

MODEL UNIT
BAND A
LEVEL 3

POSTCARDS FROM PAUL

LIFE CONCEPT: GOD CALLS PEOPLE TO SERVE

YEAR:..... SUGGESTED DURATION: 3 weeks (approximately 100 minutes per week)

DATE OF USE: FAITH STATEMENTS: ① ② ③

UNIT-SPECIFIC GOALS (highlighted)
**1. GOD'S LOVE
INSPIRES AND
EQUIPS CHRISTIANS
TO LOVE AND
SERVE OTHERS**
1a explore Bible stories which illustrate God's love for all people

1b explore Bible stories which illustrate ways people respond to God by loving and serving others

1c identify everyday situations in which people can love and serve others

**2. GOD CALLS ALL
PEOPLE TO WORK
FOR PEACE AND
JUSTICE**
2a identify situations that are fair and unfair

2b explore Bible stories that illustrate the concept of fairness

2c consider ways people can show kindness to those who are treated unfairly

**3. GOD CALLS
CHRISTIANS TO
SHARE THE GOOD
NEWS BY WORDS
AND ACTIONS**
3a investigate Jesus' sending of his followers to continue his work of sharing God's love

3b explore Bible stories of people sharing God's love with others

3c identify situations in which people tell others of Jesus'

STUDENT ASSESSMENT
ASSESSABLE STUDENT OUTCOMES

Record how they feel when asked to help and how they imagine Jesus' disciples may have felt after being given the commission to spread the gospel. (3a)

Illustrate people who helped Paul. (1b,3b)

Illustrate ways people helped Paul when he was treated unfairly. (2a,2c)

Record ways that people hear about Jesus today. (3c)

 Write their own ending to the sentence *Love is . . .* (1c)

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES

work sample, TRS A3/1

work samples (postcard)

work samples (postcard)

poster or work sample in books

work sample (postcard)

UNIT SUMMARY

Stories are presented on a series of postcards through which students investigate the mission work of Paul. Students also examine ways in which other people helped Paul, how the gospel is shared today and ways in which people respond. Students respond by writing their own postcard to Paul.

UNIT NOTES

Christians believe that one of the best ways they can serve others is to share the gospel with them. This unit uses 'postcards' to explore the way in which Paul served others by sharing the gospel and by words and actions. The postcards are on Teacher Resource Sheet (TRS) A3/2. The teacher will need one copy to read to the students. Consider adding your own illustration on the front or pasting on a picture, eg from a travel magazine. Give students their own copy of the postcard to illustrate.

Display an enlarged copy of the map of places Paul visited (TRS 3/4). As you 'receive' each postcard, locate the place it was sent from. You could develop a display by adding selections of students' work, Bible story books about Paul, etc.

If you wish to investigate further the stories used in this unit, you could read the full story from a children's Bible. *The Lion Story Bible* (part 2) is an appropriate reading level for many students of this age. The big book *Paul and His Friends* is also a useful resource.

WORDS TO KNOW

disciple, Jerusalem, Christian, gospel

INTRODUCTION

1. POSTCARDS

Introduce the use and features of postcards through the following activities. These need not be done in Christian Studies.

- Show postcards from different places in Australia or overseas. Students could bring postcards that they have received.
- Use a map to locate where the cards were sent from.
- Discuss features of postcards, eg a photograph of the place, (some have a number of small photographs to show many aspects of the area), photos of people enjoying activities, a message.

2. CHOOSING HELPERS

Prepare a list of classroom jobs which are different from tasks that students usually help with, but that really do need to be done.

Tell students that you need help to get some important jobs done. Show the list and allocate jobs to the students.

When students have completed their jobs, come together and talk about feelings that people have when they are given a job to do.

The Bible tells about a time when Jesus asked the disciples to do some important work that he had started.

Share the story of the great commission (Matthew 28:16–20; Mark 16:14–18). Use a simple explanation of Jesus' words, eg *I want you to go to people all over the world and tell them about me and what I have done for them. Baptise them and teach them to do the things that I have told you. Be ready to help anyone wherever you can. You don't have to be afraid because I will be with you.*

Students complete TRS A3/1.

DEVELOPMENT

3. PAUL IS CHOSEN AS A HELPER

To introduce Paul you could use illustrations from a children's Bible or show where the stories are found in an adult Bible. Share information such as the following:

The stories of Paul took place after Jesus died and rose again. They are found in the book of the Bible called the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul lived in Jerusalem but he was not one of the disciples who had been with Jesus.

The first thing the Bible tells about Paul is that he was an enemy of the Christians. Paul even planned to kill people who believed in Jesus.

But God chose Paul to work for him. The job that he had for Paul was to travel to many countries telling people about Jesus.

4. POSTCARDS FROM PAUL

Show students the map (TRS A3/4). Locate the area shown on the map on a world globe.

Tell students that they will learn about Paul by imagining that he has sent them postcards from the places he has visited.

A. A POSTCARD FROM DAMASCUS

(based on Acts 9:1–19)

Part 1: Show students the postcard from Damascus (TRS A3/2). Locate Damascus on the map. Read the postcard to students.

Discuss:

This story tells how God chose Paul in a special way to do important work for him. It also tells about other people who showed their love for God by helping Paul, eg Ananias, those travelling with Paul, the people whose house he stayed at.

Students illustrate their own copies of the postcard, showing an important event from this story and including people who helped Paul.

Part 2: Christians believe that God asks them to keep doing the work that Jesus started.

As a class, name and list situations where Christians could show love for Jesus by helping others. Help students consider a range of situations by showing pictures or headlines from a local or state newspaper.

Students work in groups to choose one of these scenarios and either dramatise or illustrate the way people help others.

B. A POSTCARD FROM JERUSALEM (based on Acts 9:19b–31)

Students begin to consider that not everyone will believe the Christian message.

Part 1: Show students the postcard from Jerusalem (TRS A3/2). Locate Jerusalem on the map. Read the postcard to students. Discuss:

Paul told many people about Jesus. Some people listened, but others disagreed with the things Paul was saying. These people became so angry they wanted to kill him.

Read the section *Being a Christian* on TRS A3/3 to give students some perspective on why Paul was persecuted. Discuss:

- How would you describe the way Paul was treated?
- Why was Paul treated unfairly?
- Who helped Paul in this unfair situation? Why did the people help Paul? How did they help?
- What ways could you help someone who is being treated unfairly?

Students illustrate their own copies of the postcard showing how people helped Paul when he was being treated unfairly.

Part 2: Despite opposition, Paul kept on preaching. Ask students:

- Why do you think Paul kept telling others about Jesus, even when many people did not listen or believe?
- What happens today when people hear about Jesus? Does everyone believe? Why/why not?

Students draw or cut out pictures of people and add speech bubbles in which they record people's different responses to the gospel.

This would be an appropriate time to share information about the continuing work of sharing the gospel. The Bible Society has appropriate material for students of this age. Alternatively, the teacher could give examples of people who witness through their words and actions.

C. A POSTCARD FROM MACEDONIA (based on Acts 16:11–15, 16–40)

Part 1: Show students the postcard from Macedonia (TRS A3/2). Locate Macedonia on the map. Read the postcard to students.

Use TRS A3/3 to develop students' understanding of Paul's lifestyle and the conditions in which he worked. Using this information, students illustrate their own copies of the postcard.

Part 2: Paul spread the news about Jesus by preaching and talking to people.

Students identify ways that people today hear about Jesus, eg books, radio, at church, at school, from a friend. Students record these in books or work in groups to make a poster.

Consider taping a Christian program or advertisement from the radio or television and share excerpts from this with students. What do these programs tell others about Jesus?

D. A POSTCARD FROM EPHESUS (based on 1 Corinthians 13:4–8)

Show students the postcard from Ephesus (TRS A3/2). Locate Ephesus on the map. Read the postcard to students.

Explore the concept of Christian love further by using the book *Love for children*. (Alternatively, help students consider what being kind, patient, etc would look like in their daily life.) As you do this, remind students that Christians want to show love because they know that God loves them. Students work in groups to illustrate or dramatise real-life scenarios.

Students finish the postcard on TRS A3/2 by completing the sentence *Love is . . .* and adding an appropriate illustration.

RESPONSE

5. A POSTCARD TO PAUL

Students design their own postcard to send to Paul. They could illustrate and write about

- events from Paul's life that they have enjoyed hearing about;
- things they have learnt about Paul or from him;
- a person in need and how they have helped or would like to help;
- questions they would like to ask Paul.

Display these or photocopy some to include in the class or school newsletter.

YOU WILL NEED

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> paper or light card for making photocopies of the postcards <input type="checkbox"/> to illustrate the postcards that you read to students <input type="checkbox"/> an enlarged copy of the map on TRS A3/4 <input type="checkbox"/> optional: globe of the world <input type="checkbox"/> optional: information on the work of missions in Australia and overseas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> optional: cassette or video tape-recording of excerpts from a Christian radio or television program/advertisement <input type="checkbox"/> non-fiction material on life in the times of Paul <input type="checkbox"/> The book <i>Love for Children</i> by Lois Rock <input type="checkbox"/> photocopies of TRS A3/1, A3/2, for student use. TRS A3/3 is optional for student use |
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INTEGRATING INTO OTHER CURRICULUM AREAS

ENGLISH: *Literature:* Through discussion, relate what is read and viewed to own knowledge and experience; appreciate that people can have different interpretations of the same text; identify the features characteristic to texts (postcards); discuss ideas with teacher and peers.

SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT: *Investigation, Communication and Participation:* Role-play and express personal views on information. *Place and Space:* Become familiar with wider surroundings; use globes and maps.

THE ARTS: *Drama:* Explore situations through dramatic action and role-playing. *Visual Arts:* Draw or paint to record observations, feelings and thoughts; use simple skills of visual communication, eg lettering, layout.

from the National Statements and Profiles

UNIT EVALUATION

Which activities worked well in this unit?

Which resources were useful in the implementation of this unit?

How did I respond to the range of students' understanding of the stories and work of Paul?

How did I respond to the range of students' understanding of people's attitude and response to the gospel today?

What would I do differently if I was teaching this unit again?

How will I use and build on knowledge, understandings, skills, attitudes, and values students have developed in this unit?

HELP? WHO ME?

Write and draw about a time someone asked you to help them.
How did you feel about it? Why did you feel that way?

How would you feel if you were one of the disciples and
Jesus asked you to tell others about him? Why would you feel like this?
Either write your answer in sentences or draw a cartoon which shows Jesus
asking you and what you would say to him.

Greetings from Damascus.

I must tell you about the amazing things that have happened to me. As you know, I used to hate anyone who believed in Jesus, and I was on my way to Damascus to bring believers back to Jerusalem and put them in jail.

As we got near to Damascus a bright light flashed around me. It was so bright that I fell to the ground and covered my face. Then I heard a voice saying: 'Why are you hurting me?'

'Who is that?' I asked.

'I am Jesus', the voice said. 'Get up and go into Damascus. I will tell you what to do.'

When I got up, I found that I couldn't see at all. I was quite blind!

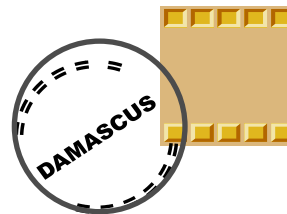
The people I was travelling with led me into the town. They took me to a house, and the people there looked after me. For three days I couldn't see anything, and I didn't eat or drink.

On the third day God sent a man called Ananias to help me. Ananias touched my eyes and immediately I could see.

Ananias told me that God had chosen me to tell many people about Jesus. 'What are you waiting for?' he said. 'Be baptised and get ready to tell others what you have seen and heard.'

That's what I am doing now — telling you. Isn't it amazing?

Paul



To

Greetings from Paul.

I'm back in Jerusalem. Let me tell you how my visit to Damascus ended.

I wanted to meet the other people there who believed in Jesus. But at first they were afraid of me and wouldn't talk to me. They still thought I was coming to take them prisoner. Imagine their surprise when they found out from Ananias that now I was one of their friends!

I stayed with the believers to learn more about Jesus, then I went and told others about him. Some people listened and wanted to learn more, but others only wanted to kill me.

My enemies made a plan and kept watch at the city gates so that I couldn't escape, but my friends helped me. They tied ropes to the sides of a huge basket. Then, when it was night, I sat in the basket, and they lowered me through an opening in the city wall.

I came back to Jerusalem to meet the other disciples of Jesus, but they were frightened of me too. Finally, a friend called Barnabas explained what had happened, and I was able to talk to the disciples and stay with them.

I spent my time going out and telling others about Jesus. People still did not want to listen. They argued, became angry and wanted to kill me. My friends thought it would be best if I moved away from Jerusalem, so I am making plans to leave here and travel to another country.

My next card will be from somewhere quite different.

Paul



To

Greetings from Paul in Macedonia.

I'm sorry I haven't written for a long time, but I have been travelling with my friends Silas and Timothy to many different places. Wherever we go I tell people about Jesus. This means that wherever we are, we are always ready to talk to people.

When we were at the town of Philippi, we were going out of the city and down to the river. We stopped to talk to some women who listened carefully to what we had to say. One of the women was called Lydia. She was an important lady of that town and very rich. Lydia believed the things we told her about Jesus. She and all the people who worked in her house were baptised. Lydia invited us to stay with her while we were in Philippi.

I have talked to people in the churches, in the markets and even in jail. I have talked to rich people and poor people, to governors, to pastors, to teachers, to shopkeepers, to tent-makers. Many people have heard about Jesus and now believe in him, and new churches have been started.

My work is hard, and sometimes I get tired. But I know that God will always be with me. One night God spoke to me in a dream. 'Do not be afraid', he said. 'Keep on telling others about me. I am with you and no-one is going to hurt you.'

From

Paul



To

Greetings from Paul.

Today I heard some bad news. My friends in the church at Corinth have been arguing among themselves and making each other very unhappy.

I would love to go and visit them but I cannot leave my work at Ephesus, so I have written them a letter about the most important thing we can do for each other — to show love.

These are some of the things I told them:

When you love someone, you are kind and patient with them. You don't boast, be unkind or get angry with them.

When you love someone, you are not selfish; instead you share your things with others.

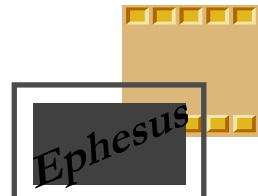
When you love someone, you don't talk about the wrong things they do. You say good things about them.

When you love someone, you stick with them and are a true friend.

This is the last card that I can send. Before I finish I want to remind you that God's love is the best thing of all. God loves you, and he will help you to show love to others.

May God's love be with you all.

Paul



To

LIFE IN THE TIME OF PAUL

If you wish to develop this section in more detail, you could:

- cut the sheet (or sections of it) for students to paste into their books and add their own illustrations;
- have students work in groups to make a poster which illustrates each section. Provide resources from which students can find extra information or illustrations to match.

TRAVEL BY LAND

Paul travelled thousands of kilometres from one place to another. He would have walked, ridden on a donkey or used a small cart pulled by a horse.

The Roman government had built roads from one town to another for their armies to travel on. These roads were made from layers of sand and flat stones.

Many other people used the roads too — people buying and selling things, people looking for work, people travelling to the towns to pay their taxes or go to church meetings.

Travelling by road took a long time, and it could be dangerous. Robbers waited to attack people and steal their things, so people often travelled together in groups.

TRAVEL BY SHIP

People in Paul's time travelled by ship on rivers, seas and lakes. These ships were made from wood. There were sailing ships that were powered by the wind, but many also had oars as well.

Some ships were used as warships. Others carried food, grain and other materials from one country to another.

The large cities had harbours which ships could enter safely.

In the Bible Paul tells about his journeys by ship. He writes about the weather, the sailors, and the people who travelled on the ship.

When the weather was very bad, it was not safe to travel by ship. Paul also tells about a time when the ship he was on sank in a storm.

LETTERS

Paul wrote many letters. There are thirteen of Paul's letters in the Bible.

Paul's letters were written on sheets of paper made from the dried leaves of a *papyrus* plant. The pen was made from the hollow stalk of a reed which was sharpened at one end.

Paul did not write all the letters himself, but he asked other people to scribe them for him.

Today it is easy to send a letter, but when Paul was alive there were no mailboxes or post offices, and people did not have an address like we do. Instead, Paul would have asked someone to carry the letter to the person it was for. Because people walked from one place to another, this would have taken a long time.

BEING A CHRISTIAN

People who believe in Jesus are called Christians. When Paul was alive it was dangerous to be a Christian. Here are some reasons why.

When Jesus lived on earth, the leaders of the church did not like the things that Jesus said and did, so they arranged to have Jesus killed. After Jesus died, rose and went back to heaven, the same leaders did not want people to keep on talking about Jesus. So they decided they would punish anybody who believed in him.

Christians were often arrested, put into prison, whipped and even killed.

The Christians used to meet in secret places and use secret signs. One of these signs was a fish. Christians today still use the sign of the fish.



PAUL

The stories of Paul happened after Jesus had returned to heaven. Paul was not one of Jesus' disciples, but God used him to spread the story of Jesus to many parts of the world.

The first thing that the Bible tells about Paul is that he met the people who believed in Jesus and wanted to join them. But God had other plans. Paul was travelling to the town of Damascus to arrest the Christians, when he was blinded by a bright light and heard the voice of Jesus speaking to him. Jesus said that Paul had been chosen to work for him.

Paul became a great teacher who travelled to many different countries. As he travelled, he talked to people about Jesus. Not all people believed what he said, but those who did met together to learn more. They were the start of a new church. Paul would stay with this group of people to teach and help them, and then move on to another town. Paul often wrote letters back to the people in the churches. Some of these letters are found in the Bible.

Many people did not like to hear Paul preaching about Jesus and they tried to stop him. Paul was often in danger from his enemies. The Bible tells stories of times when Paul was hurt, shipwrecked and put in prison.

You can read stories about Paul in the book of Acts in the Bible.

Some things you can do

- Ask an adult to help you find out more about Paul. Use a children's Bible or Bible story books to read about these adventures:

Paul becomes a Christian Acts 9:1–19

Paul escapes from Damascus Acts 9:19–30

Paul heals a crippled man Acts 14:8–20

Lydia becomes a Christian Acts 16:11–15

Paul heals a slave girl Acts 16:16–40

Paul brings Eutychus back to life Acts 20:7–12

Paul is shipwrecked Acts 27 – 28

- Work in a group to practise acting out one of these stories. Tell others about the life of Paul by sharing the plays with another class.
- Paul made three long journeys as he travelled from one country to another. Use a Bible atlas to help you see the towns and countries that Paul visited. If you look on a globe or a map of the world you can find what these places are called today.
- Use the index of the Bible to help you find the books called *Romans*, *Corinthians*, *Galatians*, *Ephesians*, *Philippians*, *Colossians*, *Thessalonians*, *Timothy*, *Titus* and *Philemon*. These are the letters that Paul wrote to the people in the first churches. If you look at the beginning and the end of the letters, you will find Paul's name.

