
GOD SPEAKS

SERIES: NO FEAR

Join us throughout the month of June as we learn stories that show us examples of being a fearless follower of Christ. We will be going through the books of Luke and Acts.

REMEMBER VERSE

ISAIAH 41:10—So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

SCHEDULE

All Services

0:00—0:10	Welcome/Check-In
0:10—0:15	Transition to Large Group
0:15—0:30	Large Group (B100)
0:30—0:35	Transition to Small Group
0:35—1:05	Small Group (Lesson/Activity/Respond)
1:05—1:15	Dismiss

NOTES

LEADER RESOURCES

SERIES OVERVIEW

WEEK 1: God Is Powerful

Ascension

WEEK 2: God's Spirit Unifies, Part 1

Philip

WEEK 3: God's Spirit Unifies, Part 2

Peter and Cornelius

WEEK 4: God Answers Prayer

Peter Delivered from Prison

CURRENT WEEK: God Speaks

Lydia and Philippi

WEEK 6: Remember & Celebrate

ZONK!

EQUIP

The Holy Spirit established the Philippian church when Paul first visited the city of Philippi during his second missionary journey (Acts 16). The city held a favored status during this time and has been referred to by some as a "Rome away from Rome." Created by the emperor as a strategic Roman outpost and colony, Philippi was located on the Via Egnatia, the main route between Rome and Byzantium. The citizens who lived in Philippi were mostly Roman citizens (loyal to Rome) and held Roman political privileges.

When Paul arrived, there must not have been a very large Jewish population in Philippi because he didn't find a synagogue in the city. Jewish law required 10 men for the creation of a synagogue. Though Paul didn't find a synagogue or a group of Jewish men in Philippi, he did find a group of women (16:13). This group included a successful businesswoman named Lydia, who owned a business in which she manufactured expensive purple dye (v. 14). God spoke to Lydia's heart, and she trusted in Jesus as her Savior (vv. 14-15).

This fledgling community of believers (which later became the Philippian church) displayed generosity, love, and joy. The Philippian believers showed their love for Paul by repeatedly ministering to him. They sent him gifts and monetary aid (Philippians 4:10-19). And in Paul's letter to the Philippians, he declared his love and appreciation for the church and its members (Philippians 1:3-6).

ENCOURAGE

When was the last time you heard God's voice? God's words give us strength, make us smile, show us the path, and bring about change. This week, set apart time to hear from your Creator. Choose a place where you can connect with Him free of distractions—alone in your room, with a cup of coffee, or in a beautiful place in nature. Spend time thanking Him for all He is and all He has done for you.

Then take time to listen. You can allow Him to guide your thoughts, or you may want to ask Him specific questions. You can also invite Him to speak to you through His Word. Write down what you're hearing in a journal, and if you aren't hearing anything, don't be discouraged! God speaks to us in many ways, and He speaks to each of us uniquely. He may choose to speak to you later through a song, a sermon, a friend, or a circumstance. The God who created the whole universe loves to speak to us, His children! Take full advantage of the opportunity to hear from Him, and pray that your kids and families would do the same.

WELCOME

Some fun ideas to welcome kids as they check-in to your room at the beginning of service.

Invite the kids to color on the provided coloring page or work on the provided activity page.

As kids arrive, feel free to ask them this week's Connect Question. Feel free to write the question on the board and encourage some fun dialogue before you start your lesson.

QUESTION: What was the most important thing you heard this week?

RESPOND

A chance for kids to respond to what God is putting on their hearts through creative expression.

God speaks to us in many ways, including through His Word, prayer, other people, things that happen in our lives, and more. What a wonderful privilege we have to hear the God of the universe speak to us!

INSTRUCTIONS: Today we're playing a game! Put kids in groups of 2-3. One child will have to have their eyes closed while the others guide them using their voice to give direction. Around the room there will be activity cards posted. The kids who can see will lead the child who cannot in doing the activities together until they complete them all. (candy may be awarded at the end) Teachers, feel free to change up the activities and allow kids to take turns on who gets to give directions and who gets to follow.

SUPPLIES:

- Activity cards

REFLECT

A chance to reflect on what kids have just learned about The Big God Story.

When Paul and his friends set out to tell people the good news about Jesus, God spoke to them and gave them special directions about where to go. Sometimes this meant they had to turn around and go in a different direction! But no matter what direction they were heading, if they were following God's Spirit, they were going the right way.

- Why didn't Paul and his friends go to Asia? *Acts 16:6-7*
- How did God speak to Paul? *Acts 16:9-10*
- What was the city of Philippi like? *Acts 16:12*
- When Paul went to the river to pray, what did he find there? *Acts 16:13*
- How did Paul share the good news with Lydia? *Acts 16:13-14*
- How do we know that the church in Philippi was joyful? *Philippians 1:25; 2:17-18; 4:15-16*
- What are some ways we can hear God speak to us?
- How does God speak to us through the Holy Spirit? *John 14:25-26; 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:9-13; Ephesians 3:3-5*
- Has God spoken to you before? If so, tell us about it.

BLESS

A powerful way to bless the kids and parents by sending them off with a benediction.

INSTRUCTIONS: Invite the parents into your room at the end of the service to say one last prayer together with the whole family. Instruct them to find their child and sit/stand by their side. Explain what their child learned today and read the verse below. Pray together and then dismiss.

ISAIAH 30:21 – Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

BLESSING: May you hear God when He speaks to you, and may you respond in obedience. May you walk in His ways this week.

NOTES

This script serves as an outline of what your storytelling might sound like. Items written in italics are cues for the storyteller and are not meant to be read out loud. You are fully encouraged to make it your own and add a personal touch.

The script serves as an example, however if you would like to teach based on the script and are in need of any supplies mentioned, we would be happy to supply those for you! Storytelling images mentioned will always be provided in your basket each week, but if you need any other supplies for your lesson, contact a Grove KIDS Staff member beforehand so we can supply it for you! You are also welcome to bring in your own props if you would like!

RESOURCES PROVIDED

- Map Image
- Philippi Images
- Murex Image

STORYTELLING

Have you ever answered the phone to hear your mom or dad on the other end? They probably didn't have to tell you who they were because you already knew their voices. God desires for us to have this kind of relationship with Him—a relationship in which we recognize His voice. God speaks, and He wants us to listen as He guides and directs us! Let's ask God to speak to us during our time together. *Lead kids in Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.*

In today's part of The Big God Story, the Holy Spirit led a man named Paul, who was traveling with some other followers of Jesus, to a place called Galatia to spread the good news about Jesus. *Map image.* As they traveled, they paid close attention to the Holy Spirit so they could go exactly where God wanted them to go.

Paul wanted to go to Asia, which in Paul's time was an area west of Galatia (*point out on map*). The Bible says they came to the border of Asia and tried to enter, but then the Holy Spirit didn't let them. God speaks! *Invite kids to turn to Acts 16:7 and follow along as you read.* The Holy Spirit stopped them from going into this area. So Paul and his companions waited for the Holy Spirit to lead them somewhere else. They stopped in a city called Troas (TRO-ahs) to spend the night. And that night, God spoke to Paul in a dream. *Read Acts 16:8-9 as kids follow along.*

Invite the children to follow along as you read Acts 16:10. Wow! Because of the dream, the group decided that God wanted them to go to Macedonia (*point out on map*). This is important. Does the Bible say God's Spirit used words to tell Paul to go to Macedonia? *Invite responses.* No! The Bible says the Holy Spirit gave Paul a dream. Like He often does today, the Holy Spirit spoke to Paul without words, and Paul followed the Holy Spirit's leading in faith. There are many ways that God speaks!

After Paul and his friends sailed away from Troas, they arrived in a city called Philippi (*point out Paul's route on map*). Today this city is in the country of Greece. Philippi was a very important city during this time because it was a Roman military town filled with soldiers from the emperor's wars. It was also very important to the Roman Empire because the people there did a lot of business, and a lot of Roman citizens lived there. *Philippi images.*

So Paul and his friends stayed in Philippi for a few

days. *Have volunteer read Acts 16:13.* Instead of finding a group of Jewish men, they found a group of women. Though it was odd during this time for a man to have a long conversation with women, Paul and his friends sat down and talked with the women about Jesus. Sometimes you'll be surprised when God speaks!

Have a volunteer read Acts 16:14. To make purple cloth, women like Lydia crushed shells called "murex" (*Murex image*) because the crushed shells leaked a purple color. They used this color to dye the cloth. The shells were very hard to find, and crushing them to get the dye took a lot of water.

We just read that as Lydia listened to Paul speak about Jesus, God opened her heart to respond to Paul's message, and she came to trust in Jesus as her Savior. Let's look at the map again. *Map image.* Where was Lydia's town located? *Invite responses.* Right in the area where God had told Paul and his friends not to share the good news about Jesus. But then God brought Lydia all the way to Philippi so she could hear about Jesus, and the Holy Spirit opened her heart to believe in Him. God knew exactly where to send both Paul and Lydia. God speaks! *Invite the children to follow along as you read Acts 16:15.*

After Paul left Philippi to follow the Holy Spirit to other places, Lydia and the people of her household worked with other new believers to start a new church in Philippi. And we know from Paul's letters to the Philippian church—which we can read in the book of Philippians in the New Testament—that this church was loving, caring, giving, and joyful. They often sent gifts to Paul and encouraged him in his ministry.

Throughout this part of The Big God Story, we can see how God actively led Paul and his friends to certain places and certain people. They simply needed to be willing to listen to Him. God speaks! He spoke to Paul hundreds of years ago, and He speaks to us today. We can listen for Him and trust Him to lead us. Like God did great things through Paul, He can do great things through us! *Share a personal story of a time God spoke to you and led you to do something.*