We truly had the BEST WEEKEND EVER! Thanks for being a part of the weekend. We learned how to fight the good fight, keep the faith, and finish the race well. When we choose to make Jesus the Lord of our lives, the Holy Spirit is in us, and He helps us follow Him. Following Jesus can sometimes be hard, but we can learn from people in the Bible how to walk faithfully with Him. The Bible is God’s word, and everything in it is true! It all points to Jesus, whom God sent to die for our sins! **Read the overview of Paul to your kids and then help them look up the verses in a physical Bible and try and find the answers themselves. Use the guide to help them if they need it.**

**Paul**

**Overview of Paul:**

Paul, who was first called Saul, is an important person in the Bible. He was born in a city called Tarsus. At first, he did not like Christians and even tried to stop them. One day, while traveling to Damascus, he had a powerful experience where Jesus spoke to him, and he became a Christian. After that, Paul traveled to many places to tell people about Jesus and started many new churches. He also wrote many letters to these churches, which are now part of the New Testament in the Bible (Galatians, Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Philemon, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians). These letters help teach us about God's love and how to live as Christians. Paul's work helped spread Christianity all over the world.

Fight the Good Fight (16:16-40)

Paul and his friend Silas are in the city of Philippi. One day, they meet a slave girl has a evil spirit inside her. She follows Paul and Silas, shouting that they are servants of God. Paul gets annoyed and tells the spirit to leave her, and it does. This angers the girl's owners because they can't make money from her fortune-telling anymore. They have Paul and Silas thrown into prison. While in prison, Paul and Silas pray and sing songs to God. Suddenly, a huge earthquake opens all the prison doors and breaks everyone's chains. The jailer is scared and thinks all the prisoners have escaped, but Paul tells him they are still there. The jailer is so amazed that he asks Paul and Silas how he can be saved. They tell him to believe in Jesus, and he and his whole family become Christians. The next day, the city officials realize they made a mistake by imprisoning Paul and Silas without a trial because Paul is a Roman citizen, so they apologize and let them go. Paul and Silas did not lose faith. They trusted God and kept faithful to what God told them- even while in prison. Because of their faithfulness, people believed in God.

Keep the Faith (Acts 27)

Paul is on a ship headed to Rome because he is a prisoner and needs to stand trial there. The journey is very dangerous because of the bad weather. Paul warns the ship's crew to wait for better conditions, but they don't listen. Soon, a terrible storm hits, and everyone is scared. Paul reassures them that an angel told him they would all be safe, even though the ship would be destroyed. The storm rages for many days, and the crew throws cargo overboard to lighten the ship. Eventually, the ship gets stuck on a sandbar and starts breaking apart. Everyone on the ship works together to get to shore, and just as Paul said, all the people on board make it safely to an island called Malta. Paul keeps trusting God, telling everyone that they will be alright. They were all brought to land safely as Paul trusted in Jesus. He kept the faith even when things were hard and scary!

Finish the Race (Acts 28:16-31)

Paul finally arrives in Rome after a long and difficult journey. Even though he is a prisoner, he is allowed to live in a house with a guard instead of being in a regular jail. Paul invites the Jewish leaders in Rome to visit him and tells them all about Jesus and how he fulfills the promises in the Scriptures. Some of them believe Paul, but others do not. Paul explains that God's message is also for everyone, and many people come to hear him talk about God's Kingdom and Jesus. Paul stays in Rome for two years, living in his rented house, and continues to preach and teach about Jesus boldly and without any hindrance. Paul finishes the race well. He continues to preach Jesus through all his days.

**Review Questions:**

* What do these stories tell us about Jesus?
* What does this story tell us about our lives?
* What is one thing you are taking away from this?
* Ask them if they can recite our theme verse for the weekend! **“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith**.” 2 Tim 4:7 CSB

**Closing Prayer:** God, we pray that we may have the courage to live for you like Paul. Thank you, God, for loving us and sending Jesus to die for us. Thank You for the lessons that the stories of Noah and Joshua teach us and for Your never-ending love and grace. We pray all of this in Jesus' name. Amen

**“***For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” -Luke 19:10*Paul had a life-changing encounter with Jesus. He changed Paul’s life. God wants everyone to believe in Him so that they can be new creations and follow Him. Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave to pay the price for our sin (anything we think, say, or do that displeases God). When we believe that, repent (turn away), and follow Him—Jesus will change our lives and make us new!