



UNIT 35 | SESSION 3

## PAUL WAS SENT TO ROME

ACTS 24-26

### CHRIST CONNECTION

God wants all people to know and love Jesus.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION

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

### MEMORY VERSE

Lord, I will praise Your name. 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.

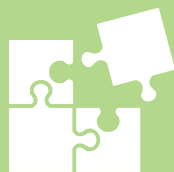
It seemed apparent to the king that, after years of incarceration, this prisoner had finally received an opportunity to defend his freedom before these great men of power. However, rather than deflecting from his intended message for the sake of his freedom, Paul chose to extend a gospel presentation. 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.

# OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities

## WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

### ACTIVITY #1: FOLLOW THE LEADER

Choose a child to lead the other children in doing actions such as jumping, turning around, waving, clapping hands and so forth.

After a few minutes, change to a new leader. Encourage all the children to do the actions together and follow the leader.

### CONNECT THE DOTS



Good job following the leader! Paul had the opportunity to meet and talk to several important leaders. Paul did what the leaders told him to do but most importantly, he told them about Jesus. He wanted them to know that Jesus died to bring salvation to all people. He wanted them to know that one day God is going to judge the world.

### CONNECT THE DOTS



We had fun making play dough people! Real people need to know about Jesus. In our story, Paul talked to people everywhere about Jesus! When he was in prison, he talked to the people in prison. When he saw important people, he told them about Jesus. Everywhere Paul went, he told the people that Jesus has the power to save all people from their sins.

### ACTIVITY #2: PLAY DOUGH PEOPLE

Give each child a ball of play dough and encourage them to make a play dough person.

Talk about the people they're making. Encourage children to name their play dough people or describe who they are.

# CRAFT & EXAMPLE



Help children with a craft connected to the Bible story

## CONNECT THE DOTS



Do you remember the name of the king that Paul talked to in our story? His name was Agrippa and he was the king of Judah. Paul told King Agrippa that Jesus died so believers could be saved. He also said that everyone who was listening should believe! King Agrippa did not think that Paul had done anything wrong but he sent him to Rome because he had asked to go there. Even today, everyone needs to hear about Jesus and believe!

## CRAFT: CREATE A KING

**Supplies:** king template, tissue paper, glue, jewel stickers, markers/crayons

Give each child a king template and the provided decorating supplies. Talk about how a king would dress. Comment that a king might have a gold crown or scepter and fancy clothes.

Encourage children to use the paper, glue, stickers, and markers/crayons to decorate their picture of a king. Say that long ago, purple cloth was very expensive and only rich people like a king would have purple clothes.

God wants all people to know and love Jesus, even Kings  
Acts 24-26





## PREPARE

Open your Bible to **Acts 24-26** and tell the following story.

## PAUL WAS SENT TO ROME

Paul was in prison, but he was safe. A group of Jews had tried to hurt him. Many leaders wanted to figure out why people were angry with Paul.

First, Paul met with Felix, the governor. Paul talked about faith in Jesus. Paul said that one day God is going to judge the world.

Felix was afraid of what Paul said. He sent Paul away. For two years, Paul stayed in prison. Then a new governor came, and his name was Festus. Festus met with Paul and Paul said, "I have not done anything wrong. I want to see Caesar!" Caesar was the emperor of Rome. Festus agreed.

Before Paul went to Rome, Agrippa — king of Judea — came to visit. Paul told the king about how he became a believer. He told the king that Jesus died to bring salvation to Jews and Gentiles.

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

The king and other leaders did not think Paul had done anything wrong. But Paul asked to go to Rome, so they sent him there.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

God chose Paul to tell all kinds of people — even kings! — about Jesus. Paul wanted everyone to believe that Jesus is Lord. Jesus has the power to save people from sin.

# SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning

## SNACK & DISCUSSION

**Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions and retell parts of the Bible story as needed.**

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. Did everyone believe the message Paul shared about Jesus?
4. Why should we praise Jesus? We should praise Jesus for all He has done for us.

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible story coloring page or activity page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

## BEFORE YOU GO...

**Please clean up by doing the following:**

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant
2. Spot sweep if needed
3. Return toys to closet, close door
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room
5. Return storage cubes to **Room 108**

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**