



Paul and the Shipwreck

Lesson Aim: To understand that hardships strengthen our faith and are part of God's plan for our lives.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Connects Us

THE WORD

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

Scripture Focus: Acts 28:17-31; Philippians 1:12-14 **Key Verse:** Acts 28:23b

Christ Connection: 1 Samuel 12:24

THE WAY

The Big Question: What distracts you from living a faithful life?

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 Psalm 78:1-7. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the ability to teach Your children. Give them courage every day to live a life faithful 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 chains, shackles, guards, etc.

ACTIVITY OPTION 1: CHAIN TAG

Purpose: To introduce the story of Paul's imprisonment in Rome.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Choose 1 student to begin as "It." On your signal, "It" runs around and tags other players.
 - When a player is tagged, he or she links arms with "It," forming a chain. The chain of people must work together to tag other players. Both players can tag people to add to the chain.
 - When there are more than two players in the chain, only those on the ends can tag people.
2. The last player to get tagged is the winner and a new game can begin.

ACTIVITY OPTION 2: CHAINED CHORES

Purpose: To introduce the story of Paul's imprisonment in Rome.

Supplies: Shoe laces, strips of cloth, or anything to tie participants together, additional supplies required for chosen task

Preparation: The goal of this game is for teams of two to race to complete a simple task of your choosing. You may have all students participate or you may choose 3-4 teams to race each other. Choose one of the tasks below or make up your own.

- Wrap a present
- Build a bridge out of newspaper and tape
- Make a sandwich or snack
- Tie a pair of shoelaces

Directions:

1. Have students divide into pairs.
2. Give each team any supplies they need for the task.
3. Review the task that teams will be completing.
4. Have each pair stand side-by-side. Gently tie their inside wrists together.
5. On your signal, the teams begin the task.
6. The first team to complete the task is the winner.



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: _____

Today, we worship the Holy Spirit as the One who connects us. The Spirit helps us connect others with God by calling us to share who God is and what He has done with them. In today's Bible story, we will see Paul continued to live a life faithful to God even when he was under house arrest in Rome. There, he spoke boldly about Jesus as Lord and Savior of the world. Telling others about Jesus is one way we can help others worship Him.

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 Psalm 145:21.



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



Paul lived a life faithful to God

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: _____

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 about the violent storm and shipwreck Paul experienced on the way to Rome. Today, we will see what happened when he finally reached Rome to await his trial before Caesar. When he arrived, Paul was placed under house arrest. Although he was not in prison, he was most likely bound with a chain, possibly to the soldier who guarded him (Acts 28:20). Three days after his arrival, Paul called together the leaders of the Jews in Rome. He wanted them to understand he was never against the Jews.

The leader or a student reads Acts 28:17-31.

- Paul often used Old Testament scriptures when he spoke to the Jews. They would have been familiar with these scriptures and it would have given authority to Paul's teaching. Paul and other disciples used the prophecies of the Old Testament in effort to convince the Jews that the Messiah they had been waiting for was Jesus.
- In Paul's last quote here in Acts, we read his statement to the Jewish leaders connected the words of Isaiah (Isaiah 6:9-10) to those who chose to reject Jesus as Savior. This wasn't the first time the Jews had rejected God's message to them. The rejection of the gospel by many of the Jews is an important theme throughout Acts.
- Paul concluded with a reminder that the gospel was meant for everyone and he had been chosen to carry the message to the Gentiles as well as the Jews.
- During Paul's life as a believer, he was faithful to God's calling on his life. He spoke boldly about Jesus to many people including angry crowds, royalty, rulers, judges, Jewish leaders, prisoners, prison guards, sailors, townspeople, prison visitors, and people from different countries and faiths.
- Rather than focusing on Paul's trial and death, Luke focused on how Paul faithfully continued to share the gospel. During Paul's imprisonment, he spoke about Jesus to everyone who came to visit him. As a result, the soldiers guarding him would have heard many conversations about Jesus. Paul also wrote letters to the believers in Ephesus, Philippi, Colossae, and to a man named Philemon.

THE WORD Presentation *continued*

- Paul lived under house arrest for 2 years. According to historians, Paul may have been released but later arrested again and beheaded when Roman Emperor Nero began killing Christians in AD 64.
- Note that the book of Acts (28:31) ends with a positive note, showing how the good news will continue to be proclaimed "with all boldness and without hindrance."
- The letters Paul wrote to encourage believers are found in the New Testament. They are filled with encouragement about the hope, joy, and love believers can have through Jesus no matter their circumstances. Paul is a great example of someone who lived a faithful life despite the difficult situations he encountered. Let's read from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

The leader or a student reads Philippians 1:12-14.

- The Holy Spirit helped Paul live a faithful life, trusting God each day. To use his own words, he "finished the race that was set before him." Believers were encouraged to live lives faithful to God because of Paul's letters and because of his example.
- In the same way, we can live a faithful life. The Holy Spirit can help us trust God. He will strengthen us to face whatever happens. We can also trust the Holy Spirit to help us tell others about Jesus.
- We can point others to Jesus by living a faithful life, sharing the gospel, serving others, loving our enemies, and encouraging other believers to persevere in their faith.



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?

- Over 1000 years before Paul was imprisoned in Rome, Samuel spoke about living a faithful life.

The leader or a student reads aloud 1 Samuel 12:24.

- In this verse, the phrase "fear the Lord" doesn't mean to be afraid of God. It means to deeply respect the Lord as the one true God.
- Samuel calls us to live a faithful life through fearing the Lord, serving the Lord, and remembering the great things He has done for us.



THE BIG QUESTION

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

What distracts you from living a faithful life?



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 28:17-31; Philippians 1:12-14 silently or aloud.

Why do you think Paul asked the Jewish leaders to meet with him?

Why did Paul use Old Testament scriptures to try to persuade them about Jesus?

What does Acts 28:31 reveal about Luke's main concern in writing the book of Acts?

How could you summarize the ministry and the life of Paul?



THE BIG QUESTION Invite students to share their answers.

What distracts you from living a faithful life?



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

How did Paul's imprisonment encourage others to speak about Jesus?

How can you fear (show respect to) the Lord today?

How can you serve the Lord faithfully with all your heart?

What is one great thing God has done for you?

Ask each student to complete this sentence: **God calls us to live a faithful life 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 #21 and Journal Entry #21. **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 #21.

PROPHETS & PROMISES

JOURNAL ENTRY #21

Paul Imprisoned in Rome

Acts 28:17-31; Philippians 1:12-14

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

- **Pray!!!** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He wants you to learn from this passage.
- **Read Acts 28:17-31; Philippians 1:12-14.**
- What did Paul do with his time under house arrest?
- What did Paul talk about with the people who came to see him (Acts 28:23)?
- How did the people respond (Acts 28:24)?
- What two good things come out of Paul's imprisonment (Philippians 1:12-14)?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- How was Paul's persistence in sharing the gospel evidence of his priorities?
- The last letter Paul wrote was to Timothy. Read 2 Timothy 4:7. How did Paul feel at this point about his life?
- Who is the gospel for?

WHAT CAN I DO?

- What does Paul's example teach us about making the most of every ministry opportunity that the Lord gives us?
- What do Paul's words and actions teach us about living a faithful life?
- Paul spoke boldly and wrote letters about Jesus. What are some ways you could help others know Jesus?

Action Card #21/P&P

PAUL IMPRISONED IN ROME

ACTS 28:17-31; PHILIPPIANS 1:12-14

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TEACH ABOUT JESUS.

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