand on one leg while placing the other foot on their knee. Tell them to sway gently and think of what it would be like to be a tree. Repeat for a few breaths and switch legs.
 - Frog: Campers move into a squat with knees shoulder-width apart and hands folded and resting between knees. Bounce up and down like a frog.
 - Seed (aka Child's Pose): Campers sit on their heels and lean forward to their knees, bringing the forehead down to the floor and extending arms backward toward the feet.
 - Butterfly: Campers sit on their bottoms, keeping the back straight. Then have them bend their legs outward keeping the soles of the feet together and flap their legs up and down as if they were wings.
 - Cat-Cow: Kneeling on all fours, campers oscillate between a sagging back (cow) and an arched back (cat). Have fun with it and have the campers moo with a sagging back and meow when arched.
3. Ask campers what the activity was like for them, how it felt. This is likely a new activity for many of them. Do they have any insights about the thing they were pretending to be?
4. To close, make the point that humans are already a part of nature. Invite them to think about who their friends or companions in nature are: What animals and plants do they share their living space with (home, yard, neighborhood)?



