



# Paul Imprisoned in Rome

**Lesson Aim:** To know wherever you are,  
you can tell people about Jesus.

## THE WORSHIP

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

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Acts 28:16, 30-31

**What He Has Done:** God brought many people to visit Paul while he was awaiting trial.

## THE WAY

**Whisper Verse:** "They will listen."

## 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 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 that wherever you are, you can tell people about Jesus.

## 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."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Treasure Chest</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a house
		<b>Whisper Verse</b>	Sign language for "They will listen."
THE WORSHIP	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> "Love One Another" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Everyone Who Calls" "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "How Wide?" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "We Love" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "Jesus Loves the Little Children" "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 21
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> Acts 28:16, 30-31	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 28:30-31 Visual: A toy house or a picture of a house
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Message Necklace	Yarn (or heavy string), 4 macaroni pieces (pasta with holes) or beads, sturdy paper or craft foam, tape, crayons or markers
		<b>Game:</b> Come In!	Play area furniture (boxes, tables, chairs, etc.), sheets or blankets
		<b>Game:</b> Four Listening Corners	Tape, four pictures of common places such as a park, a school, a home, and a church
		<b>Snack:</b> Listen Closely!	Crunchy snack (crackers, chips, pretzels, etc.)
		<b>Circle of Prayer</b>	None
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 4, Lesson 21 Color This Story: "Paul Told Everyone about Jesus"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> Acts 28:16, 30-31	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 people about Jesus wherever you are

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



They will listen

## 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 house. **Let this stamp or sticker of a house help you remember God brought people to Paul's house to hear about Jesus. Today's Whisper Verse is "They will listen."** 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: "They will listen."**

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

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

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>"They"</b>           | The index finger of the right hand at waist level points forward and then makes a half arc to the right to indicate including multiple people. |
| <b>"(will) listen."</b> | The hand cups the ear as if to hear better.  |

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:** "They will listen," Acts 28:28. 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 sing praise to God. The Holy Spirit connects us to God and each other. In today's story, Paul was a prisoner and had to stay inside his house for two whole years! While he was there, God brought many people to him to hear about Jesus. Many people listened to Paul. That reminds me of our Whisper Verse today. Let's try it together. Review Whisper Verse together: “They will listen.” Include the sign language.**



**One thing we can do to help others know about Jesus is to give our money offering. This offering will help people in other places learn about Jesus, just like we learn about Jesus here! Sing: “Give Thanks to the Lord” while collecting the offering.**



**Let's see if Delbert and Lello know the story of Paul teaching his visitors about Jesus. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 4, Lesson 21.**



**While Paul was in Rome, was he allowed to leave his house? (No.) Paul had to stay inside his house for two years, but he was never alone. God brought many people to visit Paul. They sat with Paul and talked about Jesus, just like we are together talking about Jesus today. Helping each other be closer to Jesus is a great way to love one another. Sing: “Love One Another.”**

**Paul told his visitors all about Jesus. Wherever we are, we can tell others about Jesus, too! We can tell everyone how much Jesus loves them! Let's sing a song about Jesus' love for us. Sing: “Jesus Loves the Little Children” or “How Wide?”**



Paul told his visitors about Jesus

## THE WORD

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

**With my eyes on my teacher;**

Point to eyes.

**My mouth quiet as can be,**

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

**I will listen to hear,**

Cup hand around ear.

**How God loves you and me.**

Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned that when a terrible storm came, God saved the lives of Paul and everyone on board the ship. Today, we will hear how Paul told people who visited his house about Jesus. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 28:30-31.

### **WATCH THE WORD: ACTS 28:16, 30-31**

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 a toy house or a picture of a house. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- **Paul was happy to see his friends,**
- **When his ship finally landed in Rome.**
- **Paul was a prisoner, but was not in a jail;**
- **A guard made Paul stay in his home.**
  
- **For two whole years, Paul stayed in that house,**
- **He welcomed all who came in.**
- **He boldly told them to follow Jesus.**
- **Paul was glad when they listened to him.**



**What did Paul do when people came to his house?** (He welcomed them and taught them about Jesus.) **Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Acts 28:30-31 from the teacher's Bible.

**What did the people do when Paul told them about Jesus?** (They listened and some believed.) **Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "They will listen."** Include sign language or hand motions.



We can tell people 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: MESSAGE NECKLACE**

**Purpose:** To remind the children that wherever Paul was, he told people about Jesus.

**Supplies:** Yarn (or heavy string), 4 macaroni pieces (pasta with holes) or beads, sturdy paper or craft foam, tape, crayons or markers

**Prepare:** Cut a 30-inch length of yarn. Tightly wrap a small piece of tape around one end of the yarn to make it easier for the child to thread the macaroni or beads onto the yarn. Cut a 2-inch circle from sturdy paper. Punch a hole near the edge of the circle. Draw a cross outline on the front. On the back, print: **Paul told everyone about Jesus. Acts 28:16, 30-31**

**Option:** Paint the macaroni pieces. Allow them to dry before stringing them onto the yarn.

#### **Directions:**

1. Color the cross.
2. Thread two macaroni pieces or beads onto the yarn.
3. Thread the string through the hole in the circle.
4. Thread two more macaroni pieces or beads onto the yarn.
5. Knot the yarn ends to create a necklace that can easily be slipped over the child's head.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **Paul was waiting for his trial in Rome. Where did he have to stay?** (In a house.)
- **A guard watched Paul to make sure he didn't leave the house for two whole years. Many people came to visit him. Did Paul ask them to come into his house?** (Yes.)
- **Who did Paul tell his visitors about?** (Jesus.) **Did anyone listen?** (Yes.) **That's our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.
- **Put on your necklace. You can show the cross on your necklace to someone in your house and tell them about Jesus, just like Paul!**

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: COME IN!**

**Purpose:** Children will pretend to be Paul and invite others into their home to learn about Jesus.

**Supplies:** Play area furniture (boxes, tables, chairs, etc.), sheets or blankets

**Prepare:** Create a "house" by covering boxes, tables, or chairs with sheets or blankets to create a large enough area for the children to sit together inside. Children may take turns going inside the house if space is limited.

**God brought many people to visit Paul. Who did Paul tell them about? (Jesus.)**

### **Directions:**

1. Choose one child to be Paul. Paul sits inside the house.
2. The other children stand outside the door.
3. Paul invites the children inside by saying, **"Come in!"**
4. Children come inside house and sit down.
5. Paul tells them about Jesus by saying, **"Jesus loves you!"**
6. All of the children say and sign the Whisper Verse, **"They will listen."**
7. Everyone exits the house.
8. Repeat until each child has a turn as Paul.

## **GAME: FOUR LISTENING CORNERS**

**Purpose:** Children will discover places they can tell others about Jesus.

**Supplies:** Tape, four pictures of common places such as a park, a school, a home, and a church

**Prepare:** Place each picture in a different corner of the play area.

**Paul told people about Jesus in his house. Wherever you are, you can tell people about Jesus!**

### **Directions:**

1. Walk children to each of the four pictures and ask, **"Can you tell people about Jesus insert location on the picture (at the park, in your home, etc.)?"** (Yes.)
2. Choose one child to stand in the center of play area and count aloud to ten.
3. The other children each choose a corner to stand in before the child is finished counting.
4. The child in the center chooses a corner and says, **"Will they listen to you if you tell them about Jesus in the name of corner?"**
5. All children say and sign, **"They will listen."**
6. Repeat until each child has a turn in the center.

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: LISTEN CLOSELY!**

**Purpose:** Children will talk about what they can say to teach others about Jesus.

**Snack Suggestion:** Crunchy snack (crackers, chips, pretzels, etc.)

**The people listened when Paul told them about Jesus. Let's remember how they listened as we listen to the crunch of our noisy snack!**

### **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?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "They will listen."
  - **Paul told people about Jesus. Did they listen?** (Yes.)
  - **Can you tell people about Jesus?** (Yes.)
  - **What can you tell them about Jesus?** (Jesus loves you, Jesus is God's Son, Jesus was born in a manger, Jesus died on a cross, etc.)



## **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 "Message Necklace" craft. Tell someone at home that Jesus loves them.

**PONDER, PRAY & PLAY:** Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how God brought many people to visit Paul and hear about Jesus.**

**COLOR THIS STORY:** "Paul Told Everyone about Jesus." 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 28:16, 30-31**

**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 was happy to see his friends,** (Smile and clap hands.)
- **When his ship finally landed in Rome.** (Move hands and arms in a wave motion.)
- **Paul was a prisoner, but was not in a jail;** (Shake head no.)
- **A guard made Paul stay in his home.** (Point to ground.)
  
- **For two whole years Paul stayed in that house,** (Hold up two fingers.)
- **He welcomed all who came in.** (Shake hands with someone.)
- **He boldly told them to follow Jesus.** (Point to heaven.)
- **Paul was glad when they listened to him.** (Whisper Verse sign language.)



### **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 praying for others to know Jesus.

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

Unit 4, Lesson 21: Paul Imprisoned in Rome

**PONDER!** Read Acts 28:16, 30-31 with your family. Paul was waiting for his trial in Rome. Where did Paul have to stay? What did Paul do when people came to see him? You can tell people about Jesus, too!

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for giving Paul a way to tell others about Jesus—even when he had to stay in his house. Help us tell people about You, too. Amen."

**PLAY!** "Hide and Seek!" Choose one person to be Paul. Paul closes his or her eyes and counts to 10 while everyone hides. At the count of 10, Paul searches for everyone. Whenever someone is found, Paul hugs them and shouts, "Jesus loves you!" After you are done playing, talk about how you can tell others about Jesus wherever you are.

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

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