



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 61

## PAUL IN CHAINS

*Nothing can stop the advance of the gospel.*



**MONDAY**

---

### **THE STORY: ACTS 28:11-20**

Paul was in chains because of the gospel. Paul was arrested after sharing his testimony when the Jews began to riot in opposition (Acts 21:27-36). While in custody the Jews swore they would kill Paul (Acts 23:12-13). Rather than be handed over to the Jews, Paul appealed to Caesar. He knew that he was called to Rome by our Lord. After a difficult journey, Paul finally reached Rome.

### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

Why was Paul arrested? (Paul was arrested for proclaiming the gospel which caused a lot of commotion among the Jews.)

Paul said it was because of the hope of Israel that he was bound in chains. What is the hope of Israel? (Jesus is the hope of Israel. The gospel is the hope of Israel.)

Is the gospel our hope as well? Why? (The message of good news is our hope. It is our hope because it is the only way by which people are saved from their sins and brought back into a right relationship with God.)

**PRAY:**

Thank God for the gospel - our only hope for salvation.



**TUESDAY**

---

**THE STORY: ACTS 28:17-23**

In spite of his chains, Paul continued to preach. In Acts 23:11 Jesus appeared to Paul and told him he would proclaim the gospel in Rome. Once in Rome, Paul wasted no time. Paul explained the gospel, God's story, from the Old Testament from morning to evening. Some were convinced by what Paul shared, but others did not believe.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

How is Paul an example of faith for us? (In spite of difficult circumstances, Paul remained steadfastly committed to the proclamation of the gospel message.)

How should Paul's example of preaching the gospel in chains affect us who are able to share the good news freely without threat of arrest? (We should recognize the wonderful opportunity we have in our freedom to share the gospel. Too often we stop to enjoy the pleasures of life and forget that we are on a mission to proclaim God's word.)

**PRAY:**

Pray that God would help your family to look for and take opportunities to share the good news about our salvation with your family, friends, and neighbors.



**WEDNESDAY**  
**WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?**

---

**THE STORY: PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18**

Paul knew that he was being detained in a house arrest situation so that the gospel could be widely proclaimed. In Philippians 1:12 Paul said that the advancement of the gospel was the reason for his imprisonment in Rome.

For two years Paul stayed under house arrest, sharing with anyone who would come to listen. Acts 28:31 tells us that he proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about Jesus with all boldness and without hindrance. Even when others were preaching with false motives (to make a name for themselves) and in competition with Paul, Paul rejoiced. To him, the most important thing was that the message was going forth.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What effect did Paul's imprisonment have on other Christians? (Paul's example motivated others to spread the word of God more courageously.)

How could Paul's example motivate them and not cause them to fear their own imprisonment? (Even after being arrested and placed in chains, Paul continued to preach. If Paul was not afraid to talk about Jesus while under arrest, how could those who were free not take the message to others?)

How are you doing in spreading the gospel as a family? Who can you be reaching out to? (Parents, draw out your children and come up with a plan to reach out to one of your neighbors or someone you know that does not know the Lord.)

**PRAY:**

Pray for the person you are planning to reach out to.



## THURSDAY

---

### **THE STORY: ACTS 28: 24-31**

Paul was not hindered by the unbelief of the Jews. In spite of the fact that many did not believe Paul, Paul remained committed to spreading the message. For two years Paul welcomed all who came to see him and preached the gospel without hindrance. Paul knew that many of the Jews would reject Jesus, but he also remembered that the Lord had called him to proclaim the message to the Gentiles. Even while under house arrest, Paul continued the work God had assigned him.

### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

According to Isaiah, who were the people that would not be able to see or hear the truth of the gospel? (Israel, who should have welcomed Jesus, rejected Him.)

Who did Paul say the gospel was sent to when Israel rejected it? (Paul said that God's salvation was sent to the Gentiles.)

Who are we like - the Jews who rejected the message or the Gentiles who received it? (Each man can either reject or accept the message. There were many among the Jews who accepted the message, and there were many Gentiles who rejected it too.)

### **PRAY:**

Pray that the Spirit of God would touch each member of your family so that each one might receive the message of the gospel and place their trust in the finished work of Christ.



**FRIDAY**  
**ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

---

**THE STORY: PSALM 22:22-31**

The writer of Hebrews quotes Psalm 22:22 attributing this verse to Christ (Hebrews 2:12). This passage speaks of the adoption we have as brothers of Christ because of the work of Christ. This passage also speaks of the advance of the gospel to all nations.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What is the message of righteousness future generations will be told about? (The gospel is the future message of righteousness that we proclaim.)

Who are the future people Psalm 22:31 mentions? (We are a part of the future people who were, at that time, yet unborn. This prophetic psalm prophecies the future spread of the gospel to us, our children, and to those yet unborn until our Savior returns.)

**PRAY:**

Thank God for reaching your family with the gospel.