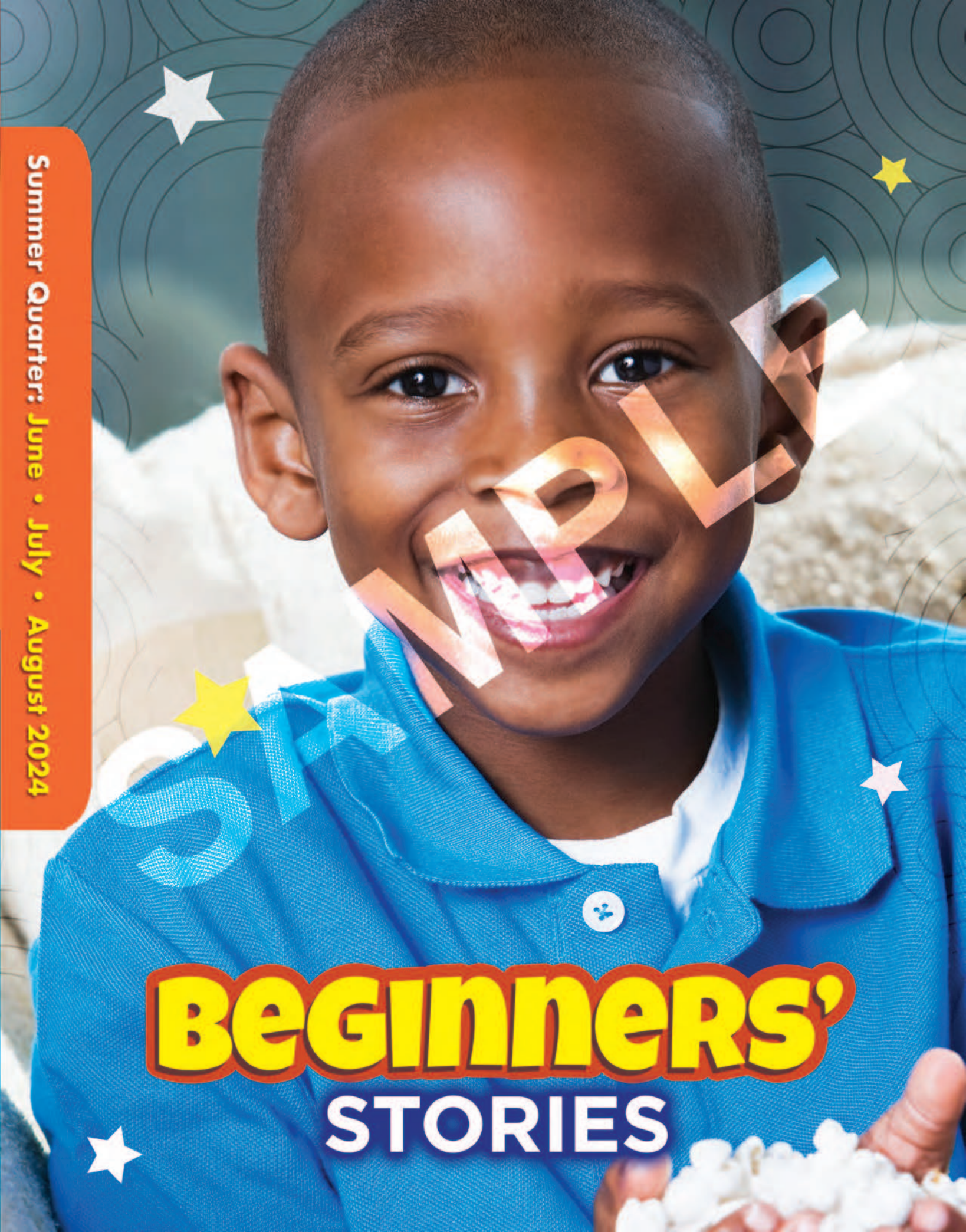


Summer Quarter: June • July • August 2024

# BEGINNERS' STORIES



Summer Quarter: June • July • August 2024

# BEGINNERS' STORIES

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Rev. Garland F. Pierce, Executive Director, Department of Christian Education

Tiffany N. Gregory, Chief of Operations



# LETTER TO THE PARENTS

Dear Parents,

Thank you for sharing your child with me as we learn about God's Word together. Your child is going to enjoy learning the lessons for this quarter.

Unit I, "Jesus Gives Us Hope"—drawn from the books of Colossians (lesson 1), 2 Corinthians (lesson 2), Romans (lesson 3), Hebrews (lesson 4), and Acts (lesson 5)—considers Christian hope through the lens of the early church. The mysteries of God made known to the early church, the working of the Holy Spirit in believers, and the spiritual lifeline to God through Christ all inspire hope in Christ. The unit closes with Paul's testimony of Christian hope.

Unit II, "Praying with Hope," turns attention to the prayers of ancient Israel as a model for offering to God our praise and petitions. These Hebrew prayers are also expressions of Christian hope. The first lesson of the unit is from a song of lament in Lamentations 3, while the remaining lessons of Unit II are drawn from the Psalms.

Unit III, "Hope for the Future"—from the books of 1 Thessalonians, 1 John, and Titus—considers facets of the promised future that God is preparing for believers. Paul anticipates the nearness of Christ's return in 1 Thessalonians 3 (lesson 10); and in seeing Christ, we become more like Him (as found in 1 John—lesson 11) and, according to Titus 2 and 3, live out the present moment with hope (lessons 12 and 13).

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Your Child's Teacher



June 2, 2024

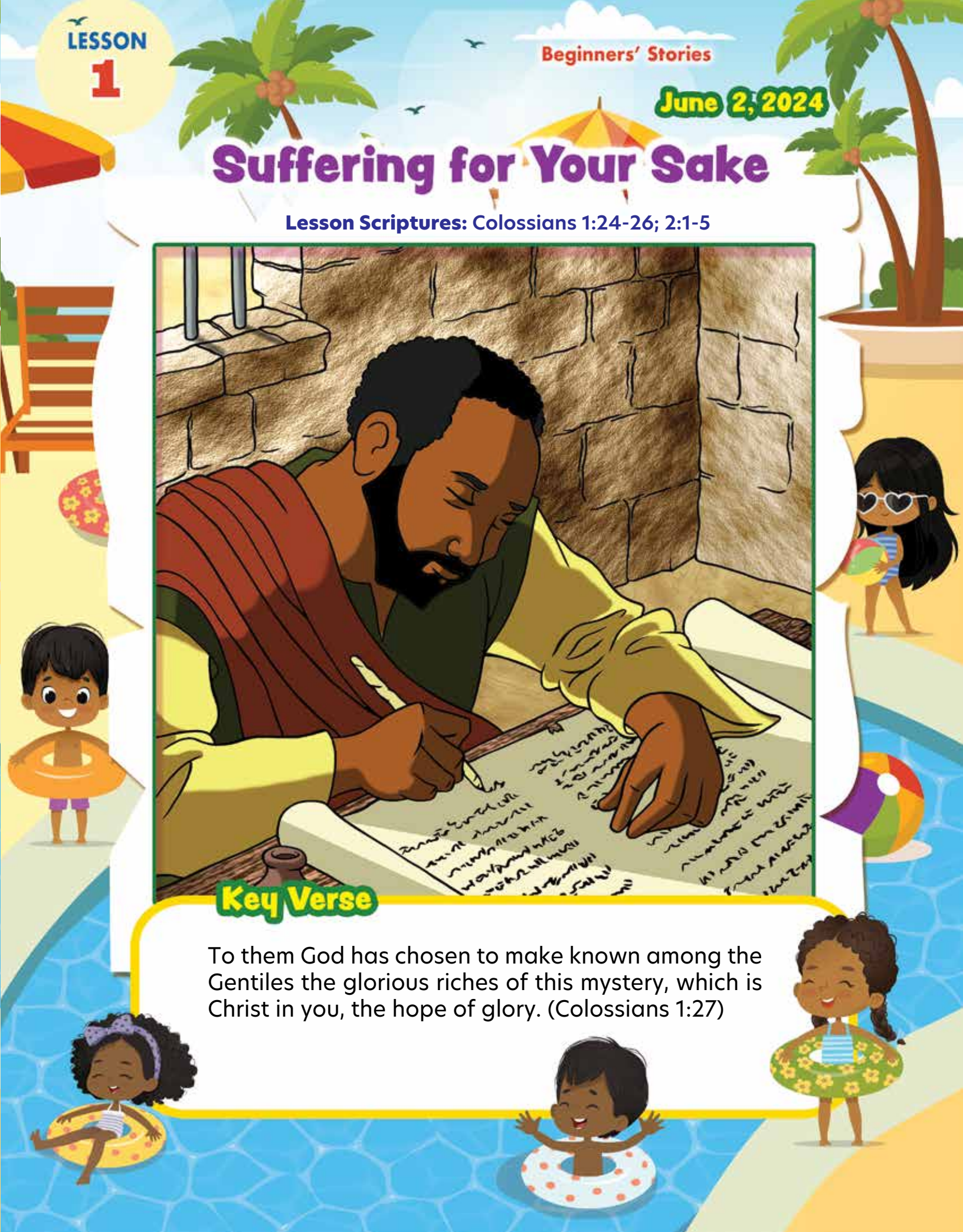
# Suffering for Your Sake

Lesson Scriptures: Colossians 1:24-26; 2:1-5



## Key Verse

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27)





## Suffering for Your Sake

(Colossians 1:24-26; 2:1-5)

Paul was faithful in sharing God's Word with the Gentile (non-Jewish) people. For this, he *suffered* (he went through some hurt) and was put in prison. But Paul did not mind it, because Jesus suffered, too. From his jail cell, Paul wrote

letters encouraging people.

Paul wanted the people to have hope (expect something good) and be united in love. Paul did not want the people to be misled. He wanted them to have Jesus' wisdom and knowledge.

Paul wrote, "Though I am not with you, I am with you in spirit. I am happy to see how strong your faith in Christ is."

## For the Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today, your child heard that Paul did all he could to help the Gentile people understand God's Word. He was often jailed for doing this. While suffering in jail, Paul wrote letters to encourage the people to remain united in serving Christ. As you review this lesson, help your child recall times when he or she may have been sad or upset. Did someone do something to help him or her to cheer up or feel better? Relate these experiences to this lesson.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Child's Teacher

**Faith Block**

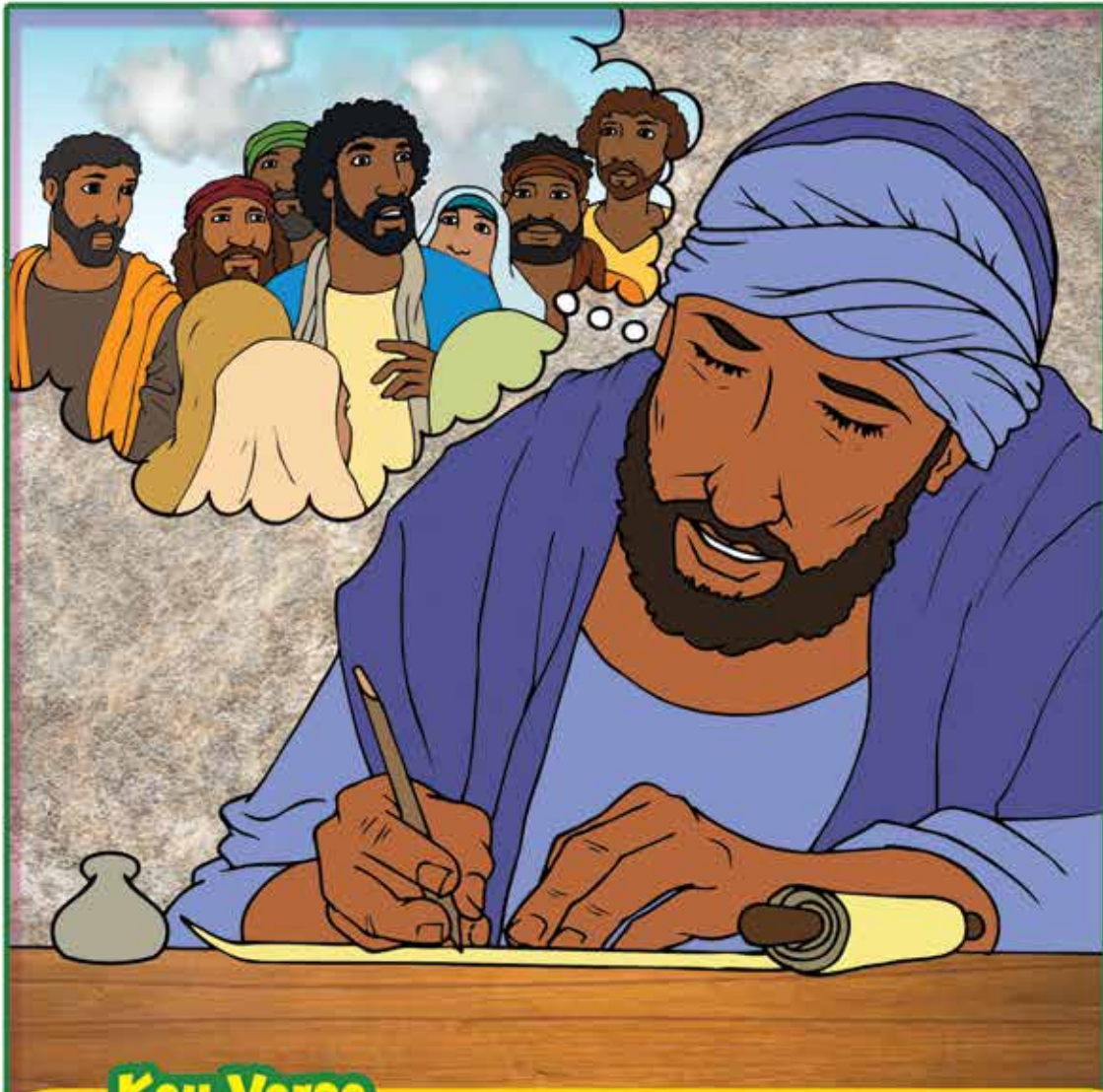
**I will encourage others!**



June 9, 2024

# You Are Our Letter

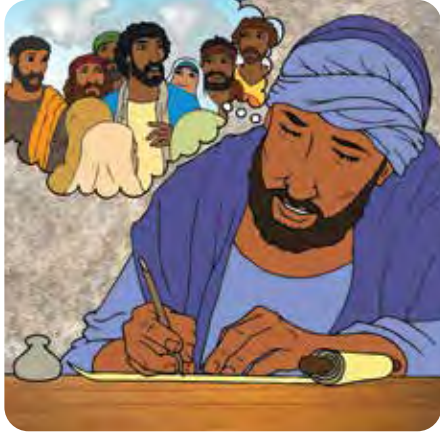
Lesson Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:1-3, 17-18



## Key Verse

Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. (2 Corinthians 3:5)





## You Are Our Letter

(2 Corinthians 3:1-3, 17-18)

Paul was doing very important work in helping others follow Jesus. He and other followers did not brag about doing this work. They did not need a letter of approval. The Corinthian believers served as his letter of approval.

Paul said that how the believers lived each day for Jesus was like a “living” letter (message) of hope. This “walking-talking” letter read by everyone shared Paul’s good work.

This letter was not written with ink. It was written by God’s Spirit and given to humans. God’s Spirit gives freedom.

## For the Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Today, your child heard that Paul’s good work was evident when one saw how the Corinthian believers lived daily for Jesus. This lesson compared the Corinthian believers to a letter written on human hearts. Anyone meeting the believers could see the love of Christ. When you discuss this lesson with your child, talk about things that believers do to show Christ’s love. Do they share? Do they speak kind words? Relate that to this lesson.

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Your Child’s Teacher

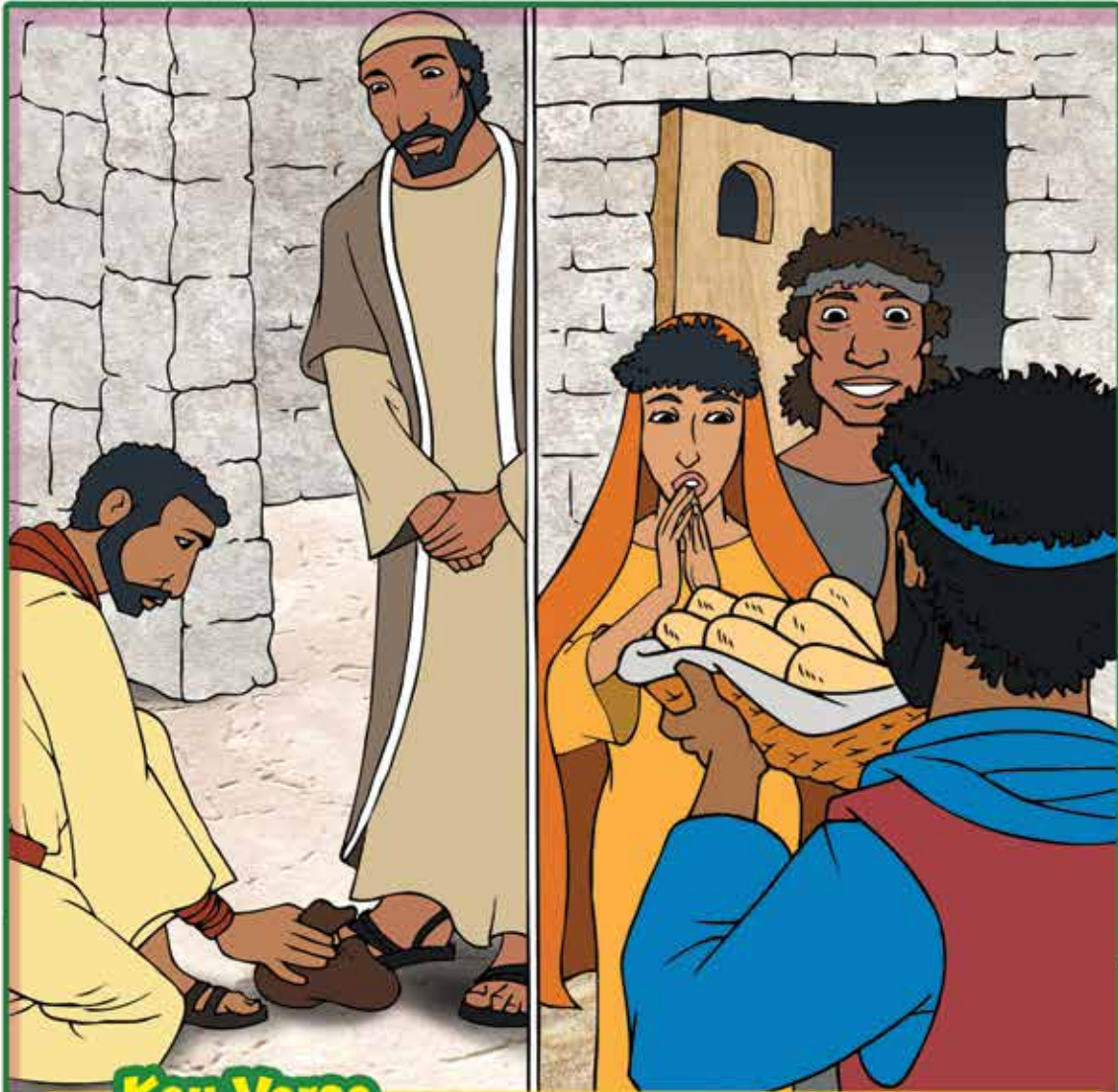
**Faith Block**

**I will share Jesus  
with others!**



# Friends Build Up

Lesson Scripture: Romans 15:1-7, 13

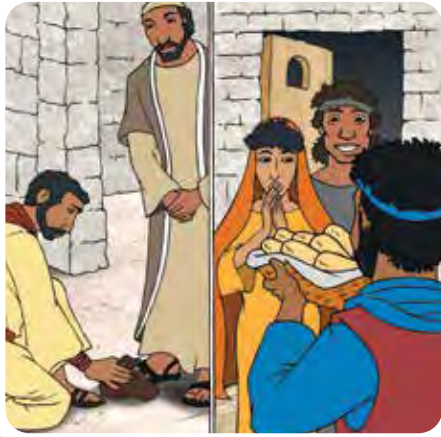


## Key Verse

Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. (Romans 15:2)







## Friends Build Up

(Romans 15:1-7, 13)

We must be patient and calm with those who do not have strong faith (belief in Jesus). We should help them with their weaknesses and build them up. We should not please ourselves. Even Jesus did not live to please Himself.

The Bible says, "Those who insult you are also insulting me (Jesus)." The Scriptures give us hope and encouragement from God and teach us patience. Jesus wants us to work together. Working together honors God and gives Him glory. Then hope will flow out by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## For the Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your child heard today that when we support others and do not focus on ourselves, we follow Jesus' teachings. Encouragement is a way of sharing hope. As you review this lesson, help your child recall times when he or she has done something that makes friends feel better. What kind of things did he or she do when someone was sad or struggling to complete a task? Relate that to this lesson.

---

Your Child's Teacher

**Faith Block**

**You can do it!**



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