

December 22
9:00am & 11:00am
Three and Four Year Olds
PAUL WENT TO ROME
(Acts 27-28)

CHRIST CONNECTION: Paul trusted God's promise to keep him and everyone else safe from the storm. He told the sailors to trust God too. God wants us to trust Jesus. God sent Jesus to save us from sin. We can tell this good news to everyone.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why should we praise Jesus? We should praise Jesus for all He has done for us.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: *Lord, I will praise your name.* Isaiah 25:1

LEARN

(GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Share a personal, preschool-appropriate example of something that scares you. Talk about why it scares you and what you do when you are afraid.

SAY *We all have different things that scare us. In today's Bible story we will hear about a man named Paul. We have learned a lot about him. Things were not always easy for Paul. In fact, in today's story we find him on a ship during the middle of a big storm. Everyone on the boat was afraid.*

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

9AM Volunteers with 3s in room 125: You will need to combine with room 124 for bible story time.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.

3. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY: SHOW EMOTIONS

Ask the following review questions:

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (*Preschoolers' answers will vary.*)
2. Why was Paul on a ship to Rome? (*to meet with Caesar, the emperor*)
3. What did the angel tell Paul? (*Do not be afraid. God will protect everyone on the ship.*)
4. Who can we always trust no matter what? (*God/Jesus*)
5. ***Why should we praise Jesus? We should praise Jesus for all He has done for us.***

SAY *As Paul traveled to Rome on a ship, the journey was not easy. There was a big storm. Everyone was scared. God sent an angel to Paul to tell him to not be afraid. The angel told Paul to trust God because He promised everyone would be safe. Paul trusted God's promise. Even when the boat broke to pieces after it hit a sandbar, everyone made it safely to shore. God kept His promise to Paul. Paul trusted God, and he told the sailors to trust God. God wants us to trust Jesus. Jesus died to save us from sin. This is the good news Paul shared with others.*

4. LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY *Our big picture question asks, **Why should we praise Jesus? We should praise Jesus for all He has done for us.** Paul had many reasons to praise Jesus. When Paul became a believer in Jesus, his life was forever changed. Paul began to tell everyone about Jesus and what He had done for him. We can tell everyone about Jesus and the difference He has made in our lives. He has saved us from our sin. We can praise Jesus for all He has done!*

5. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage marker at Isaiah 25:1. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the passage aloud. Form several groups of preschoolers. Pretend each group is on a separate boat. Point to a “boat” (group of preschoolers) and invite that group to repeat the verse with you. Point to a different boat and repeat the key passage. Finish by pointing to all the boats, encouraging all preschoolers to repeat the key passage together.

SAY *Isaiah 25:1 tells us that we can praise God for all the wonderful things He has done. Can you name something wonderful God has done? [Allow responses.] In today’s story, God protected Paul and the others on the ship. The most amazing thing God has done for us is sending His Son, Jesus, to save us from sin.*

6. PRAY

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have. Pray for them.

SAY *God, thank You for sending Jesus to earth to save us from sin. We trust that You will take care of us. Help us trust You when we are afraid. Amen.*

ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OR ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES BELOW)

RESPOND TO COMMANDS

Demonstrate different commands a sailor on a ship might need to know. Use the following phrases and motions: “swab the deck” (*pretend to mop the floor*); “row the boat” (*pretend to row a boat*); “steer the ship” (*pretend to move a large steering wheel*); and “abandon ship” (*everyone moves to a wall in the room*). Practice each motion a few times. Name a command. Lead preschoolers to respond by saying, “Aye, aye, Captain!” and doing the motion associated with the command. Continue naming different commands, speeding up as preschoolers catch on to the game.

SAY *While it is not likely the men on Paul’s boat used these commands, it is true that Paul was taken to Rome aboard a ship. While on the ship, they experienced a big storm. Everyone was afraid. God helped Paul know he could trust Him. God promised to keep everyone safe. Even though the boat was broken to pieces, everyone was able to make it to shore safely. God protected Paul. We can trust that God will protect us too.*

TRAVEL BY SEA/RIDE A BOAT

Place **chairs** in side-by-side rows and invite preschoolers to sit inside the boat and pretend they are on a boat ride. Ask preschoolers where they would want to travel in a boat. Point out things you might see on or from a boat. Act out the Bible story as time or interest allows.

SAY *Why was Paul traveling on a boat to Rome? [Allow responses.] Paul was traveling to Rome to meet with Caesar, the emperor. The journey was not easy. There was a big storm while they were on the ship. Everyone was afraid. Paul knew that God wanted him to go to Rome, so he trusted that God would keep him safe. God kept His promise to protect Paul. God wants each of us to trust Jesus. Jesus died to save us from sin.*

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE (please send this home with parents)

As children color, talk about the Christ Connection.

SAY *Paul trusted God’s promise to keep him and everyone else safe from the storm. He told the sailors to trust God too. God wants us to trust Jesus. Jesus died to save us from our sin. We can tell this good news to everyone.*

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE

Storytelling Props are not included in the blue bin, but you may choose to bring them from home.

Open your Bible to Acts 27-28. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bold version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

PAUL WENT TO ROME

STORYTELLING TIPS

Make a boat: Create a boat outline by making a large rectangle on the floor using painter's tape. Make the area large enough for preschoolers to sit inside while listening to the story.

Describe your feelings: Pause throughout the Bible story. Ask preschoolers to describe how they would feel if they were on the boat at different parts of the story.

*Paul was a prisoner, and he was going to Rome to see Caesar, the emperor. **Paul got on a ship with other prisoners going to Rome. But a big storm made the journey difficult. Strong winds, waves, and rain pushed the ship up and down. All the people on the ship were afraid they would die.***

God sent an angel to Paul. The angel told Paul to not be afraid. God was going to keep everyone on the ship safe. Paul told the other people on the ship what God had said. "Be brave," he said. "I believe God is telling the truth. We will be safe, but we have to get the ship onto an island."

One night, the ship got close to an island, and some of the sailors tried to escape in a lifeboat. Paul told them to stay on the ship if they wanted to be safe. The sailors listened to Paul. In the morning, Paul told everyone it was time to eat. They were really hungry because they hadn't eaten in two weeks. Paul thanked God and broke the bread, and everyone ate. Then they sailed closer to the island.

All of a sudden, the ship hit a sandbar in the water and got stuck. The waves crashed into the ship, and it began to break into pieces. A soldier in charge told everyone to swim to the shore. Anyone who could not swim clung to the pieces of the ship. Everyone made it to shore. Paul was right; God had kept all of them safe.

Christ Connection: Paul trusted God's promise to keep him and everyone else safe from the storm. He told the sailors to trust God too. God wants us to trust Jesus. God sent Jesus to save us from sin. We can tell this good news to everyone.

DISMISS PRESCHOOLERS

- Release preschoolers to parents by matching up the number on the child's sticker with the guardian receipt.
- Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.
- Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

December 22
9:00am & 11:00am
Two Year Olds
PAUL WENT TO ROME
Acts 27-28

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus died to keep us safe from sin and death.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why should we praise Jesus? We should praise Jesus for all He has done for us.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: *Lord, I will praise your name.* Isaiah 25:1

LEARN

(CIRCLE TIME ON THE RUG)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Invite the children to join you in group time. Ask the children if they have ever been on a boat ride. Name different kinds of boats (sailboat, ferry, cruise ship, kayak, canoe, rowboat, and so forth) and ask the children to raise their hand if they have ridden on that kind of boat. As time allows, invite children to tell about their boat rides. Comment that it is fun to ride on boats when the water is smooth but that it can be scary if there is a lot of wind and waves.

SAY *In our Bible story from Acts, Paul is going to Rome to see the emperor. He is on a ship with other prisoners. Let's listen to see if it is a nice, smooth ride or if he has problems during his boat ride.*

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

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If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.

3. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Isaiah 25:1. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Say the key passage phrase together and then pair up the children. Encourage them to raise their hands and clap hands up high with their partner for each word. Arrange the partners in a circle or line so it is easy to turn to another partner to repeat the key passage one or two more times.

SAY *Praising God is something we can do with a big group of people or a small group of friends or even by yourself!*

ACTIVITIES

SING A SONG

Lead preschoolers to sing the following words to the tune of "B-I-N-G-O":

I can trust when I am scared. I can trust in Jesus.

T-R-U-S-T

T-R-U-S-T

T-R-U-S-T

Oh, I can trust in Jesus.

After you sing the song, talk about different fears preschoolers may have. Remind them they can always trust God to take care of them. Sing the song several times through.

SAY *When we trust someone, we believe what they say. Paul trusted God to keep him safe. God wants us to trust Jesus. Jesus came to rescue us from our sin. When we put our faith and trust in Him, we become followers of Jesus. Even though hard times may come, we can trust that God is always with us and will take care of us.*

MAKE STORM SOUNDS

Gather toddlers in a circle. Demonstrate how to make storm sounds. Sounds include thunder (pat hands quickly on floor), rain drops (tap fingers on the floor), lightning (clap hands together), or wind (blow out air). Encourage toddlers to choose a sound and make storm sounds as you retell the Bible story.

SAY *Storms can be scary. What might you hear or see during a storm? The people on Paul's boat were afraid when the storm came. The angel told Paul not to be afraid. God was going to keep everyone on the ship safe.*

RIDE A BOAT

Place **chairs** in side-by-side rows and invite toddlers to sit down for a boat ride. Point out things you might see on or from a boat. Act out the Bible story as time or interest allows.

SAY *Paul was still a prisoner when he went to see the leader of Rome. How did Paul get there? He went on a boat with other prisoners.*

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the GOSPEL GEMS below:

- Paul went on a boat to Rome.
- A storm broke apart Paul's boat, but God kept him safe.
- Nothing could stop God's plan for Paul.

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE:

Open the Bible to Acts 27-28 and tell the following Bible story:

Paul was still a prisoner. He was going to see the leader of Rome. Paul got on a ship with other prisoners going to Rome. But a big storm came. Strong winds, waves, and rain pushed the ship up and down. All the people on the ship were afraid. But God sent an angel to Paul. The angel told Paul not to be afraid. God was going to keep everyone on the ship safe. When the ship got close to an island, it got stuck. Waves crashed into the ship, and it broke apart. A soldier told everyone to swim. Everyone made it to shore. God had kept them all safe.

Check diapers and release toddlers to parents according to security procedures. Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.