

Acts 19:1-20

Paul: He Keeps Going and Going and...

Scripture: Acts 19:1-20

Memory Verse: Hebrews 12:1-2 “...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...”

Lesson Focus: After just finishing his second missionary journey you would think Paul might take a break. Yet what we see today is that he keeps going and going, bringing the gospel to the nations. As we follow him on this third and final missionary journey we will challenge the kids to have a similar faith in Jesus that “keeps going and going” noting that it is only by clinging to Him and His grace that we can hope to finish our race.

Activities and Crafts: Energizer Bunny Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Find the Treasure Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: Let’s Go Shoe Craft

Starter Activity: Third Missionary Journey Video

Please plan to keep the kids in the Summit Room immediately after worship for a short video (2 minutes) that will introduce Paul’s third missionary journey to us. If you’d like to preview it, you can find it [here](#).

As we continue in the book of Acts today, we are going to follow Paul on another (and his last official) missionary adventure!

Q: Have any of you heard of the “Energizer bunny”? He is this cute pink bunny mascot of the Energizer batteries that you may have seen in commercials. * And the catchphrase is that because of the batteries the bunny “keeps going, and going, and going...” *

Well, that kinda describes the apostle Paul!

Q: But what keeps him going? A: Not batteries, but the gospel! * Because of the truth of Jesus’s death and resurrection, Paul keeps going, and going, and going....to tell people about it that they may repent and be saved!

We are going to watch a short video that shows us where and how far he travels this time. As you are watching it, be looking for the city where it says Paul stays about 3 years. *

WATCH VIDEO

Q: In what city did he spend about 3 years? A: Ephesus! This was a famous city that boasted one of the seven ancient wonders of the world (the temple of Artemis). Let’s open our Bibles and read about what happens in this city as Paul travels there!

Bible Study:

Acts 19:1a: Around the same time Paul makes his way to Ephesus, another leading figure in the early church, Apollos, leaves Ephesus to go to Corinth. *

Acts 19:1b-2: Paul meets a small group of believers in God who say something a little strange.

Q: Who have they not heard about? A: The Holy Spirit! All throughout the book of Acts we have seen the Holy Spirit leading, guiding, and empowering the early church to grow and multiply just like Jesus Himself said. (**Acts 1:8**) So these guys are missing Someone very important!

Acts 19:3: A-ha! Mystery solved. These guys were followers of John the Baptist. He was the guy appointed by God to get people's hearts ready for the promised Messiah and Rescuer. For whatever reason, they were never taught that Jesus, the Rescuer John was pointing to, had actually come. Therefore, they were still waiting for this Rescuer!

Acts 19:4: And Paul then updates them that this Messiah, Jesus, has indeed come, died on the cross, and rose again for sinners! Perhaps this illustration will help you better understand what is going on here:

Q: How many of you like to play Minecraft? * This is a video game that you download to your device to play. But the version of the game that you download today (v1.20) is not quite the same as the game that you would have downloaded 15 years ago. Imagine that you were friends with the original designer of this game (Markus Persson) and he asked you to help him as a play-tester! Wow! He then gives you a very early "prototype" of the game. * But then you get separated from him and that's the only version you have. For many years you've been playing only that old version unaware that the actual game has been updated and released! Years later someone comes up to you and asks you why you're still playing this old prototype when the real thing has been out all this time!! *

Well, this is kinda like how it was for this group in Ephesus. John the Baptist was like the "prototype" for God's plan of salvation, getting people ready for the real thing: Jesus!

Acts 19:5: And check it out! When Paul tells them the "real thing" has been "released" (Jesus Christ), they leave behind their "old version" of religion and trust in Jesus following that up immediately with baptism.

Acts 19:6-7: And to leave no doubt that they are now "playing the real thing" the Holy Spirit comes upon them with power just like we have seen throughout the book of Acts when people repented and believed in Jesus Christ.

Acts 19:8: Remember: Paul keeps going, and going, and going! As is his custom, when he enters a new city he starts in the synagogues persuading them to believe in Jesus!

Acts 19:9: But as we have also seen before, sadly there is a crowd that not only rejects the gospel but stirs up trouble!

Acts 19:10: But what does Paul do? He keeps going, and going, and going! For two years even! Notice that it mentions the hearts of those who rejected were “hardened”.

Q: What do you think this means? A: They are so proud and set in their own ways that they refuse to change or listen to truth. (**Teachers:** We will leave two tubs of Play-doh in your room. One will be a dried up “hardened” heart and the other will be soft. Consider using these to illustrate the difference to the kids)

Boys and Girls: Take a careful look at your own heart. We’re not talking about what is pumping blood in your body, but the core of who you are. Are you teachable and willing to yield to the word of God or is your heart hard and not teachable? Beware if you have a hard heart and turn to the Lord today!

Acts 19:11-12: Wow! In these two years of Paul’s ministry in Ephesus some strange miracles and spiritual activity took place.

Q: But Who was the one working these miracles according to v. 11? A: God! This is not magic but God working in unusual ways to confirm the gospel message of Paul.

Acts 19:13: We know from history that Ephesus was a very superstitious city with many who dabbled in witchcraft. We’ve encountered people like this before in Acts like the dudes in Philippi who made money off of demonic activity (**Acts 16:16**).

Acts 19:14: After seeing the power that God had worked through Paul, it appears these seven guys thought they could harness that same power themselves simply by treating the name “Jesus” like a magic word. * These guys weren’t believers in Jesus though!

Acts 19:15: This starts to get a little funny now. These seven guys approach a man who is under the control of a demon and he actually talks back to them! With their response, they show that Jesus and Paul (through the Holy Spirit) have power over them, but not these pretenders!

Acts 19:16: WHOA! Remember it was 7-on-1! While this shows the supernatural power behind demonic activity, Christians need not fear them because Jesus is on their side! *

Acts 19:17-20: This certainly softened people’s hearts! For it became known all throughout the city * causing people to abandon and turn away from their witchcraft and surrender to the One true and living God and Savior!

Key Point: As we have seen and will continue to see, Paul is a man who keeps going, and going, and going!

Q: But why does he do this? What keeps him going? A: The gospel! *

Q: How about your walk with Jesus? He desires that your walk with Him keeps going, and going, and going. He loves you and it is clinging to the same gospel * that will “charge” your faith. Again, check your heart! If it is soft and yielded to Jesus and His word, you most certainly will keep going and going. But if your heart is hard, ask the Lord to soften you heart! Talk to your leader today and get your faith in Jesus “charged” so that you will keep going and going with Jesus!

FIND THE TREASURE



Read Hebrews 12:1-2
How can we keep our faith going and going?

PARENT CHALLENGE
How is the apostle Paul like the "Energizer Bunny"?

Read Acts 19:9
What does it mean to be "hardened"? Is your heart hard or soft?

