

UNIT 35 | SESSION 5

## PAUL PREACHED IN ROME

ACTS 28

### CHRIST CONNECTION

Paul shared the good news that Jesus saves sinners.

### 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

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.

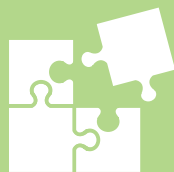
Against all odds, the apostle found himself in the city where not even a shipwreck, false accusation, or snakebite could impede his arrival or ministry. Paul's story in Acts ends with him being found faithful despite all that was stacked against him. Yet even his own faithfulness pales in comparison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

# 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: DESIGN A HOUSE

Have children use the blocks in your classroom to design a house. As they build, tell children that after his first ship wrecked, Paul got on another one and went to Rome.

Share that even though Paul was still a prisoner, he was able to live in a house. Remind children that we can tell people who visit our houses about Jesus!

### CONNECT THE DOTS



While Paul lived in a house, a soldier stayed with him to guard him. The guard let people visit so Paul could talk to them. Paul told the Jewish leaders about Jesus and some of them believed. Paul kept sharing even though some people did not like what he said. Paul lived in the house for two years and many people heard about Jesus. Paul spread the good news of Jesus in Rome and beyond.

### CONNECT THE DOTS



Good job using your thumbs to show the things you like and don't like! It would be scary to be on a boat during the storm and to be a prisoner. Paul trusted God's promise to keep everyone safe though! God keeps his promises!

### ACTIVITY #2: THUMBS UP

Show children how to do thumbs up for things they like and thumbs down for things they don't like. Ask about some preschool things such as ice cream, riding bikes, skinning their knee, a hug from Mom, eating squash, and so forth.

Then, ask several questions related to the story, such as: *"Would you like to ride on a boat?"* *"Would you like to be on a boat in a big storm?"* *"Would you want to stay on the boat when it was breaking apart?"* *"Would you like to swim to shore?"* and *"Would you like to be safe on the shore?"*.

# CRAFT & EXAMPLE



Help children with a craft connected to the Bible story

## CONNECT THE DOTS



Paul had heard many stories about Jesus and the miracles that Jesus did. Paul probably told the people who visited him many of those stories. Paul told his visitors that angry people had Jesus killed on a cross. But then Paul told them the good news: Jesus did not stay dead! He came back to life and is alive today. He forgave our sins and one day, we will be in heaven with Him. Suggest that the children show the cross on their paper to their family members and tell them that Jesus is alive.

## CRAFT: COLORFUL CROSS

**Supplies:** paper, masking tape, paint, aprons

Give each child an apron to wear, a piece of paper, and painting supplies. Lay two long strips of masking tape on each child's paper and place two short strips of masking tape across them to make a cross shape on the paper.

Guide children to color the entire page with paint, being careful not to move the tape cross. When children finish decorating the paper, help them gently pull off the masking tape to leave a white cross showing in the center of their paper.





## PREPARE

Open your Bible to **Acts 28** and tell the following story.

## PAUL PREACHED IN ROME

Paul spent three months on an island after the ship he was on wrecked on the way to Rome. Finally, Paul got onto another ship and went to Rome. 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, and people came to Paul's house to visit.

One day, Paul asked the Jewish leaders to talk to him. Paul said, "The Romans wanted to let me go, but the Jews did not want to. So I came to speak to the most important ruler in Rome. I haven't done anything wrong!"

The Jewish leaders wanted to hear more about Paul and what he believed. They knew Paul was a Christian and that many people did not agree with his teachings. So the leaders agreed on a day to meet with Paul. Many leaders came to hear Paul teach about God's kingdom. Paul explained who Jesus is. Jesus is God's Son who came to save people from their sins! Some of the Jewish leaders agreed with Paul, but others did not agree.

Paul stayed in the house as a prisoner for two years. He welcomed everyone who wanted to hear about Jesus. He talked about God's kingdom and about Jesus. He shared the good news that Jesus saves sinners. Many people listened to Paul's words and believed in Jesus. Paul helped people and prayed for them. He trusted in God, and the good news spread throughout Rome and beyond.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Paul told others about Jesus even when he was a prisoner. He kept sharing the good news even when people disagreed. Not everyone believed Paul, but everyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved.

# 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. What did Paul do while he was a prisoner in Rome?
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!**