

Acts-Revelation

Paul is on Trial

Acts 24:1-27

Younger Verse

Depend on the Lord in whatever you do. Proverbs 16:3

Older Verse

Depend on the Lord in whatever you do and your plans will succeed. Proverbs 16:3

Welcome Time

Have you ever been accused of doing something wrong? How did it feel to be questioned and blamed? Let's see what happens to Paul when this happens.

Bible Story

*The following is a summary of the Bible story to help you with your preparation. It is **NOT** to be read to the children. Instead, use your Bible to explain the story. Make a note page to help you remember your plans for the lesson or questions you wanted to ask.*

Last week we learned that Paul was arrested for telling people about Jesus. In fact, a group of evil people tried to find a way to kill him, but Paul's nephew heard the rumor and warned Paul and the commander.

The commander transferred Paul to another city to await a court trial with the governor named Felix.

After five days of waiting, Paul and his accusers went to court to hear the case of Paul.

The accusers hired a lawyer named Tertullus to defend their case. This man came before the governor and gave him many compliments. He flattered the governor and wanted to persuade him to favor their side.

They shared that they thought Paul was a trouble maker who stirred up many riots wherever he went. They also told how he believed in a new "Way." Then others joined in, saying that the lawyer was speaking the truth.

Next, the governor motioned for Paul to speak. Paul did not have a lawyer to speak his case. Instead, He stood up and stated his case.

First, Paul praised the governor for having much experience in hearing cases (he had been a judge for a number of years). This was Paul's way of reminding the governor of the importance of judging fairly and not being swayed by flattery or bribery.

Lesson Goals

Explain what Paul did when he was on trial
Share how to become a Christian
See who Paul put his trust in (God)



Then, Paul shared with the group that he was not arguing with anyone when his accusers found him. He told the governor that he was not causing trouble either.

Then, Paul stood up for what he believed. He told governor Felix that he did believe in Jesus and that he did worship God. He also shared that the Bible told of Jesus and that He really was God's Son, who came back to life and was the only way to Heaven.

After hearing this, Felix, the governor, ended the trial and told the group that he would make a decision when the commander of the army arrived. Paul had to be kept under guard but also had freedom for friends to come and take care of his needs.

Several days later, Felix and his wife Drusilla, who knew about God, sent for Paul. They were curious about the things that Paul was sharing.

Paul told them about Jesus and how they could believe in Him. He shared how they could get to Heaven by believing and trusting Jesus and told them that one day everyone would have to stand before God to be judged.

When Felix heard this, he was afraid. Instead of trusting Jesus, he said, "That's enough!" and sent Paul away. He told Paul that he would ask him to come back when it was convenient for him. Felix was hoping that Paul would try to offer the governor a money bribe!

For two years, Felix kept Paul under custody, but let him have some freedom. He called to talk to him often, hoping Paul would give him a bribe, but Paul never did.

Then after two years, Festus became governor. Felix left Paul in prison as a favor to the accusers. (They may have given him a bribe.)

Paul remained truthful and obedient to God during all his hard times. He always told people the news of Jesus. Felix listened and learned the truth but was afraid to make a decision. How about you? Are you afraid to take a step? Jesus promises that He will always be with us and help us. Paul was willing to stand up for what he believed. Are you? If you were put on trial, would people know that you believe in Jesus?

Learning Activities

Be sensitive to needs today. Some may want to trust Jesus.

Memory Verse Activities

Bring a jump rope and let the kids try to jump rope and say the verse!

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us follow Jesus and tell others about Him.

Clean Up/Snack time

Make this a special time and look for those who may want to trust Jesus.

Planning for July 4th
Paul sees the King
Acts 25:23—26:31

Preschool Lesson
For
Paul is on trial

Teachers: Preschoolers are not going to understand all the details of what a trial is. Focus on how Paul shared what he believed with others and how the governor and his wife wanted to know more.

Paul wanted people everywhere to know about Jesus and believe in Him. He walked and walked to different towns to help the people learn and trust in Jesus. Sometimes, it caused people to be upset because what Paul was saying was not something they had ever heard.

Paul was put in jail several times for telling people about Jesus. That's right!

One time, Paul came to a time when a judge was listening to all that Paul had done. The other side had a lawyer that told the judge how Paul was a trouble maker.

Paul stood up on his own and told the judge that he had never caused trouble or argued with others.

Paul told the judge about Jesus. He shared how Jesus loved everyone and died on the cross. Then, he shared how Jesus came back to life and He is the only way to Heaven.

The judge did not make a decision on what to do. Instead, Paul had to stay in jail. He probably had different guards that came and checked on him. He was also allowed to have friends come and take care of him.

The judge and his wife knew who God was. They sent for Paul to hear more about Jesus. They were very curious. They listened and learned about how Jesus loved all people. The sad thing was that they never believed in Jesus.

Paul was happy to tell people about Jesus. He wanted them to love Jesus like he did. He knew that Jesus cared for them and he wanted them to know this good news.

We have good news to tell others too! Jesus loves them! Let's sing, "Jesus loves me!"

Hands-On Activities For Paul is on Trial

Set up a courtroom using cardboard. Explain how the lawyers from both sides share why they think they are right. Talk about how the judge should be fair and look at both sides without prejudice.

Paul probably was chained to a guard all the time. Probably different guards rotated duty. Since they were attached to Paul, what do you think he did? Probably he would tell them about Jesus. Let the kids see what it's like to be attached to another. Wrap bandanas or strips of material around two person's arms or legs (like a 3 legged race activity). Let them try to eat snacks this way or even play a game. It's hard!

Paul stood up and shared what he believed about Jesus. He did not let anything stop him because he wanted everyone to know about Jesus. He knew that Jesus was the only way to Heaven and He wanted everyone to go. He also knew the difference Jesus could make in a person's life. He had changed so much and he knew that God can change anyone's life to make it full and joyful.

Paul never tried to bribe the governor. A bribe is money or goods given secretly to someone to persuade that person to do something in the giver's favor. God wants us to be honest and never try to influence others or bribe others to get "our" way.

The governor and his wife listened to Paul but were afraid to make a decision to believe in Jesus. He sent Paul away. It is easy to think that you can wait to trust Jesus too. However, we never know what will happen to us. And, we should never be afraid to make a decision because God loves us and wants the best for us!