

# PAUL'S THIRD JOURNEY

ACTS 19:8-12, 20:28-30

## LEARN THE WORD

### Ephesians 4:4-6

*There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

- Paul taught the word of God in Ephesus for over two years. Both Jews and Gentiles heard the truth, and many believed.
- Paul met with the leaders from Ephesus to warn them about false teachers. He called them fierce wolves who would come in and twist the truth of the Gospel.

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

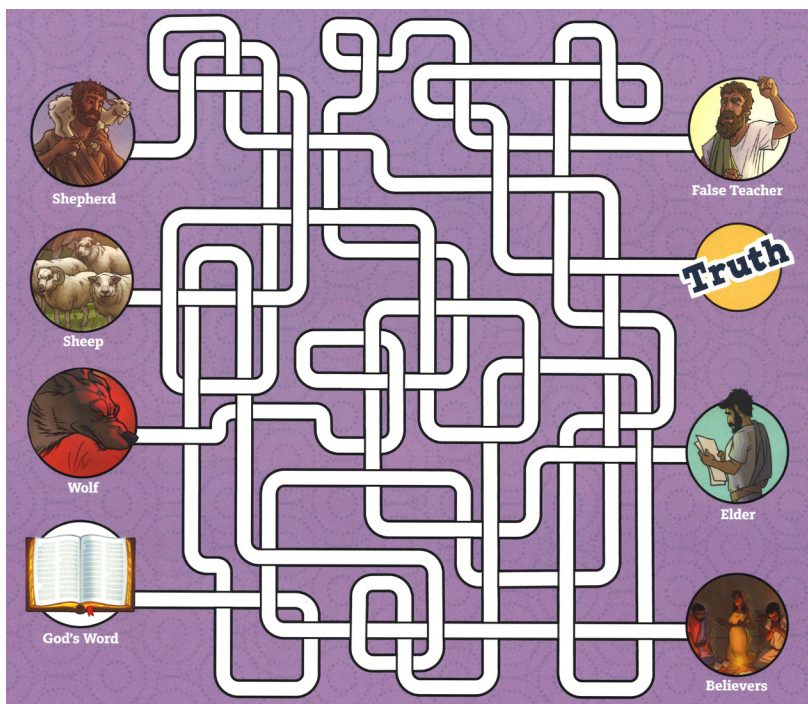
## OUTWORD FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION

Suppose you heard a friend say it is easy to know God's truth from the lies of a false teacher.

### What could you say?

*I'm not so sure it's as easy as you think! After all, the Bible tells us that Paul and the other apostles warned the believers about false teachers and told them to keep growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. That might sound simple, but it takes time to read the Bible, study it, and memorize it. It's easier to do things like watch TV, play video games, and hang out with friends. It takes discipline to go to church regularly to worship and learn about God every week. It's easier to sleep in and relax on Sundays. It takes concentration and study to determine if what teachers in church, school, and the media say really line up with what God says. It takes time and effort to know God's Word, but it is worth it to be able to recognize the truth from lies.*

**Activity:** Paul warned the leaders of the church to beware of false teachers that would try to make the believers turn from God's truth. He used the picture of a shepherd, sheep, and wolves to help them understand. Follow the paths to match up these pictures with what they stood for.



## HOMESWORD FOR PARENTS

Paul's third missionary journey occurred sometime around AD 54-58. On this journey, Paul traveled about 2,700 miles by land and sea. This is about the same distance as traveling from Los Angeles, California, to Washington, DC. But all of Paul's travel was done on foot or by boat!

The key stop on this third missionary journey was Ephesus. Paul first preached in the synagogue for three months, where he reasoned with and persuaded the Jews concerning the things of the kingdom of God. But many of the Jews were hardened to the things Paul spoke about. They did not believe God's message of salvation, and they spoke evil about the Christians. Because of this, Paul went to the hall of Tyrannus where he continued to teach and proclaim Jesus Christ for two years (Acts 19:8-10).

During his time in Ephesus, Paul's teaching ministry attracted people from all over the region so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks (Acts 19:10). As Paul persevered in his obedience and loyalty to Jesus Christ, the word of the Lord increased and prevailed (Acts 19:20).

Paul later spoke to the Ephesian elders in the nearby city of Miletus (Acts 20:17). He was aware that more trials, chains, and tribulations awaited him. But he assured the Ephesian elders that his heart's desire was to finish the race the Lord had given to him with joy and to continue to testify to the Gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:23-24). Paul warned the Ephesians of false teachers (Acts 20:29), and he commended them to God and to the word of His grace (Acts 20:32).