



Paul Is Arrested in Jerusalem

Lesson Aim: To know God wants us to share
our own stories about Him.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Connects Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Acts 21:27, 33-36, 40; 22:1; 23:11

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

Key Verse: Acts 21:40; 22:1

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Isaiah 63:7

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

Unit 4: The Promise of Connection			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
17	Paul's Third Journey, Acts 18:23; 20:20-21, 35-38	God sent Paul to encourage the churches he started or visited 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 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."



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Race to the Story Steps	Sturdy paper, envelopes, one roll of tape for each team, sturdy chair or step, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Neither Death nor Life" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Chosen People" "For God So Loved the World" "I Am the Way" "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is" "You Will Seek Me" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "How Great Thou Art" "Shout to the Lord"
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 66:16	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 18 Commander Cosmos script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Acts 21:27, 33-36, 40; 22:1; 23:11	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Sturdy step or chair, Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: Isaiah 63:7	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—My Story on the Steps Card (available at ResourceWell.org), Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song "Neither Death nor Life"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Snack Stories	Horn or tube-shaped snack (e.g., Bugles)
	Up to 10	Activity: Our Stories Banner	Roll of banner paper or large sheets of sturdy paper, crayons or markers
	Up to 10	Discussion: Plot to Kill Paul	Bible
	Up to 10	Craft: Paul's Letter Keeper	Map of Paul's journey to Rome (available at ResourceWell.org), notebook paper, envelope, star sticker, hole punch, glue, crayons or markers
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: 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	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Do the Wave	Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	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: When was a time you had to stand up and talk in front of others?

GAME: RACE TO THE STORY STEPS

Purpose: Children will learn the Bible Memory Verse and be introduced to the story of Paul on the steps in Jerusalem as they race to put together a puzzle of the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse and be the first team to read the verse aloud.

Supplies: Sturdy paper, envelopes, one roll of tape for each team, sturdy chair or step, Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: For every four children, print the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse in large letters onto a sheet of sturdy paper. Cut each sheet into puzzle pieces and place in an envelope.

Teacher Tip: For non-readers, number or color code the pieces to help the children complete the puzzle correctly.

The Bible is God's story for us. It tells us who God is and what He has done for us. It is a story about His love for us. Let's put together puzzles of our Bible Memory Verse. Remember, it is God's words for us.

Directions:

1. Display the Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse poster.
2. Place the chair or step in the center of the room.
3. Divide children into teams of four.
4. Teams spread out around the chair or step.
5. Each team chooses one child to be Paul.
6. Give one puzzle and a roll of tape to each team.
7. On your signal, teams race to put the puzzle together using tape to attach the pieces.
8. The first team to complete the puzzle sends their Paul to the chair or step.
9. Paul stands on the box and reads the verse in a loud voice. For non-readers, the teacher may read the verse as Paul repeats it after the teacher.
10. The game is over when all the teams have had their Paul read the verse from the chair or step.

Today, we are going to hear about Paul standing on the steps in Jerusalem while telling his story about meeting Jesus to a large crowd of angry people. Let's find out what happened!



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. The Holy Spirit connects us to God in a personal way. We can praise God for the things we have seen Him do in our own lives, including ways He has shown us He loves us no matter what we do. One way we can praise and thank God is by giving our offering. Sing "How Great Thou Art" while collecting the offering.

No matter what happens in our lives, God's love will always be a part of our story because nothing can separate us from His love for us. Sing Unit 4 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Neither Death nor Life." **When we share our stories about what God has done for us, the Holy Spirit connects us to each other. When we are connected to each other through God—that's worship!**



Read Psalm 66:16.



Perform Commander Cosmos script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 4, Lesson 18.



You may also choose to sing songs that focus on what our God has done for us.



Paul tells his story to the angry crowd

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 Paul's third missionary journey. Jerusalem was the last stop on that journey. Today, we will learn what Paul did when he was arrested there. If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem (Circa 58 A.D.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

Paul's friends feared for his safety; they warned him and pleaded for him to not go to Jerusalem. Paul insisted on going because he knew it was God's plan. When he arrived, the believers there welcomed him. James and the church elders warned Paul about the rumors falsely claiming that he was teaching against the Law of Moses. Check out what happened when Paul went to the temple in Jerusalem. If a map is available, point to Jerusalem, Israel.



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 21:27, 33-36, 40; 22:1; 23:11.

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.** Read Acts 21:27, 33-36, 40; 22:1.

Paul explained that before he believed in Jesus, he too thought believers were breaking God's laws and should be put in jail. Paul explained how God changed his mind. He told them that one day on the road to Damascus, he was blinded by a light from heaven and heard the voice of Jesus calling to him. That day Paul knew Jesus was the Lord. Paul explained that the Lord was now sending him to tell everyone the truth about Jesus. The crowd grew angry, so the guards arrested Paul and took him away. Paul knew some people in Jerusalem wanted to kill him. He must have been afraid. Let's read what the Lord told Paul to give him courage. Read Acts 23:11.



We each have a story to tell

THE WAY

Additional Supplies: Sturdy step or chair

What did Paul ask the soldiers as they carried him up the steps? (He asked to speak to the crowd.) **The angry crowd was trying to stop Paul from spreading the word about Jesus. If you had the chance to speak to a crowd of people who were hurting you, what would you say to them?** (Children respond.) **When Paul stood on the steps, what did he say to the angry crowd?** (He told them how Jesus changed his life on the road to Damascus.) **Who can tell us that story?** If children do not know Paul's story, read Acts 22:6-16 aloud.

Just as He did amazing things in Paul's life, God does amazing things in our lives, too. Many of us have seen God change our lives in big and small ways. He shows us that He is with us. He gives us gifts and talents. He brings us friends. He heals us. He shows us miracles. He helps us follow Jesus. He answers our prayers. If you had the chance to stand on the steps in Jerusalem and tell the people a story of something God has done in your life, what would you tell them? Children volunteer to take turns standing on a step or chair and sharing their personal story of God working in their lives.

Paul may have been afraid for his life or worried he would be put in jail forever. What did the Lord tell Paul about courage? ("Take courage! As you have testified about Me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.") **When the Lord said this, Paul knew he would make it safely out of Jerusalem because God still had plans for him to tell the people in Rome about Jesus. Do you think God has plans for you to tell someone about Jesus?** (Children respond.) **Just as He did with Paul, God will give you the courage and the words to tell others about Jesus.**



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Over 700 years before Paul told the angry crowd what God had done for him, Isaiah promised to tell others what God had done.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Isaiah 63:7. **Let's find this scripture.** Read Isaiah 63:7.

What did Isaiah promise to tell others about? (The Lord's kindnesses, His deeds, and the many good things He has done.) **God shows His kindness to everyone. When have you known God's kindness in your life?** (Children respond.) **When someone shows us kindness, it helps us understand and feel God's kindness. How can you show God's kindness to others?** (Children respond.) **Who can you tell about God's kindness to you and to all people?** (Children respond.)

God's greatest kindness was when He sent His own Son to give His life to save us from our sins. Be sure to tell others about God's kindness!

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'm going to 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 a **My Story on the Steps Card** (available at ResourceWell.org). **Paul stood on the steps in Jerusalem and told his story. You have a story to tell, too. Write the story of something God has done in your life on the steps of this card. If you don't know what God has done, save your card and fill it in when you notice a gift God has given you or a change He has made in your life.**

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 18 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 standing on the steps telling his story to the angry crowd.**

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: SNACK STORIES

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while considering what to tell others about Jesus.

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

Paul stood on the steps and boldly told the angry crowd in Jerusalem his story about Jesus. We can boldly tell people about Jesus, too.

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Children pretend their snacks are megaphones as a symbol of telling others about Jesus.
4. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What is a Bible story about Jesus that you can share with others? If you don't know or remember a story, you can say one fact you know about Him such as "Jesus loves me."**

ACTIVITY: OUR STORIES BANNER

Purpose: Children will think about their stories with Jesus and share them with others.

Supplies: Roll of banner paper or large sheets of sturdy paper, crayons or markers

After Paul was arrested, what did he ask to do? (To speak to the crowd.) **What did Paul tell them?** (His story of how Jesus appeared to him and changed his life.) **You have a special story with Jesus, too. If you have asked Jesus into your heart, that is part of your story. Like Paul, you can tell others how it happened, or you can tell others how Jesus has shown His love to you. Let's each draw a picture of our stories on this banner.**

Directions:

1. Children work simultaneously to each draw and color a picture or symbol that represents their stories about Jesus on the large paper.
2. While they are working, ask volunteers to share their pictures and stories.
3. Display the banner in a common area for all to see.

DISCUSSION: PLOT TO KILL PAUL

Purpose: Children learn how Paul's nephew and a commander protected him from a plot to kill him.

Supplies: Bible

After Paul spoke to the crowd and the Sanhedrin (the Jewish Council), some people plotted to kill him. Check out what happened when Paul's nephew discovered the plot. Read Acts 23:12, 16-17, 23-24.

Paul's nephew was very brave to tell the commander about the plot. How did the commander protect Paul while he was taken out of Jerusalem? (He put Paul on a horse at night with two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen guarding him.)

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: Map of Paul's journey to Rome (available at ResourceWell.org), 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 and third missionary journeys (available at ResourceWell.org). Display the following text for all to copy (or preprint for younger children):

**Dear friends in Colossae,
"And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message,
so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.
Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should." (Colossians 4:3-4)
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 mark on a map where Paul was on his journey and add an envelope containing one of his messages.

Today, we discovered Paul went to Jerusalem. He was arrested there, then he boldly told his story to the angry crowd about how Jesus changed his life. Later, he wrote a letter to the Colossians while he was imprisoned in Rome. He wanted them to pray that God would keep helping him boldly tell others about Jesus, even while he was in prison.

Directions:

1. Copy the words of Colossians 4:3-4 onto a sheet of notebook paper. Decorate the paper with a picture of your favorite story about Jesus.
2. Address the envelope to "The Church at Colossae." Write "From Paul imprisoned 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.
5. Add the map of Paul's journey to Rome and the new envelope and re-clasp.
6. Place the verse from Colossians inside the envelope.
7. On the map of Paul's journey to Rome, place a star sticker on the region of Colossae to show where Paul sent this letter.

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 in our game.

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. On your signal, the two teams race to put their cards in the correct order. 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 wins.

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, lower their hands down to their thighs, and sit down.
3. Repeat three times, saying the verse 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.

Priscilla and Aquila (Circa 49-54 A.D.) God gave Priscilla and Aquila many ways to serve Him. In Corinth, they served God by helping Paul. How did they help Paul? (They made tents with him, gave him a place to stay, and traveled with him to Ephesus.) They helped Apollos by inviting him to their home to learn more about God's ways. They also served God by having the church meet in their home.

Paul's Third Journey (Circa 52-57 A.D.) On Paul's third missionary journey, he visited and encouraged many churches he had started or visited on his first and second journeys. He spent much of his time in Ephesus. The leaders from Ephesus were sad to say goodbye to him because they knew they would never see him again. How can you encourage believers? (Children respond.)

Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem (Circa 57-59 A.D.) The church in Jerusalem welcomed Paul, but the Jews from Asia stirred up the crowd against him. The soldiers arrested him. As they carried him up the steps, what did Paul do? (He told the crowd about the day he heard Jesus' voice.) Can one of you tell us what happened to Paul on the road to Damascus? (A bright light blinded Paul, who was then called Saul. Jesus spoke to him and told him to stop persecuting believers and start spreading the news about Jesus.)

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).
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.)