



Paul Before Rulers

Bible Story: Paul Before Rulers, Acts 24:22-27

Bottom Line: Paul preached about Jesus to governors and kings.

Memory Verse: ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:20-21 NIV

Christ Connection: God had chosen Paul to take the gospel to Gentiles, kings, and the Israelites. (Acts 9:15-16) Paul met with people again and again to tell the good news about Jesus. He wanted everyone to believe that Jesus is Lord. Because Jesus has the power to save people from sin, Paul was willing to do whatever it took to share the gospel.

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Scribble pictures

What You Need: paper, pencils,

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to sit in a circle, around a table if possible.
- Provide each kid with a piece of paper and a pencil. Instruct the kids to make a quick squiggle or scribble shape on their paper, then pass it to their left.
- Each kid should now try to turn the scribble into a new picture of her own.
- Encourage kids to include the scribbled shape into their new drawings.

What You Say "At first, it might have looked like we were ruining perfectly good paper by scribbling on it, but when you passed the paper each of you found a way to turn someone's mess into a new picture. Today we will learn about a man named Paul and hear what God did to make his life beautiful, even in the midst of messy situations. "

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

GAME, SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

Game- Spin Doctor

What You Need: 20 dimes (10 for each player), video of rules, countdown clock

What You Do: Each player will spin 10 dimes, one at a time. They have to stop all the dimes in the upright position in 60 seconds.

What You Say: In this game you had to use great skill to stop a dime in motion. Do you think it took a lot for Paul to stop rulers and kings long enough to tell them about Jesus?

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

Today's Passage

²² Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. "When Lysias the commander comes," he said, "I will decide your case." ²³ He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs.

²⁴ Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁵ As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you." ²⁶ At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.

²⁷ When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison. **Acts 24:22-27**

Context:

Some of us have met famous people—musicians, politicians, athletes, or even actors. Sometimes when we meet people who are famous or powerful, we feel excited or nervous. We will learn today that even while Paul was a prisoner, he boldly spoke about Jesus to the religious leaders, governors, and kings. Their position of power didn't intimidate Paul because he believed that God is the most powerful.

Last week, we learned that Paul was arrested for telling people about Jesus. Paul had dedicated his life to sharing the message of the Bible, that God saves sinners through His Son, Jesus. When Paul was arrested, God protected him so he could preach about Jesus.

Paul was in prison for a long time! During that time, he met with some important leaders. Today's Bible story is about what he told them. It's time to hear about "Paul Before Rulers."



Paul knew that Jesus is the true ruler of all. God had chosen Paul to take the gospel to Gentiles, kings, and the Israelites. Paul met with people again and again to tell the good news about Jesus. He wanted everyone to believe in Jesus. Because Jesus has the power to save people from sin, Paul was willing to do whatever it took to share the gospel.

Today's Takeaways

- God often works in ways we do not expect.
- Sometimes, He does that so that we can tell others about Jesus.
- When things don't go as planned, ask yourself, "What is God up to?"
- **BL: Paul preached about Jesus to governors and kings.**
- We can be faithful and obedient to Him, trusting Him to work out everything so the gospel will spread—for our joy and His glory.

TOC & Prayer

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus, and tell others about Him.

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

- When things don't go as you expect, what do you do? Are you OK with it? Do you get mad or frustrated?
- How did Paul use His time in prison?
- How can we see what God is doing when things don't go as we have planned?
- How can things going wrong help you to tell others about Jesus?

Activity: JESUS banner

What You Need: large sheet of bulletin board paper, markers, tape

What You Do:

- Write the name JESUS in large block letters on a large piece of paper.
- Invite the kids to write words or draw pictures describing Jesus or the things He did in the Bible or in their lives.
- Consider displaying the finished banner on the focal wall in the classroom or near the entrance to the kids ministry in your church.

What You Say " [Read John 21:25.] We could fill up a million banners with all the amazing things Jesus has done for us. He is so full of grace and mercy and we can thank Him for all that He has done. He has saved us from our sin and invited us into His eternal kingdom! When we know how wonderful Jesus is and the wonderful things He has done for us, we begin to understand that sharing the gospel is worth whatever difficulties may come. We have hope in Jesus.

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, foam ball

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to stand in a circle.
- Show the memory verse poster and lead kids to read Philippians 1:20-21 aloud.
- Give a foam ball to one player in the circle.
- Explain that the player with the ball will say the first word in the key passage and then toss to ball to another player, who will say the next word, and so on until kids say the entire key passage and reference.
- Allow kids to refer to the key passage poster if they need help remembering the words.

What You Say "This is a bold statement made by Paul, but he could say this because he believed firmly in the love of Christ and trusted Him with his life."

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Say:

"Pray, asking God to give kids courage to tell others about Jesus even when it is hard. Pray that boys and girls would rely on God's strength as they seek to trust Him and obey Him.

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to share the banner you made. Encourage everyone to go home and make lists of what they know about Jesus and how they can be thankful for all those things too.



All Star Kids

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Kinder- 2nd grade