

PAUL IN CHAINS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: ACTS 28:11-24 & 30-31



The STORY

Read about Paul's ministry to the Romans while under house arrest in Acts 28:11-24 and 30-31. A parallel account of his imprisonment can be found in Philippians 1.

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- Why did Paul go to Rome? (Paul was a Roman citizen and every Roman citizen could appeal to Caesar when arrested and be tried in Rome.)
- Did Paul get put in prison? (No, Paul was under house arrest, which means he could go on living in his home but was chained there and could not leave. This is much nicer than prison but is still very difficult.)
- What did they do to Paul to make sure he did not run away? (They had a chain on him.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Paul writing a letter while under house arrest. Engage the children by asking:

- How did God use Paul's time under house arrest for His glory? (Paul wrote the book of Philippians while under house arrest and he shared the Gospel with all those who would visit him.)
- What do you think happened to the guards who were guarding Paul? (The guards began to understand the Gospel and realized Paul had not done anything wrong but was being held because of his faith.)
- What do you think Paul would have told the guards? (Paul would have told the story of how Jesus met him on the road, blinded him and changed his life.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- Read Acts 28:24 to the children. Did everyone believe Paul's message about Jesus? (No, not everyone believed Paul.)
- Does everyone who hears the story and message of Jesus believe today? (No, there are still people who do not believe in Jesus.)
- Who helps us to believe that the story about Jesus is true? (The Holy Spirit working on our hearts helps us to believe the story is true. When we believe in something we cannot see, we call that believing by faith.)

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Paul knew that he was being detained in a house arrest situation so that the Gospel could be widely proclaimed. He describes the advancement of the Gospel as the reason for his imprisonment in Rome to the Philippians in Philippians 1:12.

For two years Paul stayed under house arrest sharing the Gospel with anyone who would come to listen. Verse 31 of Acts 28 tells us that he proclaimed the Kingdom of God and taught about Jesus with all boldness and without hindrance.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

