



UNIT 35 | SESSION 3

PAUL WAS SENT TO ROME

ACTS 24-26

CHRIST CONNECTION

Because Jesus has the power to save people from sin, Paul was willing to do whatever it took to share the gospel.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Why should we praise Jesus? We should praise Jesus for all He has done for us.

MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 25:1



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

The story of Paul's time in Caesarea seemed to be long, drawn out, and hopeless. Even still, the apostle was not without hope, with which he proclaimed the good news of Jesus before the governor and king — just as Jesus prophesied of His followers in Matthew 10:18.

How does Paul establish the credibility of his faith in Jesus here at his tribunal? What does he declare to be his hope, even now as a prisoner under the threat of death by his own people?

Paul spent much of this time laying out his testimony, beginning with his blamelessness through the lens of the Jewish law, as well as his continued worship of the same God as his Jewish ancestors. As he stood before King Agrippa and Queen Bernice, the military commanders, and prominent men of the city, he laid out the hope of God's people since the beginning and how Jesus' life, death, and resurrection served as the fulfillment of their long-awaited grand hope.

It seemed apparent to the king that, after years of incarceration, this prisoner had finally received an opportunity to defend his freedom before these great men of power. However, rather than deflecting from his intended message for the sake of his freedom, Paul chose to extend a gospel presentation. The king asked if he was really going to present the case of Christ so easily, and Paul's response was that he desired all those individuals present before him to receive the same gift of salvation that applies to all — no matter their worldly status.

Paul never wavered in his boasting of Christ and His resurrection, nor did he allow the terrible circumstances of his imprisonment to color his belief in the worthiness of his Lord. Consider the faith this man had in believing Jesus' promises amidst his hardship. How can you shine that same light as you teach of Paul's courage and perseverance in his eternal hope in Jesus? Teach the boys and girls in your group about the boldness of Paul in response to the faithfulness of Jesus.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Festus: the successor of Felix as procurator of Judea (Acts 24:27). He assumed this office at Nero's appointment in A.D. 60. He held it until his death in A.D. 62.



PAUL WAS SENT TO ROME

Paul had narrowly escaped death in Jerusalem. The Jews planned to kill Paul, but the Roman soldiers took him to Caesarea (cess uh REE uh), where he would be safe. However, Paul was still a prisoner. The Roman leaders wanted to figure out why the Jews hated Paul so much. So Paul met with rulers to try to explain what was going on.

First, Paul met with Felix the governor. Felix ordered the Roman guard to watch Paul but to also give him some freedom by letting Paul's friends come and serve him. A few days later, Felix and his wife came for a meeting with Paul. Paul talked about faith in Jesus. He talked about righteousness and self-control, and he explained that one day God is going to judge the world. Felix was afraid of what Paul said. He sent Paul away, but he met with him many times for the next two years. When a new governor came into power, Felix did not release Paul from prison.

The new governor was named Festus. He traveled to Jerusalem to meet with the Jewish leaders. The Jewish leaders asked Festus to bring Paul to Jerusalem. They were still planning to attack Paul and kill him. But Festus wanted Paul to stay in Caesarea. He invited some of the Jewish leaders to go with him to see Paul.

Paul stood before Festus. "I haven't done anything wrong," Paul explained again. "I want to see Caesar!" Caesar was the emperor of Rome, and as a Roman citizen, Paul had the right to take his case to him. Festus agreed.

While Paul was waiting to go to Rome, King Agrippa and Queen Bernice visited Festus and Paul. Paul told the king how he became a believer. He explained that Jesus died and rose again to bring salvation to Jews and Gentiles.

"You are out of your mind!" Festus said.

Paul said, "I am speaking the truth. I wish you — and everyone who is listening — might believe in Jesus."

King Agrippa, Festus, and the others with them got up. They agreed that Paul had done nothing wrong. The king was ready to free Paul, but Paul had already asked to go to Rome.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God chose Paul to take the gospel to Gentiles, kings, and the Israelites. Paul met with people again and again to tell the good news about Jesus. He wanted everyone to believe that Jesus is Lord. **Because Jesus has the power to save people from sin, Paul was willing to do whatever it took to share the gospel.**

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group.

Before heading to Large Group, kids can work on the provided coloring or activity pages. You can also do the Memory Verse Activity below as a class!

MEMORY VERSE

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

- Isaiah 25:1, ESV

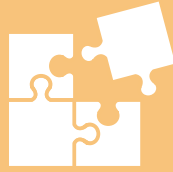
MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

We started a new unit two weeks ago, so we're still learning our new memory verse! Our verse for July, written above, is Isaiah 25:1.

Have kids stand in a circle and give one a ball. Have them say the first word of the memory verse and pass the ball to another kid. The one that catches the ball says the next word in the verse and then passes the ball to someone else.

Continue until the entire verse has been said! Make it a challenge by seeing how fast the class can complete the verse. *Optional: if the weather is nice, do this activity outside!*

K12 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with younger kids after Large Group

ACTIVITY #1

Get the provided plastic wrap ball and invite kids to sit in a large circle. Choose one kid to begin and direct them to pull off a piece of the plastic wrap ball. After they pull off a piece have them hand the ball to the person next to them. That kid will then pull off a piece of plastic wrap and hand it to the next person.

Continue around the circle until the center prizes are revealed. As kids are playing, emphasize the importance of having to wait to see what's in the middle.

When the center is revealed, evenly distribute the prizes to each kid. If they get candy, do not let them eat it until they are picked up.

CONNECT THE DOTS



It took patience to wait for the surprise inside the plastic wrap. Sometimes it can be hard to wait, especially if you're going through a hard time or have a really exciting event ahead. We saw today that Paul had to wait in prison until he was able to go to Rome, but he still trusted God and shared the gospel while he waited.

CONNECT THE DOTS



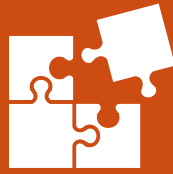
The words you provided made each sentence true. Any other word would make those sentences false. In our story today, we saw that some people thought Paul was crazy and wasn't speaking the truth. But we know that Paul only spoke the truth and wanted the people to believe in Jesus.

ACTIVITY #2

Direct kids to finish each sentence below with a word that makes the sentence true. Come up with your own sentences to continue the activity.

- The Creator of the world is _____. (*God*)
- The answer to $2 + 2$ is _____. (*four*)
- Red and yellow make the color _____. (*orange*)
- The only person to never sin is _____. (*Jesus*)
- There are seven days in a _____. (*week*)
- The biggest land animal is the _____. (*elephant*)
- When we put our faith in Jesus, we receive the _____. (*Holy Spirit*)

345 ACTIVITIES



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CONNECT THE DOTS



You all searched for the shoe with the red sticker and were excited when you found it. Jesus came to seek and save those who are lost in their sin. When we follow His example, like Paul did, we show our hearts have been changed by God's grace.

ACTIVITY #2

Divide kids into two teams (*or collaborate with another class and compete against them*). Have kids take off one of their shoes and toss it in a pile. Tell kids to close their eyes.

While their eyes are closed, choose one shoe, and place a red sticker on its sole. Bury the shoe back in the pile. Then, lead kids to open their eyes and have them search for the shoe with the red sticker. Award a point to the team that finds the shoe. Repeat for as long as time allows. The team with the most points wins!

When you're done, read *Matthew 9:35-38* and *Luke 15:4-6*. Discuss how Jesus is the Shepherd who has compassion on those who are lost. Point out that in *Acts 26:28-29*, Paul displayed the heart of Jesus for those who are not saved.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids while they wait to be picked up

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

After Large Group, ask the following questions and lead your class to discuss.

1. Why do you think Paul wasn't afraid to keep sharing the gospel even in prison?
2. Paul shared the gospel with his enemies and even those in authority over him. Would this be difficult for you? Why?
3. Why do you think not everyone believes in Jesus?
4. Felix was afraid when he heard God was going to judge the world. Do we need to fear God's judgment if we follow Jesus?
5. Paul met with Felix over and over again and shared the gospel with him. Should we ever give up sharing Jesus with others? Why?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

Go to the Leader Folder on one of the TVs in your classroom. (*Hit the back button until you see it.*) There, you'll find games and activities to do with your class!



BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins
2. Clean all trash off the tables
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in holder
5. Turn off TVs as you leave

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!