

Preaching the Gospel from Prison



Theme: Faith — God's care for His children

Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Sailing Through the Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Have the entire class stand and say together all three Memory Verses for this quarter. Take a moment to talk about the meaning of each verse and especially what they tell us about God.

Prayer

Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read Acts 28:1-3, 5-6, 9-10. Have reading students find and mark Acts 28:1 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by asking a student to show Malta and Rome's location on a map.
5. Introduce Lesson Graphics using the *Journeys for Jesus Suitcase* as described on page 9 in this Guide.
6. Tell the story using the *Gospel is for All Lesson Graphics* and other props such as a small basket and baby doll, some reeds, and blue paper for water. Talk about trusting God to take care of us.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:
 - Paul requested to take his case to the Roman emperor. He was taken on a ship to Rome for this.
 - During the trip, a strong storm came up over the sea. People on the ship were afraid and thought they would die.
 - Because Paul was on the ship, God protected everyone else who was with him. The ship wrecked and everyone survived.

- After staying on the island of Malta for three months, Paul was taken to Rome. Paul stayed in Rome two years teaching and preaching the gospel.
 - The gospel was going all over the world. The gospel is for all!
8. This lesson features Paul's voyage to Rome (Acts 27). To help students understand something about the trip, it is effective to use maps. Both labeled maps and blank maps of Paul's preaching trips are available in the *Shaping Hearts for God New Testament Map Set*, which may be purchased separately. This set also includes reproducible maps suitable for worksheets. In teaching, use the labeled map to trace the course of Paul's trip. Talk about who was with him and what they did at each place. Using the blank map that has been laminated and a dry erase marker, put a star by key locations that you are emphasizing in class. In connection with the key locations, discuss people and events.
9. In the desktop Bibles, find and read together Acts 28:24-29. Tell the students they will need to listen for these verses in the lesson story and raise their pinkie finger when they hear it.

Have students trace Paul's trip to Rome on a big map.

Have "fire" already made from a box, a string of tiny white lights, crumpled yellow and orange tissue paper, and wood blocks, with a rubber snake hidden in it. Visit this scene at the appropriate time in the story. From the *Journeys for Jesus Suitcase*, take the Lesson Graphic, bread (Paul giving thanks for bread and encouraging the others to eat on ship), and a sword (Paul under house arrest in Rome with one guard), and tell the story of Paul's trip to Rome, having students tell how each picture or object is related to the lesson story. At the end of story, read or paraphrase Acts 28:24-29 so that students can raise their pinkie fingers when they hear it.

**Things to Get or Do
for Sunday Morning**

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Preaching the Gospel from Prison



Theme: Faith — God's care for His children

Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Sailing Through the Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Provide an opportunity for students who have not yet recited Memory Verses for the class. Move to the Memory Verse wall display featured on page 10 of this Guide. Talk with the students about the key verses they have learned about the Lord's army and how these verses will help them their whole lives. Tell the students they may take home the graphic that represented them as well as the star accents with the verses they memorized. Give these to the students as they leave class.

Prayer

Starter

Look on a map or globe and see that Rome is a long way from Jerusalem. Can you guess how far Rome is from Jerusalem? Can you believe it is a little more than 1,400 miles? That's a long way! The gospel was first preached in the city of Jerusalem. After this, it was taught and preached in many places. But Rome was the capital of the Roman Empire, and the apostle Paul wanted to take the gospel there. Paul finally made it to Rome, but not exactly in the way that he planned.

Briefly review the lesson from Sunday morning and read Acts 28:1-3, 5-6, 9-10.

Illustrations and Applications

1. *Objective: To review Memory Verses memorized during the quarter*

Before class hide Memory Verse cards from all three Memory Verses around the room. When the teacher instructs, the students search for the cards. Have students lay the cards out on the floor and put the cards for each verse in the correct order. Then read all of them aloud in unison. Tell the students not to look at the cards if they can still say the verses from memory.

2. *Objective: To trace Paul's voyage to Rome, where he went and what he did*

Using the reproducible map including in the *Shaping Hearts for God New Testament Map Set*, provide a map as a worksheet for each student. Have students trace the voyage from city to city with a pencil as you call out the locations. When you come to key locations have the students tell you what they know about related people and events. Supplement what the students tell you as needed.

3. *Objective: To demonstrate how Christians can benefit people around them*

The sailors on the ship were “saved” because Paul was saved. If Paul had not been with them, it is likely that they would have perished at sea in the storm. Paul’s being with them benefited everyone on the ship. Following is an illustration of this: Your class at school takes a field trip. On the way you pass an ice cream store. Your father owns the ice cream store. Your mother, who is a chaperone on the trip, suggests to the teacher that the class makes a brief visit to the ice cream store. Your father provides an ice cream cone for every student. Because you are in the class, the whole class benefits. In a similar way, the world often benefits because people are Christians — they are honest, hardworking, good, kind, and generous people.

 4. *Objective: To illustrate how Paul could be under house arrest in Rome and still teach and preach the gospel in many places*

Have one student sit in a chair in the middle of the room holding several of the same object, such as pieces of candy. Have other students stand around the perimeter of the room. Assign one student to come to the student in the chair and receive an object. The receiving student takes the object to a student on the perimeter. Repeat this receiving and giving process until each student at the perimeter has one or two objects. This shows how Paul could stay in one place and yet many people could hear the gospel through him (Acts 28:30-31).

Journeys for Jesus Journal

Give students time to review their journals and compare them. Use this activity as a time to review the events and reinforce the lessons studied during the quarter.

Things to Get or Do for Wednesday Night

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