



Paul and King Agrippa

Lesson Aim: To know we can share our faith and pray, trusting God with the outcome. (Salvation Message)

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Connects Us

THE WORD

What He Has Done: God made Paul bold to speak about Jesus to King Agrippa.

Scripture Focus: Acts 26:19-32 **Key Verse:** Acts 26:29

Christ Connection: Lamentations 3:22-26

THE WAY

The Big Question: How might trusting God help you share your testimony?

UNIT 4 FOCUS VERSE

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Unit 4: The Promise of Connection			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
17	Paul's Third Journey, Acts 18:23-24; 20:22-24, 36-38	God sent Paul to encourage the churches he started or visited on previous journeys.	To know we are called to encourage the church.
18	Paul Is Arrested in Jerusalem, Acts 21:33-36, 39-40; 22:1-8, 21-22; 23:11	God gave Paul boldness to tell his story to the people of Jerusalem.	To know God gives us courage to share our own stories about Him.
19	Paul and King Agrippa, Acts 26:19-32	God made Paul bold to speak about Jesus to King Agrippa.	To know we can share our faith and pray, trusting God with the outcome. (Salvation Message)
20	Paul and the Shipwreck, Acts 27:13-44; Romans 5:1-5	God saved everyone on the ship as He promised.	To understand that hardships strengthen our faith and are part of God's plan for our lives.
21	Paul Imprisoned in Rome, Acts 28:17-31; Philippians 1:12-14	God called Paul to boldly teach the Jews and the Gentiles about Jesus.	To challenge students to live a life faithful to God.

LEADER'S ENCOURAGEMENT This week, read John 17:20-23. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the opportunities You give us to spread the gospel and to pray for those who hear it to believe. Help us inspire the students to pray for others to grow close to You. Amen."

Lesson Aims are based on reflecting God's character as we participate in His actions to, for, and in the world.

Take Home Elements: The Journal Entry, Action Card, and Family Discussion Card may be sent home to encourage students to reflect on the lesson. The Journal Entry is an in-depth personal study. The Action Card is a visual reminder of the Bible story, God's action, and how we can join into that action. The Family Discussion Card gives parents and guardians a way to engage their students in what they are learning.

Leader's Tip: For larger gatherings, teach THE WELCOME, THE WORSHIP, and THE WORD in a large group setting and divide into small groups for discussion with THE WAY.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

Suggestion: Choose a game that focuses on ideas such as trust, testimonies, court, kings, or crowns.

ACTIVITY OPTION 1: NEVER HAVE I EVER

Purpose: To introduce Paul sharing his story with others.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Choose a volunteer to stand in the middle.
2. Everyone else sits on chairs (or on an "x" marked on the ground with tape) in a circle. Remove any empty chairs.
3. On your signal, the person in the middle shares something that is true about him/herself, such as "I have two sisters" or "Never, have I ever flown in an airplane."
4. Any student who can identify with the statement (e.g. they have two sisters or they have not flown in a plane) must get up and find another seat. The person in the middle also finds a seat. Whoever is left without a seat, is now "It" and repeats step 3. Continue playing for as long as you like.

ACTIVITY OPTION 2: FROWN KING/QUEEN

Purpose: To introduce the story of Paul and King Agrippa.

Supplies: Crown (optional)

Directions:

1. Note: You need to have an even number of pairs. Extra students can help judge the pairs.
2. Students pair up and stand back-to-back.
3. On the count of three, everyone faces their partner, looks each other in the eyes, and frowns. They are not allowed to speak or make any noises.
4. The first student in each pair to smile or laugh is eliminated.
5. The remaining students find a new partner and repeat steps 2-4 until you have one student remaining who you crown the "Frown King" or "Frown Queen."
6. Note: If the last two students are excellent at keeping a straight face, you may designate a few students as hecklers to try to make them smile.



The Spirit who connects us

THE WORSHIP

Note to Leader: The instructions below are suggestions only. Adapt this time of worship to suit your environment, resources, and cultural expression. Encourage students to broaden their view of corporate worship by including a variety of expressions such as group prayer, group praise, silent meditation, singing, listening to music, reading scripture, collecting an offering, drama, dance, visual arts, and/or a physical exploration of nature or neighborhoods.

Ideas for Optional Visuals: Adapt and perform the illustration "Cross Your Heart" at the end of this Leader Guide.

Today, we worship the Spirit who connects us to Jesus as our Savior. In today's story, Paul told a king about the day Paul first believed and decided to follow Jesus. Jesus invites each of us to make that same decision. We can pray: admitting that we sin, believing Jesus died to save us from those sins, and asking Him to come into our hearts for life forever close to God.

Optional: Adapt and perform the illustration "Cross Your Heart" at the end of this Leader Guide. Take a moment to invite students to pray. You may guide them in a prayer similar to the A-B-C Prayer below, or simply allow them time for their own silent prayer.

A-B-C PRAYER (Admit – Believe – Come)

Lord Jesus,

I Admitt I am a sinner.

I Believe You are the Lord who died to take my sins away.

Please Come into my heart and I'll follow You forever.

In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

When you believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in your heart and connects you to Him forever. Nothing can ever separate you from His love.

Read the Unit 4 Focus Verse: 2 Corinthians 4:17-18.



Sing worship songs and guide students to focus on the Holy Spirit who connects us.



Read Romans 10:9-10.



Invite students to offer sentences of praise to God by completing the following sentence:
"Lord, we worship You for _____."



Paul and King Agrippa

THE WORD Presentation

Note to Leader: Adapt this segment to your setting (Sunday School class, youth group, multi-age gathering, youth camp, retreat, etc.). In some settings, you may choose to have a student read the scripture aloud, and then have the leader, in his or her own words, briefly communicate the Teaching Points, the Christ Connection, and the Big Question. In other settings, a teacher, pastor, or other experienced speaker may present a lecture or extended message that includes those same elements.

Ideas for Optional Visuals:

You may choose to include an object lesson, video clip, drama, dance, song, or work of art to illustrate the teaching points.

Option 1: Have a few students or helpers share their stories of how they came to believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior of their lives.

Option 2: _____



TEACHING POINTS

Consider current culture and influences impacting your students, and adjust the teaching accordingly.

Read the suggested scripture and communicate each of the points noted.

Last time, we learned Paul was arrested in Jerusalem and transferred under heavy guard to Caesarea (Acts 23:23-35). There, Governor Felix heard the Jews' case against Paul and Paul's defense, but he made no decision and instead held Paul in prison there for two years (Acts 24).

After Felix died, Festus, the new governor, heard Paul's case. Paul asked to present his case to the highest official who was Caesar, the Roman emperor. Festus agreed and asked King Agrippa to help determine what charges to write against Paul before sending him to Caesar (Acts 25:1-22).

- Note: Bernice was King Agrippa's sister (Acts 25:13, 23, 30).

When Paul was brought to see King Agrippa, he told Festus and Agrippa he had been a faithful Jew who honored the Jewish law and even used to persecute Christians. He shared his testimony, explaining how God changed him from an enemy of Jesus into a believer of Jesus. He shared how the bright light flashed around him and how Jesus spoke to him from heaven and sent him to tell others about Him.

The leader or a student reads Acts 26:19-29.

- Paul was highly educated and knew how to argue or reason from the Hebrew Scriptures.
- Paul told Agrippa that everything he had done had been in obedience to the vision from heaven he received on the road to Damascus.
- Even though Paul was on trial for his life, he shared how God helped him. Paul knew God would use His words to point others to Jesus.
- He explained Jesus was the Savior that the prophets and Moses had promised would come.
- Even though King Agrippa was not a Jew, he knew the Hebrew Scriptures and Jewish traditions because he had lived under the influence of Herod's court for most of his life. Paul knew that if King Agrippa believed the prophets, then he could show the king through the prophets how Jesus fulfilled their prophecies.

THE WORD Presentation *continued*

- Paul answered his accusers by relating to them as individuals, not as enemies. He connected with what they already knew to be true and then built his case upon that. Paul's primary hope was not to be set free, but for the king and anyone listening to be persuaded to become followers of Jesus.
- Paul, Governor Festus, and King Agrippa represent three viewpoints that still exist today.
 - Paul loved and obeyed Jesus and told others about Him. He wanted everyone to hear about Jesus and believe in Him.
 - Governor Festus thought Paul was crazy for believing in Jesus.
 - King Agrippa listened to Paul's words, but was not ready to believe in Jesus.
- You may feel like Paul and want everyone to believe in Jesus. Some of you may feel more like Governor Festus or King Agrippa, or you may know someone who feels that way. No matter how you feel, God loves you. He wants you to believe in His Son Jesus and follow Him with all your heart. He wants you to have life forever with Him.
- Just like Paul, you can pray for someone you know who does not yet believe in Jesus. You can also pray for God to give you opportunities to tell others about Jesus as He did with Paul.

The leader or a student reads Acts 26:30-32.

- It was more important to Paul that King Agrippa and the people there had the chance to receive eternal life than it was for him to be set free or even for his physical life to be spared.
- The Bible doesn't say whether or not King Agrippa ever came to believe. We may not know how God uses our prayers and conversations to build the faith of others, but He calls us to tell others about Him. Then, we must trust the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

In the whole story of God, what's the connection between this New Testament story and the Old Testament?

- Even though the governor and the king did not immediately believe in Jesus, Paul was not discouraged. He prayed with hope for them to one day believe. Paul was able to wait on God's timing because he trusted God. 500 years before Paul spoke to King Agrippa, Jeremiah wrote about waiting on God's timing in the book of Lamentations.
 - The leader or a student reads aloud Lamentations 3:22-26.
- God's timing is often different than our own. Remembering God's love, faithfulness, and goodness can encourage you to wait on and trust God for an answer to your prayers.

Leader Tip: If you did not invite students to pray the A-B-C Prayer or a similar prayer during worship, you may choose to do so now or in your small groups.



THE BIG QUESTION

Introduce and elaborate on this question. Students will answer it in their discussion group.

How might trusting God help you share your testimony?



THE WAY Discussion



GETTING STARTED Display and review the Discussion Group Covenant below:

**We will include everyone here, treating one another with respect and kindness.
We will encourage everyone here to express their thoughts and opposing views.**

Every student shares his or her best experience or greatest challenge of the past week.



READ IT AGAIN

Read Acts 26:19-32 silently or aloud.

How is Jesus bringing the message of light to us (verse 23)?

How did Festus react when Paul told the king that Jesus is the Lord?

What did King Agrippa ask Paul about becoming a Christian (verse 28)? What does this tell us about his readiness to believe?

Do you think Paul's primary goal was to defend himself or to share the gospel? Why?



THE BIG QUESTION Invite students to share their answers.

How might trusting God help you share your testimony?



TAKE ACTION Lead students in a discussion using the questions below.

How can remembering God's love, faithfulness, and goodness encourage you to wait and trust in God's timing for an answer to your prayers? In what current situation do you need to pray and trust in God's timing?

For the third time in the book of Acts, we read Paul's testimony of his life before Jesus, how he came to believe in Jesus, and his life as a result of knowing Jesus. Paul was always ready to share his story. Peter challenges us to be ready as well (1 Peter 3:15). Would any of you like to share your story of how you came to believe in Jesus? Use the same three elements to help share your story.

Ask each student to complete this sentence: **God calls us to trust Him as we share our testimony SO THAT others might _____.**



PRAY Share prayer requests and answered prayers.

Have students pray with partners, or have the whole group pray together.



FINAL FIVE MINUTES When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

Give each student Action Card #19 and Journal Entry #19. **Take home today's Action Card as a reminder of how we can join in what God is doing. Use the Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Complete your Journal Entries at home and keep them together in a notebook or in your Bible.** Optional: Provide parent or guardian with Family Discussion Card #19.



Salvation Illustration

Cross Your Heart

Purpose: This supplement to THE WORSHIP gives students a visual picture of the salvation message.

Supplies: Large paper heart, masking tape, copies of *New Believers Guide for Students* (available on ResourceWell.org under Youth Ministry—Other Resources)

Optional Sound Effects: Soft acoustic guitar instrumental or background music.

Optional Visual Effects:

A-B-C Prayer slide:

A-B-C PRAYER (Admit – Believe – Come)

Lord Jesus,

I Admitt I am a sinner.

I Believe You are the Lord who died to take my sins away.

Please Come into my heart and I'll follow You forever.

In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

This object lesson is designed to be very simple. Use the points below as a guideline. Put it into your own words, but keep it brief so students can easily remember it.

- **This heart shows God's love for us.** Show the paper heart.
- **We are separated from God's love by our wrongdoing or sin.** Tear the heart in half.
- **God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. His death paid for our sins, so we could be forgiven and close to God again.** Use two pieces of intersecting tape to make a cross and tape the two pieces of the heart back together.
- **Anyone can ask Jesus for that forgiveness. When we believe and follow Jesus, His Spirit stays with us in our hearts forever. Nothing can separate us from God's love.** Hold the heart close to your chest.
- **If you would like to ask Jesus into your heart and be close to God forever, you may pray this prayer with me.** Invite students who wish to pray a prayer of salvation to pray the A-B-C Prayer below (or a similar prayer of salvation) with you now.

A-B-C PRAYER (Admit – Believe – Come)

Lord Jesus,

I Admitt I am a sinner.

I Believe You are the Lord who died to take my sins away.

Please Come into my heart and I'll follow You forever.

In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

- **If you do not want to pray now, know that anytime you are ready, you can ask Him to come into your heart, and He will!**

Follow-up Suggestion: Provide a *New Believer's Guide for Students* to any student who prays the A-B-C Prayer for next steps in nurturing spiritual growth.

PROPHETS & PROMISES

JOURNAL ENTRY #19

Paul and King Agrippa

Acts 26:19-32

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

- **Pray!!!** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He wants you to learn from this passage.
- **Read Acts 26:19-32.**
- Paul shares a summary of the gospel in Acts 26:23. Write this verse in your own words.
- What was Paul's prayer for King Agrippa and all who heard Paul's testimony?
- What does this story show us about Paul's heart for people?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- What do you think surprised King Agrippa most about Paul's defense?
- What do you think Paul hoped would result from his trial before King Agrippa and soon Caesar?
- What do you think was the real issue the Jews had against Paul?

WHAT CAN I DO?

Paul prayed that everyone who heard his testimony would come to know Jesus.

- Who do you know who is like Governor Festus and thinks you're crazy for believing in Jesus?
- Who do you know who is like King Agrippa and isn't ready to believe yet?
- Who are you praying will come to know Jesus? Pray for them now.
- For Journal Entry #18, you wrote your testimony—your story and, hopefully, you shared it with someone. If you did, pray for that person and their spiritual walk with Jesus. If you haven't written your story yet, do it now. Pray and ask God to give you an opportunity to share your story and the words to say when you do it. He will!

Action Card #19/P&P

PAUL AND KING AGRIPPA

ACTS 26:19-32

GOD MADE PAUL BOLD TO SPEAK ABOUT JESUS TO KING AGRIPPA.

WE ARE CALLED TO *SHARE OUR FAITH* WITH OTHERS AND PRAY.

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