

WEEK 9: PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME

DAY 1: GOD USED A NEPHEW AND SOLDIERS TO SAVE PAUL'S LIFE

Acts 23:23-35

1. Last week we saw how God promised Paul he would witness in Rome. From the Lord's words to Paul in prison in Jerusalem, what do we learn?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

2. We learn that the Lord cares about our present troubles. He knows our past. And He will guide our future. This week we will learn how God kept His promise to Paul. We will see how God brought him to Rome. The Jews tried very hard to kill Paul. But God saved Paul's life through:

- (1) His nephew
- (2) The Roman soldiers

This teaches us that God will work out His plan for our lives.

Take your Bible now and read Acts 23:23-35. Read verse 23 again. When would the soldiers travel in order to save Paul's life?

3. The soldiers would travel at night. Forty Jews had made a strong plan. They had tried to kill Paul outside the temple. But the Romans had taken Paul. Now they planned another way. They would ask for Paul to be brought to the council. But they would kill him on the way. Forty men agreed not to eat or drink until Paul was dead.

Acts 23:16:

Now the son of Paul's sister heard of their ambush (or plan to attack); so he went and entered the barracks (or place of the soldiers) and told Paul.

Who was saving Paul's life through a nephew? _____

4. God was saving his life. God had protected him many times before. In Acts 9 his friends had put him over the city wall in a basket. In Acts 20 God helped him take another road. God made the plans of sinful men come to nothing.

Whose life was God saving through a nephew? _____

5. God was saving Paul's life. Forty men had made a strong promise to each other. They said they would not eat or drink until they had killed Paul. They were sure their plan could not fail. But someone heard their plan. He went to Paul.

Acts 23:17:

And Paul called one of the centurions (or leaders of soldiers) and said, "Take this young man to the tribune (or head of the soldiers); for he has something to tell him." So he took him and brought him to the tribune.

Who was the young man who God was using to save Paul's life? _____

6. It was his nephew. Perhaps he was just a boy, but God used him.

Acts 23:19:

The tribune took him by the hand, and going aside asked him privately, "What is it that you have to tell me?" And he said, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow.

What was God doing for Paul through his nephew? _____

7. God was saving Paul's life. The head of the soldiers listened. It is wonderful that an important man listened to a boy's words.

Acts 23:22:

So the tribune dismissed the young man, charging (or telling) him, "Tell no one that you have informed me of this."

Whom did God use first to save Paul's life when 40 men planned to kill him in Jerusalem?

- (1) _____
(2) The Roman soldiers
-

8. God first used Paul's nephew. The head of the soldiers listened to the boy. He not only listened. He did something.

Acts 23:23:

Then he called two of the centurions (or leaders of the soldiers) and said, "At the third hour of the night get ready two hundred soldiers with seventy horsemen.

What kind of men were these 200 whom God would use to protect Paul from 40 Jews?

9. They were soldiers. And they were Romans. There would also be 70 horsemen and 200 spearmen. It seems they were preparing for a great battle! But they would go quietly during the night. They would be far down the road before morning.

Acts 23:24:

Also provide mounts for Paul to ride, and bring him safely to Felix the governor.

Through Paul's nephew and the Roman soldiers God was saving Paul from whom? _____

10. God was saving Paul from the Jews. Forty of them wanted to kill him. God had other plans for Paul. He used different people to spoil the sinful plans of men.

Whom did God use to save Paul's life?

(1) His nephew

(2) _____

11. God used the Roman soldiers. These were not men of God. They were not believers in Christ. But God had a plan. God wanted Paul's life saved. The sinful plan of the 40 men was found out. God was working out His own plan. He wants to work out His plan for our lives. Remember this verse.

Acts 23:11:

the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified about me at Jerusalem, so you must bear witness also at Rome."

From this verse, what was God's plan for Paul?

12. God's plan was that Paul should witness in Rome. God will work His plan for us if we let Him.

Whom did God use to save Paul's life when 40 Jews planned to kill him in Jerusalem?

(1) His nephew

(2) _____

13. God used the Roman soldiers. God wants to lead our lives. He has a good plan for us. Solomon wrote long ago that we should trust God.

Proverbs 3:5-6:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight (or thinking). In all your ways acknowledge (or remember) him, and he will make straight (or guide) your paths.

From these verses, who will work out his plan for our lives? _____

14. God will do this. He knows each one of us. He wants to make our lives good. This does not mean we should be careless. It does not mean we should sit down and do nothing. We should follow God and let Him work. This is what Paul did. He did God's will. He let God work out His plan in his life.

What will God work out for our lives? _____

15. God will work out His plan. He protected Paul and brought him to witness in Rome. God worked out His plan for many people in the Bible. He did this for Joseph in the Old Testament. Joseph was sold as a slave. But he became a great leader. He was able to save his family in famine. It was hard to see God's plan at first. Perhaps Paul had questions as he was taken by night from Jerusalem.

God saved Paul's life through his nephew and the Roman soldiers. What does this teach us about our lives? _____

16. It teaches us that God will work out His plan for us. We had a pastor named Stephen in our area. He had five sons. Then the Lord gave him a daughter. But after three weeks, the baby died. Many people asked, "Why?" Stephen and his wife, Elizabeth, prayed much in their sorrow. They answered people, "God has chosen our little girl to come and be with him at this time." The faith of these two helped others in time of trouble.

Whom did God use to save Paul's life when 40 Jews planned to kill him in Jerusalem?

(1) _____

(2) _____

17. God used Paul's nephew and the Roman soldiers. God did not set Paul free. He was working out something else. Some people get ahead of God. A friend of mine was helping to build roads. He bribed the overseer to make him head man of his group. A few months later someone reported what he had done. Both my friend and the overseer lost their jobs. Paul let God work out His plan for his life. God saved Paul's life.

What does this teach us about our lives? _____

18. It teaches that God will work out His plan for us. We must let Him work. We must accept the things He lets happen to us. Paul did not understand all that was happening. But he arrived in Caesarea with many soldiers on horses. He was not a prisoner in shame. He was a missionary guided and protected by the Holy Spirit.

It may encourage the people of your church to hear this lesson. Prepare a sermon to preach from this part of Paul's life. On another paper write the big things you will say. Preach the sermon if you can. Bring your paper to class.

19. Whom did God use to save Paul's life when 40 Jews planned to kill him in Jerusalem?

(1) _____

(2) _____

What does this teach us about our lives? _____

WEEK 9: PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME

DAY 2: PAUL TOLD THE RULERS ABOUT FAITH IN CHRIST

Acts 24

1. Whom did God use to save Paul's life when 40 Jews planned to kill him in Jerusalem?

(1) _____

(2) _____

What does this teach us about our lives? _____

2. God used Paul's nephew and the Roman soldiers to save him. This shows that God will work out His plan for us. God had promised that Paul would witness before Gentiles and kings. The next three days we will learn how Paul spoke to three rulers. He talked about one great thing to all of them.

(1) Paul talked to Governor Felix, Governor Festus, and King Agrippa about faith in Christ.

(2) Governor Felix answered Paul: Wait until another time.

Take your Bible now and read Acts 24:1 to 6. Then read verse 24 to 27. Read verse 24 again. In this verse, which governor did Paul speak to about faith in Christ?

3. He spoke to Governor Felix. Felix was the ruler in Caesarea where Paul was sent. The soldiers in Jerusalem did not know what to do with Paul. They sent him to the one who ruled Israel at that time. The Jews also came to Caesarea to accuse Paul. They brought a man named Tertullus to speak for them. Tertullus told lies about Paul. Then Paul spoke.

What did this give Paul a chance to do for Christ? _____

4. It gave him the chance to witness for Christ. Tertullus said that the prisoner made trouble. He said that he was a leader of new religion. He said that he made the temple unclean. The prisoner showed that he worshipped the God of the Jews. He showed that he believed the law and the prophets. He showed that Christ fulfilled all this.

Who took his trial as a chance to speak about faith in Christ? _____

5. Paul did this. He was on trial for his life. But he did not just try to protect himself. He took the chance to preach.

When he was speaking to Governor Felix, Paul talked about faith in whom?

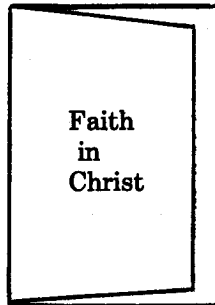
6. He talked about faith in Christ. Felix already knew much about the way of Christ. But knowing about Christ is not enough.

Acts 24:22, 24:

But Felix, having a rather accurate (or straight) knowledge of the way, put them off saying, "When Lysias the tribune comes down, I will decide your case." ... and he sent for Paul and heard him speak upon faith in Christ Jesus.

From these verses we see that knowing about Christ is not enough. What must we have in Christ? _____

7. We must have faith in Christ. Faith in Christ is like an open door for us. It gives us forgiveness of sins. It gives us eternal life. We will see that Paul spoke to Felix, Festus, and Agrippa in the same way.



The Door to Eternal Life

What great thing did Paul talk about to Governor Felix, Governor Festus, and King Agrippa? _____

8. He talked about faith in Christ. But Felix was not ready for this. He was not ready to open the door. Felix said: Wait until another time.

Acts 24:25:

And as he (Paul) argued about justice and self-control and future judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, "Go away for the present; when I have opportunity I will summon (or call) you."

Was Felix ready to put his faith in Christ? _____

9. Felix was not ready to put his faith in Christ. He was not ready to open the door.

Acts 24:26:

At the same time he hoped that money would be given him by Paul. So he sent for him often and conversed with him.

What great thing did Paul talk about to Governor Felix, Governor Festus, and King Agrippa? _____

10. He talked about faith in Christ. Faith in Christ would be an open door. Felix could have eternal life. He could have full or abundant life. He listened to the testimony. He called for the prisoner again and again. But in the end he said: Wait until another time.

Who witnessed to Governor Felix about faith in Christ? _____

11. Paul witnessed to him. But every time Felix put off deciding about Paul and about Christ. We have already looked at this verse.

Acts 24:22:

But Felix ... put them off, saying, "When Lysias the tribune comes down, I will decide your case."

Why do you think Felix said: Wait until another time? _____

12. Perhaps he wanted to think. Perhaps he really did not want to believe in Christ. Felix was governor. He should have decided Paul's matter. He should have decided about faith in Christ.

Acts 24:23:

Then he gave orders to the centurion that he (Paul) should be kept in custody (or in prison) but should have some liberty (or freedom), and that none of his friends should be prevented from attending to (or caring for) his needs.

Did Felix receive Christ, or did he wait? _____

13. He waited. Paul explained that men should put their faith in Jesus. They should be righteous and control themselves. They should prepare for judgment in the future. The governor became afraid. He wanted peace and joy. But he was not willing to believe in Christ.

Who said: Wait until another time? _____

14. Felix said this. He was never ready to decide. He knew he was a sinner. But he was not ready to open the door. He was like some people today. They keep putting off the decision to become Christians.

Then Felix was moved. He was sent to another place. Someone else became governor.

Acts 24:27:

But when two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus; and desiring to do to the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.

What great thing did Paul talk about to Governor Felix, Governor Festus, and King Agrippa?

15. He talked about faith in Christ.

What did Governor Felix answer Paul? _____

16. He said: Wait until another time. Perhaps Felix never heard about Christ again. We do not know that he ever received Christ. Many people delay to receive Christ until it is too late. We cannot be sure of tomorrow. Here is a verse which we can tell people who say: Wait until another time.

Proverbs 27:1:

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.

Perhaps this verse will help you in witnessing. In the back of your Bible write the words of Felix. Then write Proverbs 27:1. You can use this verse when people delay to receive Christ.

17. What great thing did Paul talk about to Governor Felix, Governor Festus, and King Agrippa? _____

What did Governor Felix answer Paul?

WEEK 9: PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME

DAY 3: GOVERNOR FESTUS SAID PAUL WAS MAD

Acts 25

1. This week we are seeing how Paul witnessed before great rulers.

What great thing did Paul talk about to Governor Felix, Governor Festus, and King Agrippa?

What did Governor Felix answer him?

2. Paul talked to the rulers about faith in Christ. Governor Felix answered: Wait until another time. After two years Governor Festus took the place of Governor Felix. Perhaps Paul thought that a new governor would free him. But God still wanted him to speak for Christ in prison. Today we learn:

(1) Felix, Festus, and Agrippa all said Paul was not guilty, but kept him in prison.

(2) Governor Festus could not believe what Paul said about Christ. He answered Paul: You are mad.

Take your Bible now and read Acts 25:1 to 12. Did governor Festus let Paul go free?

3. Festus did not let Paul go free. Neither did Felix or Agrippa free him. Yet none of them found him guilty or worthy to die. We have seen why Felix kept Paul in prison.

Acts 24:27:

Felix was succeeded (or followed) by Porcius Festus; and desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.

Who followed Felix as governor and also kept Paul in prison?

4. His name was Porcius Festus. We call him Governor Festus. As soon as Festus became governor, the Jews asked that Paul be brought to Jerusalem. They wanted to kill him. But Festus tried Paul again in Caesarea. This is what Festus said about the trial.

Acts 25:18, 25:

When the accusers (the Jews from Jerusalem) stood up, they brought no charge in the case of such evils as I supposed ... I found that he had done nothing deserving (or calling for) death.

Did Festus find Paul guilty?

5. **Festus did not find Paul guilty. But he did not set Paul free. Instead he asked King Agrippa to help him judge Paul. King Agrippa and his wife came to visit Festus. Agrippa asked to hear Paul. Again Paul talked about faith in Christ.**

Acts 26:31:

and when they (King Agrippa and Governor Festus) had withdrawn, they said to one another, "This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment."

Whom did Felix, Festus, and Agrippa try and find not guilty? _____

6. **They did this to Paul. They listened to what he said about faith in Christ. They heard how he met Jesus on the way to Damascus.**

Acts 26:32:

And Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

Did Agrippa find Paul guilty or not guilty? _____

7. **King Agrippa found Paul not guilty. But he kept him in prison. Perhaps if he had set Paul free, the Jews would have killed Paul. God was using Paul in prison. He spoke to Governor Felix, Governor Festus, and King Agrippa.**

As we learned yesterday, what great thing did he talk about to each one? _____

8. **Paul talked about faith in Christ. He explained that he was changed when he met Jesus. He also tried to get these rulers to have faith in Christ.**

Felix Festus, and Agrippa kept Paul in prison. Did they say he was guilty or not guilty? _____

9. **They said he was not guilty. But they did not believe in Christ.**



Faith in Christ could have opened the door to new life. But they left the door shut. They stayed in their old way of life. Paul explained how Christ rose from the dead.

Acts 26:24:

And as he (Paul) thus made his defense (or witness), Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul you are mad; your great learning is turning you mad."

Who found it so hard to believe, that he said Paul was mad? _____

10. Festus said this. You remember that Felix said: Wait until another time. He wanted to hear more about Christ. But Festus shouted at Paul. He thought that what Paul said was not possible. He thought Paul was losing his mind. No one could rise from the dead! This is what Festus said about the Jews.

Acts 25:19:

they had certain points of dispute with him about their own superstition (or things they believed) and about one Jesus, who was dead, but whom Paul asserted to be (or said was) alive.

Whose resurrection could Festus not believe, therefore he said Paul was mad?

11. Festus could not believe the resurrection of Jesus. Paul once wrote that the gospel of Jesus is foolishness to some people. They cannot understand it. So they refuse to believe it. Festus thought the resurrection was foolish.

I Corinthians 1:23:

but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles.

When Paul talked about the resurrection of Christ, Festus said Paul was what?

12. He said Paul was mad. This was an easy way to refuse to believe. It is like a man driving along a road. The bridge is broken, but a sign shows the road to take. It shows a way through the river. Some people come to the bridge and turn back. They do not go on. They never reach the place where they were going. This is what the governor did. He refused to go on. He shouted that Paul was mad.

Acts 26:25:

But Paul said, "I am not mad, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking the sober (or real) truth.

Who said to Paul: You are mad? _____

13. Festus said this. He could not understand what Paul said. There are things in the Bible which we cannot understand. We must accept them in faith. Muslims do not understand how God could have a Son. They do not understand the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They do not see how Jesus could be God. They say he was only a great prophet. They sometimes say Christians are mad.

What answer did Governor Festus give to Paul's words? _____

14. Governor Festus said: You are mad. He could not believe what Paul said. He left the door of faith shut. We remember what happened when Paul preached in Athens. He told the people about their unknown God. He said that Christ rose from the dead.

Acts 17:32:

Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked (or laughed); but others said, "We will hear you again about this."

Governor Festus answered Paul: You are mad. As we learned yesterday, what did Governor Felix answer? _____

Felix, Festus, and Agrippa kept Paul in prison. Did they say he was guilty or not guilty? _____

15. They said he was not guilty. Felix said: Wait until another time. People have many ways of refusing to believe. In our village an old medicine man once came to church. He heard someone call the church God's house. He looked all around. After the meeting he said, "I watched everything which was done in the meeting. I did not see God anywhere. I do not believe what you say about your God. I am going back to my own gods."

What did Governor Festus answer when Paul talked about faith in Christ? _____

16. Festus said: You are mad. Felix said: Wait until another time. Both of them left the door of faith shut. Paul had the good news of Jesus. Faith in Christ would open the door to new life. But Festus, Felix, and Agrippa did not believe.

When you speak for Christ, some people will refuse to believe. Perhaps they will say you are mad. Here is a verse you can tell these people.

I Corinthians 1:18:

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

In the back of your Bible, write the words of Festus. Then write I Corinthians 1:18. Use this verse when people say you are mad.

17. Felix, Festus, and Agrippa kept Paul in prison. Did they say he was guilty or not guilty? _____

What did Governor Festus answer when Paul talked about faith in Christ? _____

WEEK 9: PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME

DAY 4: AGRIPPA SAID: YOU ALMOST MAKE ME A CHRISTIAN

Acts 26

1. Felix, Festus, and Agrippa kept Paul in prison. Did they say he was guilty or not guilty?

What did Governor Festus answer when Paul talked about faith in Christ? _____

2. Felix, Festus, and Agrippa said Paul was not guilty. But when Paul spoke of faith, Festus said: You are mad. Today we will learn what King Agrippa said. God had promised that Paul would speak before kings. Now the time had come. This is what we will learn:

- (1) King Agrippa answered Paul: You almost make me a Christian.
- (2) From Acts 26:18, God sends missionaries to people: to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God.

Take your Bible now and read Acts 26:1 to 3. Read also verses 24 to 32. Read verse 2 again. What was Agrippa's position of work?

3. Agrippa was a king. He was king of the country northeast of Galilee. He was the son of Herod who killed James in Jerusalem. But he was willing to listen to this prisoner. The prisoner was not just trying to get himself free. He was telling the king about Jesus. This is what God had said he would do.

Acts 9:15:

he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel.

Who was trying to get King Agrippa to believe and receive Christ? _____

4. Paul was doing this. We remember what he said to the elders of Ephesus. He said that giving the good news is more important than saving our earthly lives. Paul tried to get King Agrippa to believe.

Acts 26:28:

And Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time you think to make me a Christian (or you almost make me a Christian)!"

Agrippa said that Paul almost made him what? _____

5. Agrippa saw that Paul was trying to help him be a Christian. Perhaps he was only playing with Paul. But it seemed that he was near to believing. Many people want to be Christians. Some are afraid they will be persecuted. Some are not sure that the gospel is true. Some pretend they are Christians. They may be baptised or have Bible names. But they have never really received Christ. They have almost become Christians, but not fully.

Did Agrippa say he was a Christian almost or fully? _____

6. He said: You almost make me a Christian.

Acts 26:29:

And Paul said, "Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am -- except for these chains."

Who said to Paul: You almost make me a Christian? _____

7. King Agrippa said this. Felix said: Wait until another time. Festus said: You are mad.

Acts 26:25-26:

But Paul said, "I am not mad, most excellent Festus but I am speaking the sober truth. For the King (Agrippa) knows about these things and to him I speak freely.

What did King Agrippa answer when Paul spoke about faith in Christ? _____

8. Agrippa said: You almost make me a Christian. King Agrippa knew much about the teachings of the Jews. He knew they were waiting for the Messiah who would be Saviour and King. But it was not enough for Agrippa to know these things. Paul wanted him to do something more.

Acts 26:26:

For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak freely; for I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this was not done in a corner.

What did Paul want King Agrippa to do? _____

9. Paul wanted King Agrippa to believe in Christ. He asked whether the king believed what the prophets said about Jesus.

Acts 26:27:

King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe."

What did King Agrippa answer when Paul spoke about faith in Christ? _____

10. Agrippa answered: You almost make me a Christian. Of course Paul could not make the king a Christian. He wanted the king to believe and receive Jesus. The king had to decide.

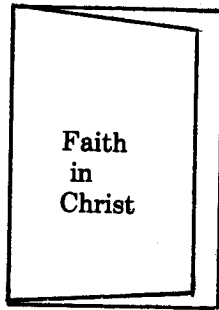
One day I was talking about Christ to a woman in our hospital. She kept saying, "Is it for me? True? You really mean it is for me?" Finally I took out a piece of money. I said I would give it to her, but she had to do something. She had to put out her hand and receive it. Then she understood that she had to receive Christ.

John 1:12:

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.

Who sends us missionaries and gives us power to become children of God? _____

11. God Himself does this. He wants us to turn from darkness. He wants us to turn to Him and be forgiven. Paul told this to King Agrippa. There is a Fulani chief near us who heard about Jesus. He asked someone to come and tell him more. An evangelist went to stay with him for a while. The chief said, "I believe Christ is the only way, but I am afraid to receive Him. If I do, I will be persecuted." Until that chief received Christ, the door to eternal life was shut for him.



The Door to Eternal Life

Whom does God send to help people turn from darkness to light and from Satan to God? _____

12. God sends missionaries or evangelists or preachers or messengers. Paul was a missionary. God sent him to many places. Paul told King Agrippa how God had called him. He said that He would send Paul to tell people about Him.

Acts 26:18:

to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified (or set apart) by faith in me.

Does God send missionaries to Christians or people who need God? _____

13. He sends missionaries to people who need God. He sends them to people in the power of Satan. Read the verse again to see why God sends missionaries to people.

Acts 26:18:

to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God.

Take time to memorise this part of the verse now. There is more to the verse. Learn where to find it so you can always use it. When you can say the verse by yourself, hide it. Then write it here.

Acts 26:18: _____

14. Memorise where the verse is found in the Bible.

Without looking back, write the name of the book and the numbers for the verse which tells why God sends missionaries. _____

15. These are words which Paul said to King Agrippa. Paul wanted Agrippa to have faith in Christ.

What did King Agrippa answer Paul? _____

16. King Agrippa said: You almost make me a Christian.

Why does God send missionaries to people? Answer by saying Acts 26:18 to yourself. _____

17. Find the verse in the Bible to see if you said it right. Some people are like King Agrippa. They almost want to be Christians. Some are like the Fulani chief. They want to be Christians but are afraid. I am glad to say that the Fulani chief finally received Christ. As we write this lesson, he has not told many people about it yet. He fears what they will say.

If you could talk to this Fulani chief, what would you say to help him? _____

If you could talk to King Agrippa, what would you say to him? _____

18. Be ready to share your answers in class.

What did King Agrippa answer Paul? _____

**From Paul's testimony to Agrippa, why does God send missionaries to people?
Answer by writing Acts 26:18.**

WEEK 9: PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME
DAY 5: GOD TOOK CARE OF PAUL ON THE JOURNEY

Acts 27

1. What did King Agrippa answer when Paul spoke about faith in Christ? _____

From Paul's witness to King Agrippa, why does God send missionaries to people? Answer by saying Acts 26:18 to yourself.

2. King Agrippa said: You almost make me a Christian. Find Acts 26:18 in the Bible to see if you said it right. Paul's journey to Rome was a long one. At times it seemed he was not going to Rome. But God kept His promise. Today we will see three ways God took care of Paul. At the end of the lesson you will write two of them.

Paul knew God was taking care of him on the journey to Rome because:

- (1) He saved him when the ship was broken.
- (2) He sent an angel to make him strong.
- (3) He kept him from being killed by a snake.

Take your Bible now and read Acts 27:1 to 4. Then read verses 18 to 25. Read verse 1 again. Italy was the country where Rome was. Do you think Paul was going to Rome as a missionary? _____

3. Talk about this together in class. Some will say Paul was going as a prisoner. But Paul was also going as a missionary. Perhaps it is hard to think of a prisoner being a missionary. We wonder how a prisoner could make the church grow. We also see many troubles on the way to Rome. We may wonder whether God really wanted Paul in Rome.

Was Paul going to Rome by foot or by boat? _____

4. Paul was going to Rome by boat. He was going with other prisoners and a soldier. They took a ship which was going to the cities of Asia. The ship first stopped at Sidon and Paul was allowed to go to shore. The journey started well, but soon there was trouble.

Acts 27:4:

And putting to sea from there we sailed under the lee (or to the right) of Cyprus, because the winds were against us.

Perhaps you once started to do something you thought God wanted. Then trouble came and you were not sure. Write what happened.

5. Be ready to share in class what happened. Talk together about how to face troubles when we are doing God's will. Paul had much trouble in the ship. He prophesied that they would lose the ship.

Acts 27:15, 20:

and when the ship was caught and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and were driven ... And when neither sun nor stars appeared for many a day, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned (or lost).

But who was taking care of Paul and bringing him to Rome even though the ship broke? _____

6. God was taking care of Paul. He did not take him out of the trouble. But he took care of him in the trouble. Sometimes we want God to take away all troubles. God does not promise to do this. But he promises to save us in the troubles.

Acts 27:21:

As they had been long without food, Paul then came forward among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me, and should not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss."

In what trouble did God save Paul first? _____

7. (1) God saved him when the ship was broken.

(2) He sent an angel to make him strong.

Paul knew God had not forgotten him. An angel came and told him not to be afraid. The angel said that no one in the ship would be lost. Paul told the others.

Acts 27:22:

I now bid you take heart; for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.

Was God taking care of Paul on his journey to Rome or not? _____

8. God was taking care of him. He sent an angel to make Paul strong. The angel talked to Paul.

Acts 27:24:

and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and lo, God has granted you all those who sail with you.'

The second way Paul knew God was taking care of him was that God sent an angel. What was the first way? _____

9. The first way was: God saved him when the ship was broken. God allowed a storm to come. He allowed the ship to break. But he did not allow Paul to die in the water.

Acts 27:23:

For this very night there stood by me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship.

Whom did God send to make Paul strong? _____

10. God sent an angel. The angel said that God would give Paul all those on the ship. This meant that God would save the lives of all of them. Paul told this to the others on the ship.

Acts 27:25:

So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.

Did the visit from the angel make Paul stronger or weaker? _____

11. It made him stronger. He trusted God. He prepared others for what would happen. On the 14th day the ship came near an island. It hit the ground and broke apart. The soldiers wanted to kill the prisoners.

Acts 27:42:

but the centurion (or head soldier), wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their purpose. He ordered those who could swim to throw themselves overboard first and make for the land, and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all escaped to land.

What is the second way Paul knew God was taking care of him on the journey to Rome?

(1) God saved him when the ship was broken.

(2) _____

12. (1) God saved Paul when the ship was broken.

(2) He sent an angel to make him strong.

(3) He kept him from being killed by a snake.

The island where the ship broke was called Malta. On the island a snake bit Paul. It was a poisonous snake, but God saved Paul again.

To what big city was Paul going when God took care of him in this way? _____

13. Paul was going to Rome. But the ship broke on the island of Malta. Perhaps this was God's way of sending the gospel to these people. The people of Malta were kind to those from the ship. They built a fire and received them.

Acts 28:3-4:

Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, when a viper (or poisonous snake) came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand. When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer."

What bit Paul and made people think he would die? _____

14. A snake bit Paul. The people thought he was a bad man. They said:

Acts 28:4-5:

Though he has escaped from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live."
He however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.

Who took care of Paul and saved him from being killed by the snake? _____

15. God did this. The people watched Paul. They expected him to fall dead, but he did not. Then the people changed their minds. Instead of thinking he was a bad man, they thought he was a god.

What is the third way Paul knew God was taking care of him on the journey to Rome?

- (1) He saved him when the ship was broken.
- (2) He sent an angel to make Paul strong.
- (3) _____

16. God kept him from being killed by a snake. Later Paul went to visit the chief of the island, named Publius. The father of Publius was sick. Paul prayed and he was healed. Then many other sick people were brought. Paul was able to show the power of God. Because of the broken ship, these people heard the gospel.

Write the first two ways Paul knew God was taking care of him on the journey to Rome.

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) God kept him from being killed by a snake.

17. God saved Paul when the ship was broken. He sent an angel to make Paul strong. God cares for His people. He cares for His missionaries. Think how He cared for Daniel and Elijah and many others.

What is the third way Paul knew God was taking care of him. _____

18. God kept Paul from being killed by a snake. God did not keep Paul from troubles. He let him become a prisoner. He let him be in a storm. God let the ship break in pieces. God let Paul be bitten by a snake. But God was taking care of Paul all the time. We can learn to trust God in every trouble.

Perhaps your family is having hard times. You can help them trust God and be strong. Read to them the ways God took care of Paul. Tonight when you are together, read the whole story. Read Acts 27:13 to 44. Then read Acts 28:1 to 10.

19. Write two ways Paul knew God was taking care of him on the journey to Rome.

(1) _____

(2) _____

Paul's Journey to Rome

