



# Paul Imprisoned in Rome

**Lesson Aim: To challenge children to serve God faithfully.**

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God Is:** The Spirit Who Connects Us

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Acts 28:23-24, 30-31

**What He Has Done:** God called Paul to boldly teach the Jews and the Gentiles about Jesus.

**Key Verse:** Acts 28:23b

## THE WAY

**Christ Connection:** 1 Samuel 12:24

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

<b>Unit 4: The Promise of Connection</b>			
	<b>Bible Story</b>	<b>What He Has Done</b>	<b>Lesson Aim</b>
17	Paul's Third Journey, Acts 18:23; 20:20-21, 35-38	God sent Paul to visit and encourage the churches he started on his first and second missionary journeys.	To know we can encourage the church.
18	Paul Is Arrested in Jerusalem, Acts 21:27, 33-36, 40; 22:1; 23:11	God gave Paul boldness to tell his story to the people of Jerusalem.	To know God wants us to share our own stories about Him.
19	Paul and King Agrippa, Acts 26:19-31	God made Paul bold to speak about Jesus to King Agrippa.	To know we can pray for others to know Jesus. (Salvation Message)
20	Paul and the Shipwreck, Acts 27:20-26, 29-32, 39-44	God saved everyone on the ship just as He had promised.	To trust that God has a plan for our lives and He will complete it.
21	Paul Imprisoned in Rome, Acts 28:23-24, 30-31	God called Paul to boldly teach the Jews and the Gentiles about Jesus.	To challenge children to serve God faithfully.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 78:1-7. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the ability to teach Your children. Give them the courage every day to boldly share the truth about Your Son Jesus with others. Amen."



**THE WORSHIP  
THE WORD &  
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
<b>THE WELCOME</b>	Up to 15	<b>Meet &amp; Greet</b>	None
		<b>Game:</b> Bold Speakers	Paper plate for each child (or sheets of paper), Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song, crayons or markers
<b>THE WORSHIP</b>	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	<b>Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Neither Death nor Life" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Chosen People" "For God So Loved the World" "I Am the Way" "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is" "You Will Seek Me" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "How Great Thou Art" "Shout to the Lord"
		<b>Worship Scripture Reading:</b> Psalm 145:21	Bible
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	Lesson 21 Commander Cosmos script or storybook
<b>THE WORD</b>	Up to 10	<b>Read the Word:</b> Acts 28:23-24, 30-31	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
<b>THE WAY</b>	Up to 25	<b>Discuss the Word</b>	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		<b>Christ Connection:</b> 1 Samuel 12:24	
	Final 5	<b>Golden Bowl</b>	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
<b>GOT TIME?</b>	Up to 10	<b>Snack:</b> Bold Message	Alphabet-shaped snack (cereal, candy, pasta, or cookies with frosted letters)
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Celebrate the Acts of the Holy Spirit	Bible Timeline list of stories, paper, hat or bag
	Up to 15	<b>Craft:</b> Paul's Letter Keeper	Notebook paper, envelope, star sticker, hole punch, glue, crayons or markers
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Love Shuffle	Two sets of Love Shuffle cards (available at ResourceWell.org), Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster (or Bibles)
	Up to 5	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Do the Wave	Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 5	<b>Bible Timeline Review</b>	Date with story title or name printed on card

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

# THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

**Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite story about Paul?**

## **GAME: BOLD SPEAKERS**

**Purpose:** Children will practice speaking boldly about a favorite topic or object to introduce the idea that Paul spoke boldly about Jesus.

**Supplies:** Paper plate for each child (or sheets of paper), Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "Neither Death Nor Life," crayons or markers

**Prepare:** Draw a star on the front of one paper plate. Place it with the other plates and shuffle them.

**Let's play a game in which you can boldly tell us about your favorite things!**

### **Directions:**

1. Spread the plates out on the floor in the play area. Place them upside down so it is not apparent which plate has the star.
2. Have the children stand around the play area.
3. When you play the Bible Memory Verse Song, the children should walk among the plates, being careful to not step on them.
4. Allow the music to play for a short time and then stop it. When you stop the music, each child should stand on a plate.
5. On your signal, the children pick up the plate they are standing on to see who has the star plate.
6. Ask the child with the star plate one of the following questions (or create your own questions to fit the children's interests).
  - **What is your favorite food? Why is it your favorite?**
  - **What is your favorite Bible story? Why is it your favorite?**
  - **What is your favorite animal? Why is it your favorite?**
  - **What is your favorite worship song? Why is it your favorite?**
  - **What is your favorite season? Why is it your favorite?**
  - **What is your favorite Bible verse? Why is it your favorite?**
  - **What is your favorite place to visit? Why is it your favorite?**
  - **What is your favorite Bible character? Why is he or she your favorite?**
7. The child gives his or her answer boldly by standing tall and speaking in a loud voice.
8. When the child is done, he or she sits out for the rest of the game. Take the star plate and give him or her one of the blank plates on which to draw his or her answers to the questions given to the remaining children.
9. Have the remaining children bring their plates to you. Shuffle their plates and the star plate and spread them out on the floor to play again.
10. Repeat steps 3-9 for as long as you like.

**It's easy to speak boldly about our favorite things. Paul spoke boldly about Jesus to anyone who would listen. Let's read about a time when Paul did that in Rome.**

**Limited space?** Use just one plate and draw a star on it. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song while children pass the star plate. Allow the music to play for a short time and then stop it. When you stop the music, the child holding the star plate answers the question.



The Spirit who connects us

## THE WORSHIP

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

**Today, we worship the Holy Spirit as the one who connects us. The Holy Spirit helps us connect others with God by giving us bold words of truth about Him. The Holy Spirit is the one who convinces us to believe. Let's worship God with our bold words by completing this sentence of praise about Him: I praise God because He \_\_\_\_\_." Choose a few volunteers to stand and boldly complete the sentence of praise.**



**There are many ways we can worship God. Living a faithful life is one way we can worship Him. Giving our offering is another way we can worship Him. As we give our offering today, let's sing together about His amazing love.** Sing: "Neither Death nor Life" while collecting the offering.

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on Jesus as Lord and Savior.



**In today's story, we are reminded that Paul spoke boldly about Jesus as Lord and Savior of the world. Speaking boldly about Jesus is one way we can help others worship Him.** Read Psalm 145:21.



Perform Commander Cosmos script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 4, Lesson 21.



Paul boldly told others about Jesus

## THE WORD

**Teacher Tip:** As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

**Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."**

**Last time, we learned about the huge storm and the shipwreck that happened while Paul was on his way to Rome. What did Paul tell the crew to do when they were frightened in the storm? (To stay with the ship and all would be saved.) Today, we will see what happened when Paul finally reached Rome.** If a map is available, point to Rome, Italy.

If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Paul Imprisoned in Rome (Circa 61-63 A.D.). **Paul arrived in Rome as a prisoner. He was waiting for his trial before Caesar. Instead of a prison cell, Paul lived alone in a house where he was always guarded by a Roman soldier. He was also most likely bound in chains. This is the very last story in the book of Acts. Let's read it together.**



**If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others.** Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Acts 28:23-24, 30-31.

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us?** Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

**Three days after Paul was placed in the house with a guard, he called together the leaders of the Jews. He wanted them to understand he was never against the Jews. Let's read what happened when they met together.** Read Acts 28:23-24, 30-31.



Serving faithfully

## THE WAY

**When Paul was in Rome, he was a prisoner waiting for his trial, but instead of staying in a prison, Paul stayed in a house. Who stood guard at the door to Paul's house? (A Roman soldier.) How long did Paul have to stay inside the house? (Two years.) How would you feel if you had to stay in chains inside the same house for two years? (Children respond.)**

**The first people Paul invited to his house were the Jewish leaders. He spoke to them about Jesus from morning until night. Did everyone that heard Paul speak believe Jesus was the Lord? (No.) A few of the Jewish leaders listened to Paul and believed Jesus was the Savior they had been hoping for. Each person who decided to believe in Jesus that day was given a new life forever close with God. Do you think it was worth Paul's time to tell so many people about Jesus if only a few believed? (Children respond.) Each person God created is very important to Him. The greatest thing we can do for others is to point them to Jesus. What gift does each person receive when they believe in Jesus as their Savior? (Life forever close with God.)**

**Paul knew some people would believe him about Jesus and others would not even listen. Have you ever been worried that people won't listen if you tell them about Jesus? (Children respond.) What else worries you about telling others about Jesus? (Children respond.) The Holy Spirit is the one who causes people to believe. Just as Paul did, you can speak boldly to point others to Jesus, and pray for them. Trust the Holy Spirit will bring them closer to Jesus. Paul pointed others to Jesus by speaking boldly. What are some other ways we can point others to Jesus? (Children respond.)**



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

## CHRIST CONNECTION

**Even though he spent the rest of his life in chains, God still gave Paul ways to serve Him. Paul served by faithfully telling visitors and the guards about Jesus and by writing letters to encourage believers. Over 1000 years before Paul, Samuel spoke about serving the Lord. Let's check it out.**



**Everyone, place your Bible on your lap.** Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: 1 Samuel 12:24. **Let's find this scripture.** Read 1 Samuel 12:24.

**Samuel spoke about serving the Lord faithfully with your whole heart. Paul did this by speaking boldly about Jesus to everyone and by encouraging believers as they followed Jesus. There are many ways to serve the Lord faithfully with all your heart. You can serve the Lord by speaking boldly about Him, teaching others, helping others, caring for others, comforting others, showing God's love to others, encouraging others, or anything that in some way points others to Jesus. What is your favorite way to serve the Lord? (Children respond.) You can start each day by asking the Lord to show you ways you can serve Him that day!**

# THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

## **GOLDEN BOWL**

**Teacher Tip:** Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

**Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.**

**Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.** Read names in Golden Bowl.

**Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**TREASURE TREAT:** Today, your Treasure Treat is an "Ask Me about Paul" sticker. Tell someone how Paul boldly spoke about Jesus, then share your favorite story about him. Some favorite stories might include the blinding light on the road to Damascus, the earthquake in prison with Silas, his talk with King Agrippa, or the shipwreck.

**DAILY WAY CHALLENGE:** Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 21 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

**Teacher Tip:** Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

**OFFERING OF ART:** Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Paul, in the house, boldly telling the Jewish leaders about Jesus.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write their prayer requests in a prayer notebook.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Neither Death nor Life," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## **GOT TIME?**

### **SNACK: BOLD MESSAGE**

**Purpose:** Children will eat a snack while boldly telling others facts they know about Jesus.

**Snack Suggestion:** Alphabet-shaped snack (cereal, candy, pasta, or cookies with frosted letters)

**Optional:** Celebrate the acts of the Holy Spirit with a party. Serve cupcakes or a party snack. Add party decorations. Play CELEBRATE THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT! as part of the celebration. As time allows, choose additional games. Let children teach the directions to each other!

**Paul boldly told people about Jesus. Let's use our snack letters to help us think of facts about Jesus.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Serve the snack and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **Using a word that starts with one of the letters from your snack, tell me one thing you can tell someone about Jesus. For example, if you choose the letter 'L,' you might say, "Jesus loves us."**

### **GAME: CELEBRATE THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

**Purpose:** In this version of charades, children act out favorite stories from the book of Acts.

**Supplies:** Bible Timeline list of stories, paper, hat or bag

**Prepare:** Print each of the Bible Timeline story titles on a separate slip of paper. Place them all in a hat or bag.

**Today, we read the final story in the book of Acts. Acts began with Jesus being lifted up into heaven, then the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. The rest of the book is filled with stories of how the Holy Spirit used believers like John, Peter, Philip, Stephen, Paul, Barnabas, Silas, and others to help build God's kingdom! Let's celebrate the acts of the Holy Spirit by acting out our favorite stories from Acts.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Divide children into two teams.
2. Children take turns selecting a title from the hat or bag and acting out the story as their team guesses what story they are acting out. Limit older children to 3 minutes per turn; younger children may need more time.
3. The team that correctly guesses the most stories wins.
4. Optional: The winning team chooses the first favorite game for everyone to play.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **CRAFT: PAUL'S LETTER KEEPER**

**Purpose:** To create a collection of verses from Paul's letters as the children learn of Paul's travels and his writings.

**Supplies:** Notebook paper, envelope, star sticker, hole punch, glue, crayons or markers

**Prepare:** For any children who did not begin the craft in Lesson 12, provide materials for a cover (See lesson 12.) and maps of Paul's second missionary journey, Paul's third missionary journey, and Paul's journey to Rome (available at ResourceWell.org). Display the following text for all to copy (or preprint for younger children):

**Dear Timothy,  
"But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength,  
so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed  
and all the Gentiles might hear it." (2 Timothy 4:17a)  
Your friend, Paul**

**Teacher Tip:** This craft is designed to continue through Units 3-4 (Lesson 12-21). For each lesson, children add a new letter to their Letter Keeper. They can take their Letter Keeper home and bring it back for each lesson, or the teacher can collect them after each lesson and give them their completed Letter Keepers at the end of Unit 4.

**Option:** Each of Paul's letters in the Letter Keeper craft can be created as an individual craft instead of part of a collection.

**Paul started many churches while on his journeys. He also returned to visit the same churches many times. He wrote letters to help them know how to love God and follow Jesus. We can find many of Paul's letters in the New Testament of the Bible. Let's imagine we are helping Paul collect copies of his letters. With each story we learn, we will add an envelope containing one of his messages.**

**Today, we discovered Paul was imprisoned in his house in Rome. He boldly told the Jewish leaders who visited him about Jesus. Paul knew that even though many of the Jews would not listen, the Gentiles (non-Jews) would listen. While in prison, Paul wrote a letter to Timothy. He told Timothy how God helped him boldly tell about Jesus even when others tried to stop him. Let's add part of Paul's letter to our Letter Keepers.**

### **Directions:**

1. Copy the words of 2 Timothy 4:17a onto a sheet of notebook paper. Decorate the paper by drawing a picture of yourself boldly telling someone about Jesus.
2. Address the envelope to "Timothy." Write "From Paul in Rome" as the return address.
3. Punch holes in the envelope to match the holes in your Letter Keeper.
4. Unclasp the binding of your Letter Keeper. Add the new envelope and re-clasp.
5. Place the verse from 2 Timothy inside the envelope.
6. If children did not place a star sticker on Rome in lesson 20, have them do so now.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES**

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38-39

### **GAME: LOVE SHUFFLE**

**Purpose:** Children learn the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Two sets of Love Shuffle cards (available at ResourceWell.org), Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster (or Bibles)

**Prepare:** Print two sets of Love Shuffle cards (available at ResourceWell.org) or using sturdy paper, create two identical sets of cards with each of the 50 words from the Bible Memory Verse printed on a separate card.

**As we sing (or chant) the Bible Memory Verse together, think about the correct order of the words. That will help you when we shuffle the order.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Children recite or sing the Bible Memory Verse (Romans 8:38-39) together.
2. Divide children into two teams.
3. Shuffle each set of 50 cards.
4. Deal the first set of 50 cards to the children on one team and the second set of 50 cards to the children on the other team. Give each child approximately the same number of cards.
5. The two teams race to put their cards into the correct order of the Bible Memory Verse. They may use the Bible or the Bible Memory Verse poster as a reference.
6. The first team to place all 50 cards in the correct order is the winning team.

### **GAME: DO THE WAVE**

**Purpose:** Children learn the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse (Romans 8:38-39)

**Supplies:** Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

#### **Directions:**

1. Assign one phrase from Romans 8:38-39 to each child or group.
2. Direct each child or group to quickly stand, say the assigned phrase while raising both hands up to the sky and then down to the thighs, and then sit down.
3. Repeat three times, faster each time.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part One studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Acts through Revelation. Specific dates and a confirmed chronological order of all events covered in Lessons 1-21 are not available. Events will be ordered as they appear in the Bible. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

**Paul and King Agrippa (Circa 57-59 A.D.) Paul stood in chains before Governor Festus and King Agrippa to give his defense. What did Paul talk to the king about?** (He explained how on the road to Damascus God had changed him from an enemy of Jesus to a believer.) **Paul told them that no matter how long it took, he would pray the king and all who were listening would become Christians, too.**

**Paul and the Shipwreck (Circa 60 A.D.) Paul was sent on a ship as a prisoner to stand trial in Rome. What happened to the ship?** (A big storm came and the ship wrecked.) **What happened to everyone on board?** (God protected them and they all swam or floated to safety on the shore.)

**Paul Imprisoned in Rome (Circa 62 A.D.) Paul was kept in a house and guarded by a soldier for two years while he waited to stand trial in Rome. How did Paul serve the Lord faithfully while he was imprisoned?** (He spoke boldly about Jesus to his visitors and the guards and he wrote letters to encourage believers.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Acts through Revelation:

1. Download and print the Bible Timeline for Prophets & Promises (available at [www.resourcewell.org](http://www.resourcewell.org)).
2. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
3. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
4. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.
5. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Acts – Revelation: Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.) > Jesus Ascends (Circa 33 A.D.) > The Holy Spirit Comes (Circa 33 A.D.) > Peter and the Lame Man (Circa 33 A.D.) > The Stoning of Stephen (Circa 33 A.D.) > Philip and the Ethiopian (Circa 33 A.D.) > God Changes Saul's Heart (Circa 33-34 A.D.) > Saul Escapes from Damascus (Circa 33-34 A.D.) > Peter and Tabitha (Circa 34-37 A.D.) > Peter Visits Cornelius (Circa 38 A.D.) > Peter Escapes from Prison (Circa 41-44 A.D.) > Barnabas and Paul (Circa 46-47 A.D.) > Paul Visits Macedonia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Paul and Lydia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Paul and Silas in Prison (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Priscilla and Aquila (Circa 49-54 A.D.) > Paul's Third Journey (Circa 52-57 A.D.) > Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem (Circa 57-59 A.D.) > Paul and King Agrippa (Circa 57-59 A.D.) > Paul and the Shipwreck (Circa 60 A.D.) > Paul Imprisoned in Rome (Circa 62 A.D.)