

PAUL TAUGHT IN ROME

LIFE POINT: PEOPLE CAN TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY



LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Jesus is the Messiah and Savior.

BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 27–28

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20

UNIT VERSE

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Timothy 1:15

Additional training for Bible Studies for Life: Kids is available at ministrygrid.com/web/biblestudiesforlife.

SUGGESTED DATE

Week of August 25

The Book of Acts concludes as dramatically as it begins. All eyes were on Paul as he foretold God's promise that the 276 sailors, prisoners, and other passengers aboard the ship would survive their terrible journey. For two weeks in a raging sea they ate little if any food, almost capsized more than once, and because of stormy skies could not chart their course by the sun or stars. Some must have been all ears as Paul tried to take control of the situation. Shipwrecked, they remained Paul's captive audience, and when he survived a poisonous snakebite, his credentials increased.

A compass might have helped navigate the way, but Paul was more concerned with directing people to Christ. Notice the places and people to whom Paul shared Christ: Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians, Timothy, and Titus. At Rome, his final destination, he persuaded many of the Roman Jews to place their faith in Jesus.

Centuries later, this God-inspired Scripture that Luke wrote continues to tell others about Jesus. The final verse of Acts reminds us that all along Paul's journey, he passionately followed Jesus' command to tell others about Jesus and make disciples of all nations. Despite pursuits, arrests, imprisonments, beatings, stonings, shipwrecks, and poisonous snakebites, Paul continued proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

You may or may not live a life as dramatic as Paul's, but you have opportunities to share Christ in various situations. With whom do you need the courage to talk about Jesus? If you need anything to help you do this, ask God. He will provide the way and the words.

How can you help the kids in your group feel confident about sharing the good news of Jesus with others? What will you do to help them see that even though God may not take away every scary situation, He will always be with them? They can trust His Spirit to guide them as they tell others about Jesus.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Form groups of four kids. Remind kids that the Book of Acts is a history of the early church. Most of the other New Testament books are related to Acts either through their writer or the people to whom the book was written.
- Lead each group to sit in a circle. Give one person in each group a “Text What You Know” paper and pencil. She should read the verse and answer the first question, and then pass the paper and pencil to another person in her group.
- The second person may correct her answer if he thinks it’s incorrect, and then answer the second question. Continue until group members answer all questions.
- Lead all the groups to compare and discuss their answers.

- Pack Item 36: “Text What You Know”—Answers:
 - Acts 1:13—James or Matthew
 - Acts 4:13—John
 - Acts 5:29—Peter
 - Acts 12:25—Mark
 - Acts 16:1–1 or 2 Timothy
 - Acts 16:12—Philippians
 - Acts 17:1–1 Thessalonians
 - Acts 18:24—Ephesians
- pencils with erasers

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

- Form small teams of four to six kids. Invite each group to work together to build a boat and test it in water.
- When two teams finish building, lead them to see which boat floats the best. Instruct one team to place its boat in the water and set the timer. On “Go,” the other team may blow on the boat or water to try to make it sink. The opposing team must blow from the side, not directly from the top, and no one may touch the tub or boat. When the boat sinks, stop the timer, and note the time.
- Allow the other team to test its boat and see how long it lasts in the “storm.”
- Designate a winner. After all teams compete, guide winning teams to compete.
- Invite kids to listen today to a Bible story about a storm that caused a shipwreck.

- craft sticks
- glue
- duct tape
- tubs of water
- waterproof markers
- 1-to-2-inch toy person for each team (avoid action and fantasy figures)
- timer or smartphone
- **Option:** “Paul Taught in Rome” coloring page (CD)

MISSIONS EMPHASIS

- Share that it is especially exciting to hear stories of people in Morocco and other countries in Northern Africa who become followers of Jesus.
- Show the “Voices of the Harvest” video or review the missions story.
- Comment that even though Muslims do not believe Jesus is God’s Son, many are open to talking about Him.
- **For older kids:** Invite kids to discuss if they have Muslim friends at school or in their neighborhoods. Talk about ways the kids can help their friends know Jesus.
- Pray that Muslims everywhere will hear about Jesus and choose to follow Him.

- DVD—Click on the missions tab on the DVD menu to find the video “Voices of the Harvest.”
- “International Missions: Morocco” (CD)—Print the “Missions in Morocco” missions story.

STUDY THE BIBLE

▶ 1. BIBLE STORY



- Explain that ships in Paul's time were smaller and easier to wreck in a storm than ships today. Sailors also did not have the navigation tools or the weather predictions we have today. If they were caught in a storm, there might not be a way to rescue them. It was a risky way to travel in bad weather.
- Open the Bible to Acts 27 and tell the Bible story.

Bible Story: Paul Taught in Rome

Paul had been arrested, and he asked to speak to Caesar, the leader of the Roman Empire. Paul got on a ship with other prisoners going to Rome. Strong winds and rain tossed the ship. The ship's crew waited until the wind calmed to sail around the island of Crete, but a strong wind pushed the ship back.

The crew pulled the lifeboat on board so it would not float away. They tied ropes around the ship to hold it together. The storm tossed the ship. The next day the crew threw things overboard. The rain continued, and the storm did not stop for many days. The people on the ship were afraid they would die.

One night God sent an angel to Paul to deliver a message. The angel told Paul to not be afraid. God would save the lives of everyone on the ship. Paul told everyone on board, "Take courage, men. I believe God will do what He said. We will not die, but we have to run the ship onto an island."

When the ship got close to the island of Malta, some of the sailors tried to escape in the lifeboat. Paul told them to stay on the ship so they would be saved. The sailors listened to Paul and stayed. Everyone was hungry, so Paul told them to eat. He thanked God for the food. Then the crew raised the sails and headed toward the beach on the island.

Suddenly, the ship struck a sandbar and stopped moving. Waves crashed into the ship, and it began to break into pieces. An officer ordered everyone to swim to the shore. Some swam and others clung to the pieces of the ship. They all made it safely to shore, and God saved all of their lives.

Three months later, Paul got onto another ship and sailed to Rome. Paul was still a prisoner, but instead of going to jail, Paul was allowed to live in his own rented house by himself. A soldier stayed with him to guard him. Paul lived in the house for two years and welcomed anyone who visited him. Paul taught the people who came to his house about the kingdom of God and the teachings of Jesus.

— ACTS 27–28

- ▶ Pack Items 25, 26: "Unit 3 Banner," "Unit 3 Verse"
- ▶ Teaching Picture 13
- ▶ CD
- ▶ DVD
- ▶ parachute or bed sheet
- ▶ 6 medium-size foam balls
- ▶ marker—Number the Review Questions (page 92) 1–6.
- ▶ masking tape
- ▶ 6 half-sheets of paper—On separate sheets of paper write 1 number: 1–6. Tape each sheet to a foam ball. Spread the parachute on the floor and place the balls in the middle.

► 2. REVIEW

- Direct the kids to surround the parachute and gently lift it.
- Explain that when you say: “Storm coming,” kids will raise and lower the parachute to make the balls bounce. Occasionally, add: “Bigger storm!” and guide the kids to make bigger waves or call: “Smaller storm” for smaller waves.
- When kids bounce a ball from the parachute, let a person retrieve it and announce the number attached. Read the corresponding Review Question and choose someone to answer.
- Remove the ball from play and continue the storms.
- Keep the storms moving until kids correctly answer all the questions. If time allows, replace the balls and play again.

► **Option for Review:** Show “Gumshoe Bible Story” video.

► 3. LIFE ACTION

- Ask: “How do you think the crew members might have felt when the ship was tossed about? How might they have felt when the ship broke apart?”
- Invite kids to mention fears they might face. Answers might include spiders, snakes, bullies, failure, natural disasters, illness, or death.
- Guide half the group to read Isaiah 26:3 and the other half to read Psalm 56:3.
- Lead both groups to explain the meanings of their verses. Suggest that both verses would be good to memorize and recall when kids are afraid.
- Affirm that God may not always take away the fearful situation, but He will be present through the situation.
- Comment that Paul trusted God to help him. Even a shipwreck did not stop Paul from telling people about Jesus.
- Pray and thank God for loving and helping people in all situations. Ask God to help kids be bold in telling people about Jesus, the Messiah and Savior.
- Show “Gumshoe Life Action” video.

► 4. UNIT VERSE

- Read the “Unit 3 Verse” together.
- Lead kids to gather around the parachute and lift it.
- Guide kids to create a steady up-down rhythm as they raise and lower the parachute.
- Lead kids to say the Unit Verse in rhythm to the movement of the parachute.

► **Option for Unit Verse:** Teach the weekly Bible verse, Matthew 28:19-20.

Note: Looking for some extra ideas? Check out our Facebook page at facebook.com/biblestudiesforlifekids!

LIVE IT OUT

CHOICE 1

- › Kids Activity Pages
- › pencils
- › 3-by-3-inch squares cut from heavyweight paper (several per person)
- › binder rings (1 per person)
- › permanent markers
- › hole punches

CHOICE 2

- › Pack Item 37: “Journey to Rome Gameboard”
- › Kids Activity Pages
- › pencils
- › 4 game pieces, such as coins, buttons, or marker tops
- › numbered cube

▶ CHOICE 1: STORYTELLING RINGS

- Encourage kids to complete “Frightening Situations” on the Kids Activity Pages.
- Read the definition of courage and remind kids that even fearful situations did not stop Paul from telling others about Jesus. He kept sharing the good news of Jesus, even through a shipwreck and house imprisonment.
- Guide kids to name some of their favorite Bible stories about Jesus.
- With each story, ask: “What can people learn about Jesus from the story? How can the story encourage someone to believe and trust in Jesus as Messiah and Savior?”
- Invite kids to make storytelling rings to help them tell others about Jesus.
- Distribute the heavyweight paper squares and markers. Instruct kids to draw on each square a simple picture to represent the Bible story. For example, a cloud and lightning bolt could represent Jesus calming a storm.
- Help kids locate appropriate Bible references and write them on the back of the squares.
- Lead kids to punch holes in the squares, thread the squares onto the binder rings, and fasten them to backpacks, purses, or gear bags.
- Explain that when others notice the pictures, kids can use the opportunity to tell a Bible story about Jesus.

▶ CHOICE 2: JOURNEY TO ROME

- Encourage kids to complete “Frightening Situations” on the Kids Activity Pages. Read the definition of courage.
- Form no more than four teams and set out the “Journey to Rome Gameboard.”
- Invite a volunteer to read the verse on the “Set Sail” space. Then assign each group a game piece to place on the space.
- Explain the rules of the game:
 - Kids will review the Bible story by setting sail to Rome. One person at a time from each team will take turns rolling the numbered cube and advancing his game piece the same number of spaces.
 - When the game piece lands on a space with a chapter and verse, he will read the verse and follow the instructions for how to move his game piece.
- As the kids play, make sure they read the Bible verses and don’t just skip to the instructions.
- The first team to get its game piece to Rome wins the game.

▶ CHOICE 3: MAKE A POSTER

- Lead kids to find and read Psalm 56:3.
- Explore how people know they can trust God. Answers include:
 - The Bible tells us we can trust Him.
 - We know other people He has helped.
 - He has helped us before.
 - He is the Creator and controls all things.
 - He made us and loves us.
 - He wants to take care of us.
- Give each person a copy of the “Psalm 56:3 Template.”
- Direct kids to place tape over the letters, the numbers, and the long rectangles at the top of the page. The tape pieces can overlap, but kids’ artwork will look nicer if they keep the tape inside the letters, numbers, and rectangles.
- When all the tape is applied, instruct kids to use permanent markers to color the entire page. Kids can use any color combination but should fill the entire page.
- Set the papers aside to dry and encourage kids to complete “Frightening Situations” on the Kids Activity Pages. Read the definition of courage.
- Invite kids to gently remove the tape pieces to show the reference in white letters.
- Encourage kids to write the words of the verse in the two rectangles at the top of the template.

▶ WRAP UP

- Remind kids that even in fearful times, God is present and at work.
- Pray and ask God to help kids be bold as they tell others about Jesus.
- Give kids One Conversation™ pages.

CHOICE 3

- ▶ Pack Item 38: “Psalm 56:3 Template”
- ▶ Kids Activity Pages
- ▶ pencils
- ▶ heavyweight paper
- ▶ ½-inch wide removable tape
- ▶ assorted colors of permanent markers