



# Paul Speaks to the Crowd

**Lesson Aim:** To know God wants us to tell our stories about Him.

## THE WORSHIP

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

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Acts 21:33-36, 39-40; 22:1-11

**What He Has Done:** God gave Paul boldness to tell his story about Jesus to the people of Jerusalem.

## THE WAY

**Whisper Verse:** "Let me speak."

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God." 1 John 4:7a

| Unit 4: The Promise of Connection |  |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|
|                                   | Bible Story  | What He Has Done  | Lesson Aim   |
| 17                                | Paul Visits Ephesus, Acts 19:1, 8-11                             | God sent Paul to start churches in different places and help them grow. | To know we can help the church.                            |
| 18                                | Paul Speaks to the Crowd, Acts 21:33-36, 39-40; 22:1-11          | God gave Paul boldness to tell his story to the people of Jerusalem.    | To know God wants us to tell our stories about Him.        |
| 19                                | Paul and King Agrippa, Acts 26:2, 13-14, 17-19, 24-29            | God made Paul bold to speak about Jesus to King Agrippa.                | To know we can pray for others to know who Jesus is.       |
| 20                                | Paul and the Shipwreck, Acts 27:14-15, 18, 20, 23-25, 41, 43b-44 | God saved everyone on the ship just as He had promised.                 | To learn to trust God and help others to be brave.         |
| 21                                | Paul Imprisoned in Rome, Acts 28:16, 30-31                       | God brought many people to visit Paul while he was awaiting trial.      | To know wherever you are, you can tell people about Jesus. |

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Hebrews 12:1-3. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the way You create the story of our lives. Give the children awareness of their story and the courage to share it with others. Amen."



| Segment     | Minutes  | Activity   | Supplies   |
|-------------|----------|--|--|
| THE WELCOME | Up to 15 | <b>Treasure Chest</b>  | Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a mouth  |
|             |          | <b>Whisper Verse</b>   | Sign language for "Let me speak."  |
| THE WORSHIP | Up to 20 | <b>Worship</b><br>Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. | <b>Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b><br>"Love One Another"<br><b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b><br>"Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled"<br>"Everyone Who Calls"<br>"Give Thanks to the Lord"<br>"He Is Mighty to Save"<br>"How Wide?"<br>"Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"<br>"We Love"<br><b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b><br>"Jesus Loves the Little Children"<br>"This Is the Day" |
|             |          | <b>Offering</b>  | Baskets  |
|             |          | <b>Worship Illustration</b>  | <i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 4, Lesson 18   |
| THE WORD    | Up to 10 | <b>Watch the Word:</b><br>Acts 21:33-36, 39-40; 22:1-11  | Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 21:40<br>Visual: "God's Story Megaphone" craft sample  |
| THE WAY     | Up to 25 | <b>Craft:</b> God's Story Megaphone  | Sturdy white and brightly colored paper, glue, stapler and staples or tape, crayons or markers   |
|             |          | <b>Game:</b> Paul's Story  | "God's Story Megaphone" crafts, sturdy chair or step   |
|             |          | <b>Game:</b> My Favorite Story Ball Roll   | Soft ball  |
|             |          | <b>Snack:</b> Snack Stories  | Horn or tube-shaped snack (e.g., Bugles)   |
|             |          | <b>Circle of Prayer</b>  | None   |
|             | Final 5  | <b>Final Five</b>  | Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 4, Lesson 18<br>Color This Story: "Paul Speaks to the Crowd"   |
| GOT TIME?   | Up to 10 | <b>Say &amp; Do:</b><br>Acts 21:33-36, 39-40; 22:1-11  | None   |
|             | Up to 10 | <b>Game:</b> Let Us Love!  | None   |
|             | Up to 10 | <b>Game:</b> Love One Another  | Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "Love One Another"  |
|             | Up to 10 | <b>Story Time</b>  | Any story about telling others about God   |

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



Let me speak

## THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello \_\_\_\_\_. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a mouth. **Let this sticker of a mouth help you remember to tell your story about Jesus. Today's Whisper Verse is, "Let me speak."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.\***

### **SIGN LANGUAGE: "Let me speak."**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

**Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>"Let"</b>    | Begin with both arms at either side of the body with the elbows bent at ninety degree angles. With the fingers together, thumbs pointing up, and palms facing inward, raise both hands up slightly as if beginning to clap. |
| <b>"me"</b>     | Point to self.  |
| <b>"speak."</b> | Tuck the thumb of the right hand into the palm leaving the remaining four fingers extended and apart. Keeping that hand shape, tap the index finger of the right hand shape gently against the lips two times.              |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!  
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

**\*Today's Whisper Verse:** "Let me speak," Acts 21:39b. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



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 “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” as children move to that designated area.

**It's Praise Time—our time to praise God. The Holy Spirit connects us to each other and to Jesus. He gives us courage to speak to others about Jesus. That reminds me of today's Whisper Verse, “Let me speak.” Let's try it together.** Review Whisper Verse together: “Let me speak.” Include sign language.



**We can speak to others about how Jesus loves each and every one of us.** Sing: “Jesus Loves the Little Children” or “Everyone Who Calls.”

**We can speak about how Jesus wants us to love one another.** Sing: “Love One Another.”

**One way we can love one another is by giving our offerings to the church. Let's sing about God's goodness as we give our money offerings.** Sing: “Give Thanks to the Lord” while collecting the offering.



**Today, we will hear about the time Paul said, “Let me speak.” He wanted to speak to the crowd about Jesus. Let's see if our friends Delbert and Lello know about Paul and the crowd in Jerusalem.** Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 4, Lesson 18.



**God gave Paul courage to tell others about Jesus. Paul wanted everyone to follow Jesus and to love Him. We love Him because He first loved us!** Sing: “We Love.”



Paul told his story

## THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our **Classroom Promise with the motions.**

**With my eyes on my teacher;**

**My mouth quiet as can be,**

**I will listen to hear,**

**How God loves you and me.**

Point to eyes.

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

Cup hand around ear.

Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned God sent Paul to start a church. Today, we will hear how Paul told his story about Jesus to the crowd in Jerusalem. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 21:40.

### **WATCH THE WORD: ACTS 21:33-36, 39-40; 22:1-11**

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display "God's Story Megaphone" craft sample. Other visual options include Color This Story or any related picture.

- **Paul went to Jerusalem,**
- **To help the believers there.**
- **An angry crowd tried to stop him,**
- **He was arrested near the stairs.**
  
- **Soldiers carried Paul to the steps,**
- **Where he stood and said, "Let me speak."**
- **He told the crowd about Jesus,**
- **And about the day Paul first believed.**

Paul wanted to tell his story about Jesus to the crowd. What did Paul say? ("Let me speak.") Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Let me speak." Include sign language or hand motions.



**Where did Paul stand to talk to the people? (On the steps.) Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Acts 21:40 from the teacher's Bible.



Telling our stories about Jesus

## THE WAY

**Teacher Tip:** Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

### **CRAFT: GOD'S STORY MEGAPHONE**

**Purpose:** To remind the children they can share their stories about God, just as Paul did.

**Supplies:** Sturdy white and brightly colored paper, glue, stapler and staples or tape, crayons or markers

**Prepare:** From sturdy white paper, cut out a heart, a cross, and a circle for a face. Roll a sheet of brightly colored paper into a megaphone shape with a narrow hole on one end and a wide hole on the other. Trim the excess paper as needed. Mark where the paper overlaps. Unroll the paper. On the megaphone, print: **"Let me speak." Paul spoke to the crowd. Acts 21:33-36, 39-40; 22:1-11**

#### **Directions:**

1. Color the heart and cross and draw your face on the circle.
2. Glue the three shapes onto the megaphone.
3. The teacher rolls and staples or tapes the megaphone as marked.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **The crowd outside the Jerusalem temple did not like it when Paul talked about Jesus. Did the crowd get angry? (Yes.) They tried to hurt him.**
- **Paul wanted to tell the crowd his story about how Jesus loved him.**
- **What did Paul say to the guard? ("Let me speak.") That is our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now.** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.
- **Where did Paul stand to tell his story? (On the steps.) God helped Paul speak boldly. He wanted everyone to hear his story about what Jesus had done for him!**
- **What is your favorite story about Jesus? (Children respond.) You can tell others about Jesus, just as Paul did.**

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: PAUL'S STORY**

**Purpose:** Children will pretend to be Paul telling his story.

**Supplies:** God's Story Megaphone crafts, sturdy chair or step

**Paul stood on the steps and boldly told his story about Jesus. Let's take turns pretending to be Paul and tell our story as he did.**

### **Directions:**

1. Choose one child to be Paul.
2. The remaining children are the crowd in Jerusalem.
3. Paul stands on the chair or step and holds his or her megaphone.
4. Paul repeats boldly into the megaphone as you and the other children point to the corresponding pictures on their megaphones:
  - I am part of God's story.** (Children point to their face.)
  - Jesus loves me.** (Children point to the cross.)
  - I love Jesus.** (Children point to the heart.)
5. Let each child take a turn as Paul.

## **GAME: MY FAVORITE STORY BALL ROLL**

**Purpose:** Children will tell their favorite stories about Jesus.

**Supplies:** Soft ball

**Paul told his story about what Jesus had done for him. What is your favorite story about Jesus? Be bold and tell us your story.** If needed, remind children of familiar Bible stories. For example: Jesus' birth, feeding 5,000 people, calming the sea, healing people, or rising from the dead.

### **Directions:**

1. Children sit or stand in a circle.
2. Roll or toss the ball to a child.
3. Child describes their favorite Bible story. If child cannot think of a story, he or she can say, **"Jesus loves me."**
4. Child rolls the ball to another child.
5. Play until each child has a turn.

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: SNACK STORIES**

**Purpose:** Children use their snacks to announce Jesus' love as they discover how they can tell their stories about Jesus, just like Paul did.

**Snack Suggestion:** Horn or tube-shaped snack (e.g., Bugles)

### **Directions:**

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.  
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.**  
**Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
  - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Children say the Whisper Verse together through their horn or tube-shaped snacks: **"Let me speak."**
  - **God helped Paul be bold. Paul spoke bravely when he told the crowd his story about Jesus.**
  - **You can tell people about Jesus, too. What would you like to tell others about Jesus?**
  - **Do you think God will help you tell someone Jesus loves them? (Yes.)**



## **CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**COMPLETED CRAFT:** Take home your "God's Story Megaphone" craft. Tell someone your favorite story about Jesus or that Jesus loves them!

**PONDER, PRAY & PLAY:** Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family.** Talk about how God helped Paul boldly tell his story about Jesus to the people in Jerusalem.

**COLOR THIS STORY:** "Paul Speaks to the Crowd." Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Love One Another," as children color.





If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## GOT TIME?

### **SAY & DO: ACTS 21:33-36, 39-40; 22:1-11**

**Purpose:** This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

**Supplies:** None

**Directions:** With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **Paul went to Jerusalem,** (Walk in place.)
- **To help the believers there.** (Place hands on heart.)
- **An angry crowd tried to stop him,** (Extend palm as a signal to stop.)
- **He was arrested near the stairs.** (Place wrists together, as if bound in chains.)
  
- **Soldiers carried Paul to the steps,** (Palms up, as if carrying a person.)
- **Where he stood and said, "Let me speak."** (Whisper Verse sign language.)
- **He told the crowd about Jesus,** (Point to heaven.)
- **And about the day Paul first believed.** (Place hands on heart.)



### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES**

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God." 1 John 4:7a

### **GAME: LET US LOVE!**

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

**Supplies:** None

**Our New Bible Memory Verse tells us to love one another. One way we can love one another is to hug each other. Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together. Each time you hear the word "love," I want you to hug someone in the circle. Hug someone different each time.**

**Directions:**

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Say the Bible Memory Verse together very slowly. Children hug each other each time they hear the word, "love."
3. **What is another way we can love one another?** (Smile, help, talk about Jesus, pray for each other, etc.) Choose one of the children's suggestions. **Let's think of a motion for that.** (Smile, shake hands, pretend to help by sweeping, open a Bible, pray, etc.)
4. Repeat step 2 using the motion suggested.
5. Play several times using different motions each time.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

**Purpose:** To help children memorize and review the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "Love One Another"

**We can come together as a church and love one another. Let's do that right now!**

### **Directions:**

1. Children stand in a circle and hold hands.
2. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song.
3. As the song plays, children sing and walk around in a circle together. Reverse directions each time they sing the word "love."
4. Sing the song again. This time when they first sing the word "love," children move to the center of the circle raising their clasped hands above their heads. The next time "love" is sung, they lower their clasped hands and return to the original circle position.
5. If you have time, allow the children to suggest other motions you could do together while singing the song.



## **STORY TIME**

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about telling others about God.

### **PONDER, PRAY & PLAY**

Unit 4, Lesson 18: Paul Speaks to the Crowd

**PONDER!** Read Acts 21:33-36, 39-40; 22:1-11 with your family. Talk about what happened when Paul went to Jerusalem. The crowd in Jerusalem tried to stop Paul from teaching about Jesus. The commander arrested Paul. What did Paul ask to do? What story did Paul tell the people?

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for helping Paul tell his story. Help us be bold and tell our stories, too. Amen."

**PLAY!** "Speak Out!" Pretend you are Paul. Gather your family together. Stand on a step. Use your "God's Story Megaphone" to tell your favorite story about Jesus. Tell everyone Jesus loves you and He loves them, too! Ask each person to take a turn sharing a story about Jesus through your megaphone. If they don't know a story, they can tell how He loves everyone.

### **Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse:**

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God." 1 John 4:7a