

# MEET JULIUS

FROM PHILIPPINES

## BIBLE TRUTH:

God wants to use you right where you are.

## KEY VERSE:

"I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel."

Philippians 1:12 (ESV®)



## NOTES FOR THE TEACHER:

As you prepare for this "GO Reach Kids" lesson about Julius and his home in the Philippines, here are a few ideas for adapting the experience to your particular situation:

- Prior to the lesson, make several "islands" on the floor of the room by taping pieces of construction paper around the room for the "Focus on the Nations" activity. You should have enough sheets so that every 5-6 kids will have their own island.
- In the "Focus on the Bible" section we provide a Bible story based on the Bible truth and the key verse. You might consider extending the study over two weeks with the first week looking at the "Focus on the Nations" emphasis and the second week studying the "Focus on the Bible" information. If you decide to split the lesson over two weeks, make sure to emphasize the Bible truth and the key verse in both lessons.

# PHILIPPINES FUN FACTS

- The capital of the Philippines is Manila.
- The Philippines make up an archipelago, also known as an island chain. The country includes more than 7,000 individual islands.
- The Philippines basically have two seasons: a cooler dry season from October through June and a warmer wet season the rest of the year.
- The Philippines produce more coconuts than any other nation in the world. It's also known for exporting other tropical fruit, like mangos and pineapples.
- The Philippine currency is known as the Philippine peso.
- The population of the Philippines is almost 107 million, making it the 13th most populous nation in the world.
- Many Filipinos speak a form of Tagalog, but English is also an official language—making it the third largest English-speaking nation in the world, behind the United States and England.
- The Philippines were a Spanish colony for almost 400 years before becoming a U.S. territory in 1898. The Filipinos gained their complete independence in 1946.
- The Philippines are the home of more than 200 volcanoes.

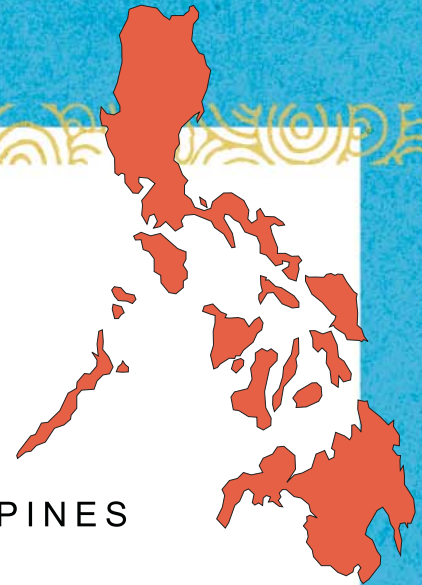
- In addition to the core lesson, we also provide some optional activities. Feel free to use these as time allows. They also make fun pre-class activities or can keep kids engaged as a wrap-up to the lesson.
- The PowerPoint slides we have provided can help you during the “Focus on the Nations” piece of the activity. These extra tools can enhance the learning experience.
- We have provided a downloadable parent handout related to this lesson. Simply make copies of the handout and distribute them to your parents.

### **1. Focus on the Nations (About 5 minutes)**

To start today’s lesson, group the kids into teams of 5-6. Assign each group one of the “islands” scattered around the room. Explain that each team will have two minutes to figure out how to get every person in their group standing on their island of paper at the same time. Emphasize that while team members can stand on one foot or even their tiptoes, no body parts are allowed to touch the floor. Everything touching the ground must be on the island.

Give the kids two minutes to complete the task and see how they do with it. Congratulate the groups who are able to complete the task and talk about what made the job so difficult.

Let the group know that today’s video focuses on a boy named Julius who lives in an island nation called the Philippines. Show the PowerPoint slide of the map of the Philippines and its flag. Review the



## **PHILIPPINES**

“Fun Facts” PowerPoint slides to prepare for today’s video.

### **2. Focus on the Video (About 10 minutes)**

Show the video of Julius telling his story.

After the video, allow several children to share some things that stuck out to them.

Talk about how Julius had to leave his home in Manila, but he still believed God wanted to use him in his new home. Emphasize that God has a plan for each of us and that He wants to use us right where we are.

Write the following on the board or a large sheet of paper: How can God use me? Divide the kids into four teams and assign each group one of the following: home, school, friends, and church. Encourage them to make a list of all the ways God can use them in the place they have been assigned. After a few minutes, allow volunteers from each team to report on their team’s responses.

Point out that even when we might prefer to be somewhere else, doing something else, God still wants to use us. Direct attention to today’s Bible Truth: “God wants to use you right where you are.”

Encourage the kids to look for ways God wants to use them every day in every situation.

### **3. Focus on the Bible: Paul Under Arrest**

Ask kids to think about some places where it would be difficult to believe God wants to use them. Discuss their responses. If it's not mentioned, suggest that it might be hard to believe God would use us if we were in jail.

Point out that the apostle Paul was a great preacher and that God used him in a lot of different ways to share the gospel. But not everyone liked his preaching. Sometimes, his preaching even landed him in jail. Share that once he was arrested in the city of Rome and spent about two years under house arrest—which means he couldn't come and go as he pleased and he was always under the guard of a Roman soldier. Ask the kids how they would feel if they were in Paul's situation.

Tell the kids that while Paul wasn't completely free, he could write letters. One letter he wrote during that time went to his friends in the Philippian church. Explain that he used part of this letter—what we now call the Book of Philippians—to encourage his friends and to let them know that God was using him even though he was under arrest.

Read Philippians 1:12-14. Talk about Paul's attitude and how he believed God was using him—even though he wasn't free. Acknowledge that it's unlikely that any of the kids will find themselves in jail for talking about Jesus, but they will face situations where they might wonder if God has a plan for them. Remind them that God does want to use them for His glory—right where they are.

### **4. Focus on the Key Verse: Philippians 1:12**

Prior to class, write the words of today's key verse on the board or on a large sheet of paper. Encourage them to read the key verse aloud with you two or three times: "I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel" (Philippians 1:12).

Divide the kids into groups of four or five. Instruct each group to create some hand motions for the words in the verse. Explain that they will use the hand motions to help the rest of the kids memorize the key verse. Let them know that they will have three minutes to create their motions.

After the time is up, allow each team to go through their hand motions. Encourage the other students to perform the motions along with the teams, saying the verse aloud each time. When every group is done, direct the kids to say the verse aloud one more time. Challenge them to look for ways God can use them to advance the gospel right where they are this week.

### **OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

#### ***"Focus on the Video" Activity: Island hopping***

Prior to the lesson, identify several True/False questions related to the story of Julius on the video and the Fun Facts for the Philippines. Also, use masking tape to create a starting line and a finish line for two or three teams. Divide the kids into teams and instruct each team to pick out one volunteer to serve as an "island hopper."



Explain that you will be asking each team True/False questions based on the video and today's Fun Facts about the Philippines. If a team gets the answer correct, their island hopper can take one hop toward the finish line. If the team gets the answer wrong, the hopper has to stay put. The object of the game is for each team to get its island hopper across the finish line as quickly as possible.

Alternate questions among the teams and let the hoppers go. Congratulate the team that gets its hopper across the finish line first.

**FOCUS ON THE HOME:  
DIG DEEPER  
(DOWNLOADABLE HANDOUT)**

*For the Parents*

During this week's GO lesson your children learned about a boy named Julius, who lives in the Philippines. Julius' family once lived in Manila, but they had to move because the government said their area wasn't safe anymore. When Julius' family arrived

at their new home, they realized that no church was ministering to the community. So, Julius and some others decided to start an Awana club themselves. His story reminds us that God wants to use us right where we are. To learn more about Julius, you can view his story at [awana.org/stories](http://awana.org/stories). You also can use these questions to start the conversation with your kids about what they learned from Julius and how they can discover how God wants to use them each day:

- How would you feel if you had to move from your home the way Julius did? How did Julius respond to his situation?
- What are some things that might have kept Julius from ministering to the kids in his community? When have you felt like God wanted to use you in a strange situation?
- Julius said he hoped his ministry would make a difference long after he had grown up and moved away. Why is that important? How do you think focusing on the future kept him going when he might have wanted to quit?



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to use us right where we are.

### *Family Activity: Grow Where You're Planted*

One of the Fun Facts your child learned about the Philippines is that Filipinos grow a lot of tropical fruit, like coconuts, mangos, and pineapples. The tropical climate of the Philippines makes it easier to grow those kinds of plants.

Talk with your child about the kinds of crops that grow well in your area. Talk about flowers and other plants that thrive in your climate. Take your kid to a local store or nursery and buy two plants that will do well in your area. Encourage your child to take care of one of the plants and to give the other plant away as a gift to brighten someone's day. Challenge your family to use the plant as a reminder that God has a purpose for us and wants to use us right where we are. He wants us to grow where we're planted.



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