

# July 1, 2018 – World Changers

**Bible Story Focus:** Paul Before Rulers

Acts 24:22-27, 25:1-14, 26:24-32

**Memory Verse:** To me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21

**Main Point:** Paul preached about Jesus to rulers.

**Big Picture Question:** When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell about Jesus all the time.

## **Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)**

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

*Prepare to offer the following activities as Your 3-, 4-, or 5-year-olds arrive.*

1. Play a movement game

What you do: Encourage preschoolers to march like a soldier, salute like a commander, stand like a guard, walk like a king, wave like a queen, and so forth. Invite children to take turns leading the group.

What you SAY •When Paul was in prison, he saw soldiers and guards. He was also taken to talk to rulers and kings. The leaders wanted to learn whether Paul had done anything wrong. God chose Paul to tell all kinds of people about Jesus.

## **Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways**

*Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.*

### **Bible Story**

**What You Need:** Bible

#### **Introduce the Bible story**

What you do: Make several statements, some truthful and some untruthful. Instruct boys and girls to give a thumbs-up if they believe the statement is true and thumbs-down if the statement is not true.

What you SAY • Paul was taken before rulers who wanted to figure out why people were upset with him. Paul told the leaders he was telling the truth about Jesus.

Place a bookmark at Acts 24 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible is the most special book because it tells us the good news of Jesus. The stories we read in the Bible are true. Today's story is from the Book of Acts.

### **PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO – Paul Before Rulers**

Talk about the Bible story

SAY • Paul preached about Jesus to rulers. Even when people were against him, Paul did not stop. He wanted everyone to believe that Jesus is Lord. Paul believed Jesus has the power to save people from sin, and he was willing to do anything to share this good news.

Ask the following review questions:

1. Why was Paul in prison? (for preaching about Jesus)
2. Name some of the rulers Paul talked to. (Felix and his wife, Festus, King Agrippa and Bernice)
3. Whom did Paul say he wanted to see? (Caesar, the emperor of Rome)
4. What did Paul want all the rulers to believe? (that Jesus is Lord and has the power to save people from sin)
5. Did the leaders think that Paul had done anything wrong? (No, so they sent Paul to Rome.)

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Even when people were against him, Paul did not stop telling the good news about Jesus. When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell about Jesus all the time. We should tell others about Jesus too so that they can be saved from sin.

SAY • Paul was not afraid to tell anyone about Jesus—even kings. He was willing to do anything to share the gospel. Paul knew that if he died, he would be with Jesus. With Jesus is the best place anyone can be.

### **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

*Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or, offer two activities at once and allow half the kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.*

1. Play "Follow the Leader"

What you do: Form a single-file line. The first child in line is the leader. Preschoolers must follow the leader around the room imitating his actions. After a short amount of time, tell the leader to move to the back of the line. The person in the front of the line is the new leader. Continue play as time allows.

What you SAY • Leader is another word for ruler. Leaders, or rulers, are people in charge. Paul preached about Jesus to rulers in our Bible story today. He hoped they would turn from their sin and believe the truth about Jesus. Paul believed Jesus has the power to save people from sin, and he was willing to do anything to share this good news.

## 2 . Bible Story Coloring Page

### **Snack**

Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack. Talk about how Paul preached about Jesus to rulers like King Agrippa and the queen.

Pray for the children.

SAY • God, thank You for giving Jesus power to save us from sin. Make us like Paul so we will believe the good news about Jesus and be willing to do anything to share it with others. Amen.