

UNIT 35 | SESSION 5

PAUL PREACHED IN ROME

ACTS 28

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Paul told others about Jesus even when he was a prisoner. He kept sharing the good news even when people disagreed. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

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

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:

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.



PREPARE

YOUR HEART TO TEACH

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Wherever we go

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ globe
- ☐ Bibles with maps, several
- ☐ sticky notes
- ☐ log-shaped blocks
- ☐ people figures
- ☐ doll house furniture



LEARN

Introduce the Bible story

- ☐ gray paper chain, 2 feet long

Review the Bible story

- ☐ gray paper chain, 2 feet long (previous activity)

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker
- ☐ poster board or dry erase board



LOVE

Find letters

- ☐ dishpan
- ☐ shredded paper
- ☐ magnetic letters



LIVE

Sing praise songs

- ☐ song poster (session 1)

Missions Activity

- ☐ "Thailand Transportation Photos" printable, 1 copy

Snack and transition

- ☐ snacks
- ☐ Activity Page, 1 per child
- ☐ Big Picture Cards For Families, 1 per child



BONUS

Prayer chain

- ☐ gray paper chain, 2 feet long (previous activity)

Say the key passage phrase

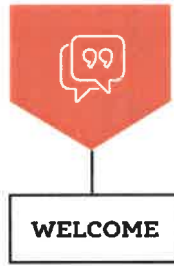
- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker

Build a city

- ☐ farm animals

Make a cross picture

- ☐ masking tape



Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

WELCOME

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

WHEREVER WE GO

Gather the globe and several Bibles with maps in them that have been used the last few weeks. Mark the maps of Paul's journeys with a sticky note bookmark. Add blocks that you don't use every week to the block area (such as plastic brick-shaped blocks or log shaped blocks). Add family figures and doll house furniture, if they are available. Post the big picture question poster near the entrance to the classroom at the preschoolers' eye level. Greet each child at the door as she enters. Guide her to use the blocks to build a house. Look at the globe and maps with her. Tell the child that in our story today, Paul is in Rome and is living in a house. Plan to save the maps and globe for the last session of this unit.

SAY *SS* Welcome to church today! I am always glad when you can come. Today we are talking about Paul. Paul is in Rome and he is living in a house. People visit him often and he tells them about Jesus. Paul praised Jesus for caring for him. We can praise Jesus, too. Jesus loves and cares for us! Our big picture question asks, **Why should we praise Jesus? We should praise Jesus for all He has done for us.** *SS*

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Worship Songs
* Light of the World.
* God is so good - CJ + Friends

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

As the children come to group time, comment that in our Bible story today, Paul was a prisoner. Say that Paul was able to live in a house but he had a soldier to guard him. Say that at times he may have had a metal chain around his arms or ankles to be sure he did not escape. Ask another adult to gently wrap a paper chain around the hands of the teacher telling the Bible story. Lay the open Bible in her lap so she can refer to it as she tells the story. Comment that the chain will remind us that Paul was a prisoner when this story happened.

SAY “ Oh, no! Did you see that I have a chain around my hands? The chain reminds us that Paul was in prison during our story today. Why was he in prison? Did he do something bad? No! He was in prison because he wanted to tell people about Jesus! Some of the leaders didn’t want him to talk about Jesus. But many people listened to what he said. Let’s listen to find out what happened. ”

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY *video*

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

PAUL PREACHED IN ROME

SAY “ Paul was on an island for three months after a shipwreck. 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 Paul to guard him, and people came to Paul’s house to visit.

One day, Paul asked the Jewish leaders to talk to him. The leaders knew Paul followed Jesus. They wanted to know more about what he believed. The leaders met with Paul, and Paul taught about God’s kingdom. Paul told them about who Jesus is. Some of the leaders liked what Paul said, but others did not like what he said.

Paul was a prisoner in the house for two years. He was happy to meet with people who came to hear about Jesus. Paul shared the good news that Jesus saves sinners. Many people 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. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Unwrap the chain from the teacher's arms. Write the name of someone you can tell about Jesus on each link of the paper chain.

SAY “ I wrote down names of people we can pray for and tell about Jesus. Paul was in prison and may have had chains on his arms and legs but he still found ways to tell people about Jesus! Many of the people Paul talked to believed in Jesus! Let’s think about people we know that need to know about Jesus. ”

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

“Praise, praise, praise the Lord.
We will praise the Lord.
Joyfully, joyfully, joyfully, joyfully.
Sing praise for all He’s done!”

* You are my God

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Isaiah 25:1. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Write the key passage phrase on a poster board or dry erase board. Let an older child point to each word as you say the key passage. Choose another child to point to the words as you say it again.

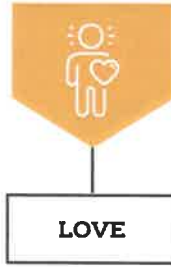
SAY “ We read our key passage together. Some of you are learning to read and can read some of these words! Reading the Bible is one way of praising God. ”

6 PRAY

Thank God that we can learn about Paul who was brave enough to tell people about God even when he was in prison. Ask God to help people today to be brave like Paul and tell others about Jesus.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 **MAKE A GOOD NEWS CARD**



Provide sheets of paper folded in half and washable markers for children to make a card to give to someone to tell them about Jesus. Write on each card, Good news! God sent Jesus because He loves us. Encourage the children to draw on the cards. Gather the cards to give to the church's food closet or other ministry and to be shared with patrons. (If that is not possible, send the cards home for children to give to someone. If the cards are going home, encourage parents to help the child to give them to a friend or family member.)

SAY You used lots of pretty colors on your cards! The people who come to our church and need food will get one of our cards and learn that God loves them. Paul went to many towns including Rome to tell people about God's love. We can tell people in our town about God's love.

2 **FIND LETTERS**

Fill a dishpan or other shallow tub halfway with shredded paper. Hide magnetic letters that spell Jesus and praise in the paper. Write Jesus and praise on strips of paper. Encourage children to dig in the shredded paper, find letters, and match them to the word strips. Read the words to the children and name the letters they still need to find. If you have plenty of letters, you could add words like love, worship, and tell.

SAY Good job! You found the letters for this word. It spells Jesus. Can you find the rest of the other word? It spells praise. Paul talked a lot about Jesus and he also praised Jesus for caring for him. Paul wanted to use every opportunity to tell people about Jesus so they could trust Him and praise Him, too.

3 **DESIGN A HOUSE**

Cut sheets of construction paper into different sized rectangles and triangles. Give each child a whole sheet of construction paper and encourage him to glue the shapes together to make a house. Comment that after the shipwreck, Paul got on another ship and went to Rome. Say that even though he was still a prisoner, he was able to live in a house. Comment that we can tell people who visit our houses about Jesus.

SAY While Paul lived in a house, a soldier stayed with him to guard him. The guard let people visit with Paul so Paul could talk to them. Paul told the Jewish leaders about Jesus and some of the leaders 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 throughout Rome and beyond.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 **SING PRAISE SONGS**

Let children take turns naming songs they like to sing at church. Use the poster from session 1 to remember songs. Let the child who names the song lead the group in singing. Choose a child to lead the key passage phrase. Continue the game letting other children name songs and lead the group or say the key passage phrase. Comment that singing and learning Bible verses are ways to praise God.

SAY “ Did Paul sing praise songs to worship God? He studied his Bible even before he learned about Jesus. The book of Psalms has many songs that the Jews sang to worship God. Paul probably sang those songs to worship God’s Son, Jesus. What is your favorite song to sing as we worship God at church? ”

2 **MISSIONS ACTIVITY**



Print and cut apart the “Thailand Transportation Photos” printable. Tape one picture in each corner of the room. Explain that there are several types of transportation in Thailand such as a tuk tuk (three-wheeled vehicle), skytrain, subway, and airplane. Lead preschoolers to play a four corners style game. Instruct preschoolers to stand in the middle of the room. Count to 10 while preschoolers go to a corner. Without looking up, call out either tuk tuk, subway, skytrain, or airplane. Preschoolers sitting in the corner with that picture should return to the center. The remaining preschoolers will choose another corner as you count and repeat the process. Continue play until only one child remains. Allow that child to be the new transportation caller and restart the game. Pray, thanking God for missionaries serving in Thailand.

SAY “ There are so many fun ways to travel in Thailand! While living in the United States, Jeri was a college professor. She took a group of college students on a mission trip to Thailand. Jeri wants to help connect students to what God is doing in Thailand and around the world. ”

3 **SNACK AND TRANSITION**



Post an allergy alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY “ Paul told others about Jesus even when he was a prisoner. He kept sharing the good news even when people disagreed. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved. ”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute the big picture cards for families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



BONUS

TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 INTRODUCTORY GROUP TIME ACTIVITY

As preschoolers join group time, ask them to name people that need to know about Jesus. If you have the chain from the first hour session, read the names on it and ask if there are other people the kids want to add to the chain links. Pray and ask God to help the people whose names are on the chain to learn about Jesus. Remind the children that even while he was in prison, Paul told people about Jesus!

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

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

PAUL PREACHED IN ROME

- Paul got onto a ship and went to Rome. He was still a prisoner, but instead of going to jail, Paul was allowed to live in a house. A soldier stayed with Paul, and people came to the house to visit Paul.
- One day, Paul met with the Jewish leaders. They wanted to know more about what Paul believed and why he followed Jesus.
- Paul taught the leaders about who Jesus is. Some of the leaders liked what Paul said, but others did not like what he said. For two years, people visited Paul and he told them that Jesus saves sinners. Many people believed in Jesus.
- Paul trusted in God, and the good news spread throughout Rome and beyond.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

“Praise, praise, praise the Lord.
We will praise the Lord.
Joyfully, joyfully, joyfully, joyfully.
Sing praise for all He’s done!”

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Isaiah 25:1 Ask children to name ways we can praise God. Prompt the children as needed to encourage them to say things like read the Bible, sing songs about Jesus, give an offering, tell others about Jesus, and come to church. Encourage the children to say the verse two or three times.

5 PRAY

Pray with the preschoolers that they will be reminded to praise God each day.



BONUS

TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 THUMBS UP



Show the 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?"

SAY "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!"

7 BUILD A CITY

Provide many blocks, farm animals, and tape for roads. Encourage children to work together to build a city. Guide them to make tape roads, barns and fences for the animals, and houses and stores. Remind the children that people in Rome still traveled in carts and by riding animals or walking.

SAY "Paul had asked to come to Rome to meet the emperor. Rome was a very big, very busy city! Paul lived there for two years. He talked to very many people. Paul shared the good news that Jesus saved sinners. Paul prayed for people and answered their questions. Paul was a missionary who helped spread the good news of Jesus death and resurrection."

8 MAKE A CROSS PICTURE

Lay two long strips of masking tape on a paper and place two short strips of masking tape across them to make a cross shape on the paper. Guide the children to color the entire page with crayons or markers, being careful not to move the tape cross. When the children finish coloring the paper, help them gently pull off the masking tape to leave a white cross showing in the center of their paper.

SAY "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. Since Jesus is alive, He can forgive 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."

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church's security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.