

December 8
9:00am & 11:00am
Three and Four Year Olds
PAUL WAS ON TRIAL
(Acts 22-23)

CHRIST CONNECTION: Even when others wanted to hurt Paul, Paul trusted God. God showed His love for the world by sending Jesus, and Paul believed God would use these hard times to help Paul get to Rome. Like Paul, we can obey God no matter what because we know God loves us and takes care of us.

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

Ask preschoolers to name the bravest person they know. (Fictional superheroes or cartoon characters are fine but encourage them to name people they actually know.) Talk about why they think these people are brave. Share your own example if possible.

SAY *I loved hearing about the brave people you know. Did you know there are a lot of brave people in the Bible? Today we will talk about one of them—a man named Paul. Even when people wanted to hurt Paul, he still trusted God and continued to follow Him.*

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. Where did God tell Paul He wanted him to tell others about Jesus? (*Rome*)
3. How did Paul's nephew help keep him safe? (*He heard about a plan to hurt Paul and warned him.*)
4. Why can we obey God no matter what? (*because He loves us and takes care of us*)
5. ***Why should we praise Jesus? We should praise Jesus for all He has done for us.***

SAY *Paul knew he would face hard times in Jerusalem, but he obeyed God's plan because He trusted God. People wanted to hurt Paul for the things he was teaching about Jesus. Even though he was in prison, Paul continued to tell people the good news of God's love. Just like Paul obeyed God even when times were very hard, we can obey God too. God promises to love and take care of us in every situation.*

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 knew Jesus had gone through much worse things than him when Jesus died on the cross. Paul trusted God would keep him safe, even when others wanted to hurt him. Paul knew Jesus was worth everything that he had to go through. Paul wanted people to believe in God and praise Jesus for all He had done for them. Paul obeyed God, even when it was hard. God wants us to obey Him, too, no matter what.*

5. LEARN AND 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. Say the verse aloud. Ask preschoolers to name things God has done for them. Lead preschoolers to repeat the verse together using different voices such as loud and quiet/soft voices.

SAY *Paul could praise God for protecting him from people who wanted to hurt him. Paul trusted God and believed He would keep him safe. He knew God wanted him to tell people in Rome about Jesus. Paul wanted others to know about the amazing things God had done, including sending His Son, Jesus, to rescue sinners.*

6. PRAY

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

SAY *God, thank You for protecting us. Help us obey You, even when others around us do not obey. Help us trust You, no matter what. Amen.*

ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OR ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES BELOW)

LISTEN AND REPEAT

Using your hands, tap out a simple beat on your lap. Invite preschoolers to listen carefully and then repeat the beat on their legs. Play more difficult beats if preschoolers can complete the simple ones. Give boys and girls opportunities to create a beat if they would like.

SAY *Good listening, friends! In today's Bible story, people were angry with Paul and wanted to hurt him. Paul's nephew heard a group of Jewish people talking about a plan to harm Paul. He quickly told Paul what he had heard, and then he told the army commander who was protecting Paul. Because Paul's nephew shared what he had heard, the army commander was able to move Paul to a new place to keep him safe. God continued to protect Paul in many different ways.*

PASS THE MESSAGE

Form two groups of preschoolers. Invite each group to stand in a line on opposite sides of the room. Whisper a message to the first child in one of the lines. Lead her to walk to the other line and whisper the message to the first child in that line. Lead that child to walk back to the other line and whisper what he heard to the next child in line. Continue until each child has a chance to hear and deliver the message. Share the message the last child heard and the original message. Compare how it stayed the same or changed.

SAY *You heard and told a message during our game. In today's story, Paul's nephew had an important message to tell. Do you remember what it was? [Allow responses.] A group of Jews made a plan to hurt Paul. Paul's nephew heard them talking and quickly went to tell Paul what he had heard. Paul told him to tell the army commander. The commander had two soldiers bring horses and more soldiers to safely move Paul to another city. God protected Paul. Even when he faced great danger, Paul never stopped following God. He obeyed God's plan.*

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

As children color, talk about the Christ Connection.

SAY *Even when others wanted to hurt Paul, Paul trusted God. We can obey God no matter what because we know God loves us and takes care of us.*

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 22. 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 WAS ON TRIAL

STORYTELLING TIPS

Respond with actions: Encourage preschoolers to stand up and march in place when they hear the word “soldier” as you tell the Bible story.

Use a chain prop: Make a chain using paper strips looped and linked together. Invite several preschoolers to hold up parts of the chain while you tell the story, reminding them that Paul was put in prison even though he had done nothing wrong.

Paul was in danger. After traveling all over to tell people about Jesus, a crowd of angry people tried to hurt Paul. Paul was rescued by a commander of the Roman army. His soldiers took Paul away to a safe place.

The next day, the soldiers took Paul to see some religious leaders. The religious leaders belonged to two different groups. One group taught people about the law. The other group was in charge of the temple. Each group believed different things.

Paul stood in front of the leaders and said, “Friends, I did what God wants me to do. I did not do anything wrong.” Paul told them he was in jail for teaching that people will rise from the dead. Then the leaders began arguing. Some of them thought Paul was doing the right thing, but some thought he was wrong. The leaders were very upset, so the Roman soldiers took Paul away so he would be safe.

The next night, the Lord came to Paul. “Have courage!” said the Lord. “You told people about Me in Jerusalem. You must tell people in Rome too.”

In the morning, a group of Jews made another plan to hurt Paul. They told the Jewish leaders about their plan. Paul’s nephew heard the Jews talking about their plan. He hurried to Paul and told him what they said.

Paul told him to tell the army commander about the plan.

So the army commander told two of his soldiers to get a bunch of soldiers and horses. The soldiers brought a horse for Paul to ride on. That night, the soldiers took Paul to another city to see the Roman governor. God took care of Paul and protected him from the men who wanted to hurt him.

Christ Connection: Even when others wanted to hurt Paul, Paul trusted God. God showed His love for the world by sending Jesus, and Paul believed God would use these hard times to help Paul get to Rome. Like Paul, we can obey God no matter what because we know God loves us and takes care of us.

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 8
9:00am & 11:00am
Two Year Olds
PAUL WAS ON TRIAL
Acts 22

CHRIST CONNECTION: We can tell people about Jesus because God is with us.

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

Ask preschoolers to name the bravest person they know. (Fictional superheroes or cartoon characters are fine but encourage them to name people they actually know.) Talk about why they think these people are brave. Share your own example if possible.

SAY *I loved hearing about the brave people you know. Did you know there are a lot of brave people in the Bible? Today we will talk about one of them—a man named Paul. Even when people wanted to hurt Paul, he still trusted God and continued to follow Him.*

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. Read the key passage phrase. Say the key passage loudly and then whisper it. Comment that sometimes we might think about the key passage and pray it in our minds without saying a thing out loud and God can still hear us. Encourage the children to pray the key passage silently and thank God for something God has given them.

SAY *Remember that praising God shows Him that we love Him and are thankful for all He does for us. Lord, we will praise Your name. We thank you for our family and friends.*

ACTIVITIES

LISTEN AND REPEAT

Using your hands, tap out a simple beat on your lap. Invite preschoolers to listen carefully and then repeat the beat on their legs. Play more difficult beats if preschoolers can complete the simple ones. Give boys and girls opportunities to create a beat if they would like.

SAY *Good listening, friends! In today's Bible story, people were angry with Paul and wanted to hurt him. Paul's nephew heard a group of Jewish people talking about a plan to harm Paul. He quickly told Paul what he had heard, and then he told the army commander who was protecting Paul. Because Paul's nephew shared what he had heard, the army commander was able to move Paul to a new place to keep him safe. God continued to protect Paul in many different ways.*

MOVE AND OBEY

Choose actions for the toddlers to copy. Actions include jumping, tapping their heads, standing on one foot while touching their noses, and so forth. The sillier the better! Invite toddlers to mimic the movements. Congratulate the toddlers on their obedience.

SAY *To obey means to do what someone tells you to do. Can we obey God? Yes! We can obey God because God loves us and takes care of us. God wants what is best for us.*

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:

- Lots of people were mad at Paul.
- God told Paul to be brave.
- God took care of Paul and kept him safe.

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE:

Open the Bible to Acts 22 and tell the following Bible story:

Lots of people were mad at Paul. They did not like what he was teaching. A big crowd of people wanted to hurt Paul, so some soldiers took Paul away to keep him safe. The leader of the army brought Paul to visit some important leaders. Paul told them, "I did not do anything wrong!" The leaders did not agree, so Paul went to prison. God came to Paul and said, "Have courage! You will tell people about Me in Rome." The next day, the people made another plan to hurt Paul, so the soldiers took Paul away in the middle of the night. God took care of Paul and kept him 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.