

Paul's Ministry In Rome

Acts 28:17-31

MEMORY VERSE

ACTS 28:28

Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

One strong magnet, various items that will and some that will not be attracted to the magnet, such as pennies, nuts, and bolts, buttons, pieces of aluminum foil, beans, paper clips, etc.

Balloons and water.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Who Will Follow?

You will need one strong magnet, various items that will and some that won't be attracted to the magnet, such as pennies, nuts, and bolts, buttons, pieces of aluminum foil, beans, paper clips, etc.

Lay the items out on a table and give each child a turn to guess what item he thinks will "follow" the magnet. Try to use some tricky items to surprise your students. Explain that not all people will follow after Jesus, but **it's important to share the truth of Jesus, even if people don't believe.**

LESSON TIME!

What would you do if you knew the truth about something and others did not believe you? What if it was something really important that you knew could change their life forever, and they still did not believe you? Would you want to convince them of the truth, or would you just forget about it? It is hard to be accused of something we are innocent of, but it is even harder when we know what the truth is and people still do not believe us. What if the truth we know is concerning Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God? Would we still want to try to convince people?

It can be difficult when others reject what we say, especially when it is the truth and we feel so strongly about it. Paul understood how it felt to be falsely accused. Paul used this imprisonment to preach the gospel to others. Many may not believe but that did not stop Paul; he still spoke the truth with boldness because he wanted everyone to know how much Jesus loved them and he wanted them to know about the kingdom of God. **It's important to share the truth of Jesus, even if people don't believe.**

ACTS 28:17-20

And it came to pass after three days that Paul called the leaders of the Jews together. So when they had come together, he said to them: "Men and brethren, though I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans,

"who, when they had examined me, wanted to let me go, because there was no cause for putting me to death.

"But when the Jews spoke against it, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar, not that I had anything of which to accuse my nation.

"For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain."

Paul was a prisoner, and had been arrested by the Jews for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul himself was a Jew, and his only desire was that all people, Jews and Gentiles, would know the gospel. However, many people still rejected it. Paul was now in Rome and under house arrest.

Three days after Paul arrived in Rome, he asked the Jewish leaders to come to him, since he could not go to the synagogue to see them. Once they were assembled, Paul pointed out to them that he had been accused of many things but was guilty of none of

them. His primary purpose in calling the leaders together was to share with them the hope of Israel, Jesus the promised Messiah. Paul was not nearly as interested in proving his innocence as he was in sharing with the Jewish leaders about the truth of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God. **It's important to share the truth of Jesus, even if people don't believe.**

ACTS 28:21-22

And they said to him, "We neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren who came reported or spoken any evil of you.

"But we desire to hear from you what you think; for concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere."

The Jewish leaders said they knew nothing about Paul, but they expressed interest in Christianity and wanted to know more about it since it was so heavily attacked everywhere.

ACTS 28:23-24

So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.

And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved.

The Jewish leaders had a second meeting with Paul. All day long, from morning till night, Paul spoke to them about the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus. He spoke to them about the death and resurrection of Christ.

Some were convinced, but others refused to believe. So great was Paul's burden for them to know the truth that he spoke to them from morning till night of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God. **It's important to share the truth of Jesus, even if people don't believe.**

Watchmen's Yell-a-rama

Long ago people who lived in a village would have a watchman. The watchman would watch out for robbers, invading armies, fires, or other dangers. If they saw a danger, they would sound an alarm by blowing a horn or banging a loud drum. What would you do if you saw someone's house on fire? Take turns around the circle and hear exactly how each student would sound the alarm.

Explain that people who do not know Jesus are in terrible danger, too. We should be telling people about Jesus whenever God gives us the opportunity to share. **It's important to share the truth of Jesus, even if people don't believe.**

ACTS 28:25-28

So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers,

saying, 'Go to this people and say: "Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; and seeing you will see, and not perceive;

'For the heart of this people has grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their heart and turn, so that I should heal them.' '

"Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!"

Paul spoke to the Jewish leaders from the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament; it was a passage he knew they would be familiar with. The passage in Isaiah 6:9-10, shows that because of their refusal to believe, they had hard hearts, deafened ears, and spiritually blinded eyes. This was true both in Isaiah's day and in Paul's day. Even when Paul used this passage that he knew they would understand and identify with, they still refused to believe the truth concerning the kingdom of God. **It's important to share the truth of Jesus, even if people don't believe.**

ACTS 28:29-31

And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves.

Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him,

preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.

Paul wanted all people to know God's salvation. He reminded the Jewish leaders that God's salvation had been sent to the Gentiles and they would listen; he was trying to convince them that they should listen too. For two years Paul was under house arrest but the gospel was not bound. Paul spoke of the kingdom of God and the Lord Jesus Christ boldly and without hindrance. Just as Paul desired for all to know the gospel of Jesus Christ, we too, should share with everyone about Jesus Christ and the wonderful kingdom of God. **It's important to share the truth of Jesus, even if people don't believe.**

Go That Way!

You will need balloons and water. Put as much water in the balloons as they will hold without being inflated (or rising), then blow up as usual. The balloons go in unexpected paths when rolled on the floor (because of the water).

Divide the class in half and seat them on the floor in two rows facing each other. Give a balloon to each child in one row. Have them try to roll their balloon to the person across from them.

Explain that we must tell people about Jesus even though they do not always go the way we want them to. **It's important to share the truth of Jesus, even if people don't believe.**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to tell their friends about Jesus, even if they do not believe. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.