

UNIT 35 | SESSION 5

PAUL PREACHED IN ROME

ACTS 28

CHRIST CONNECTION

Paul continued to share the gospel even when people disagreed.

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

Acts 28 finished out the nearly 30-year saga of Acts on a high note: Paul, by God's grace, was able to carry out two years of faithful ministry there in the great city of Rome. Despite the troublesome circumstances surrounding his entry and reputation before the Romans, God proved Himself faithful and demonstrated the power of His gospel.

How, through the book of Acts, might we glean a deeper understanding of God's work in the lives of His followers? What does Acts 28 teach us about God's kingdom?

This incredible book of the Bible detailed the earliest days of the church and how the Holy Spirit has remained at work in His people's lives, just as Christ promised. Here in the final chapter of Acts, we see the continued example of Paul's reliance on the Holy Spirit as he ministered to and healed those on the island of Malta, as well as his years spent boldly proclaiming the gospel to all who visited him amidst his imprisonment.

Against all odds, the apostle found himself in the city where not even a shipwreck, false accusation, or snakebite could impede his arrival or ministry. Paul's story in Acts ends with him being found faithful despite all that was stacked against him. Yet even his own faithfulness pales in comparison to the faithfulness of the God who called him on this mission.

Luke set the context for this book in chapter 1, when he stated that the resurrected Christ appeared to His people and spoke about the kingdom of God, promising His Spirit to them as they witnessed to the world. We see Paul exemplify this Spirit-filled life on mission as a witness, declaring the truth of God's kingdom to all who'd listen — from slaves to kings. May we, too, be the witnesses we're called to be, especially to the boys and girls entrusted to us through these sessions centered around His love.

EVENTS TO KNOW

Paul Preached in Rome: Like the risen Christ on the road to Emmaus, Paul showed how both the Law of Moses and the Prophets pointed to Jesus as God's Messiah.



PAUL PREACHED IN ROME

Paul stayed on the island of Malta for three months after the ship he was on wrecked while traveling to Rome. Paul healed people who were sick and shared the good news about Jesus with them. The people on the island were grateful for Paul's help. Finally, Paul and other prisoners got on another ship and continued their journey to Rome.

When the ship arrived in Rome, many people came to meet Paul. He was still a prisoner, but instead of going to jail, Paul was allowed to live by himself in a house. A soldier stayed with him to guard him.

On his third day in Rome, Paul asked the Jewish leaders to come talk to him. Paul told them, "I haven't done anything wrong. The Jews made me a prisoner in Jerusalem and handed me over to the Romans. The Romans wanted to let me go free, but the Jews objected. So I had to ask to speak to Caesar, the most important ruler in Rome. Still, I haven't done anything wrong."

The Jewish leaders had not heard any reports about Paul doing wrong, but they wanted to hear more about what he believed. They did know that Paul was a Christian, and they knew that many people did not agree with the teachings of people called Christians.

So the leaders agreed on a day to meet with Paul. On that day, even more leaders came to hear what Paul had to say. Paul taught all day about God's kingdom. He pointed to the Scriptures — the Law and the Old Testament prophets — to explain that Jesus is the Messiah. Some of the Jewish leaders agreed with Paul, but others didn't.

For two whole years, Paul stayed in the house and welcomed everyone who wanted to hear about Jesus. He talked about God's kingdom and about Jesus. He shared the good news of salvation. Many people listened to Paul's words and believed in Jesus. Some were Jews, and others were not. The people were filled with joy and hope because they found new life in Jesus.

Paul never stopped teaching about Jesus. Even while he was a prisoner, he wrote letters to different churches to encourage them and remind them about God's love. Paul helped people and prayed for them. He trusted in God, and the good news spread throughout Rome and beyond.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Being a prisoner in Rome did not stop Paul from sharing his faith. **He continued to share the gospel even when people disagreed.** The message about Jesus seems foolish to some, but everyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved.

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

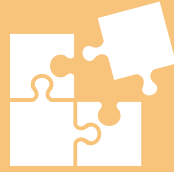
It's Bible Bucks Day!

Today, kids can share the scripture(s) they've memorized with our Bible Bucks leader. This can be the memory verse you've been working on with them in the classroom or other scripture they have memorized at home on their own.

The Bible Bucks Leader will come to each classroom throughout the morning.



K12 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with younger kids after Large Group

ACTIVITY #1

Tape the provided “place cards” around the room (*spread out along the walls*). Have kids pick a place and stand in that area.

Roll the dice to randomly pick a location. If kids are in the place that the dice roll on, they’re out. Have the remaining kids move to a new location and continue until only one is left.

Pro tip: Make the game fun and silly by having kids jump, skip, crawl, etc. to new locations. To keep them engaged in the game, kids that are out can also roll the dice.

CONNECT THE DOTS



These places are familiar. We have neighborhoods, schools, stores, parks and more in our community. You probably go to many of these places during the week! Any place we find ourselves, we can share the gospel. We saw in today’s lesson that Paul shared the gospel even while under house arrest!

CONNECT THE DOTS



It would have been a lot easier to run the race if you were free from being tied to your partner. Today’s story taught us that Paul was under house arrest in Rome, and he wasn’t free to go where he wanted. He had to be guarded by a Roman soldier at all times. But Paul didn’t let that stop him from sharing the gospel!

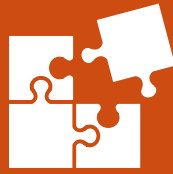
ACTIVITY #2

Use the provided painters tape to create three starting lines on the floor. Place three cones at the opposite end of the room.

Have kids pair up and give each pair a bandana. Help kids secure their legs together for a three-legged race. Let the teams take turns racing down the room/hall.

For an added challenge, have the winners of each race step aside and race each other until only one team is left standing!

345 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games
with older kids after
Large Group

ACTIVITY #1

Give each kid one of the provided index cards, but don't let them see what it says! Instead, have them place the card on their forehead.

Have kids go around to others and get hints as to what they are. For example, a kid may say "your card is a book", or "your card is a person". Once a kid correctly guesses their card, they win and can continue to give hints to others.

CONNECT THE DOTS



You all had to tell each other truths about your cards so you could know what word was on it. In today's story, we saw how people came to Paul and wanted him to tell them what he believed. Paul told the truth about Jesus and about the good news.

CONNECT THE DOTS



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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. If someone came to you and asked you about Jesus, what would you tell them?
2. Is sharing the gospel always easy or comfortable? Why?
3. How can we respond if people don't believe in Jesus when we share about Him?
4. We've learned a lot about Paul's life recently! What's something you've learned about Paul that can help you trust God more?
5. Those who believed in Jesus in the Bible were filled with joy and hope. If you believe in Jesus, how has He filled you with joy and hope?

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!