

STORY

Paul is Taken to Rome - Acts 27-28

TEACHER PRAYER

O dearest Jesus, You have said: "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." What a comforting promise! Be with me now as I ponder Your holy Word in this lesson. Bless my meditation and preparation. Also bless my presentation and application. Enable the children entrusted to my care to see You in this lesson. Strengthen their faith and increase their love for You and Your word. Move them also to share it with others. Amen.

VOCABULARY

fast - the Day of Atonement, late September or early October

Euroclydon - a southeast wind that stirs up broad waves, a northeaster

drive - be driven

skiff - any light rowboat, or a long, narrow rowboat, especially one with a small sail

fathom - a nautical unit of depth or length, approximately six feet

stern - back end of a ship or boat

pro - the forward part of a ship

reef - a ridge of rock or sand near or at the surface of the water

OUTER AIM

Paul is taken to Rome

INNER AIM

Paul was a "prisoner" of Jesus Christ

BACKGROUND (Rupprecht, *Bible History References*, Vol. 2, pp. 598-612)

In his epistle to the Romans, Paul mentions his desire to come and preach in Rome. (Romans. 1:9-15) The Lord granted his prayer and request, but not under the most favorable of circumstances. He was brought to Rome as a prisoner since he had appealed to Caesar, the Roman emperor. Paul was a prisoner in Rome for two years. During this time he had plenty of opportunity to proclaim the Gospel of Christ.

Chapter 27

Paul Sails for Rome. Luke records many details concerning the voyage. He reports where they sailed and what they encountered. The Roman centurion on board was sympathetic to Paul and his plight. The weather became a serious problem. Paul advised wintering on the island of Crete. The shipowner and helmsman thought otherwise. They figured they could continue. The ship became engulfed in a terrible storm. It lasted for days and days. The crew and soldiers feared the worst. Paul assured them that all would survive, but the ship would be lost. The Lord saved them. He had plans for Paul in Rome.

Chapter 28:1-10

Paul is Shipwrecked on Malta. The natives regarded Paul as some sort of god. He miraculously survived a deadly snakebite. Paul later healed the father of the island's magistrate. Many others on the island were healed as well. They were sent and were helped on their way.



Chapter 28:11-31

Paul Teaches in Rome. Paul and those with him stayed on the island of Malta for three months. The journey to Rome continued, first by sea, then by land. Finally, Paul arrived in Rome. He was still a prisoner, but he was granted considerable freedom. He spoke to the Jews at Rome. They had heard nothing about Paul or the charges levied against him by the Jews in Jerusalem. They had heard about the Christian faith. They wanted to know more. Paul taught them. Some believed; some didn't. For two years, Paul spoke to all who came to him—Jews and Gentiles alike. He proclaimed Christ and His kingdom. No one interfered.

Note: After two years, Paul's case was finally heard. He was acquitted and released. He continued on with a fourth missionary journey. Following that he was again arrested, tried, and condemned in Rome. He was beheaded for his testimony concerning Jesus Christ.

STUDENTS' PRAYER TLH #498:3, 6

If Thou, merciful Redeemer, Hadst not saved us from this plight
In like darkness we should languish Hopeless, helpless, in sin's night.
Lovingly Thou, Lord, didst seek us In the beauty of Thy grace;
Now with joy we freely serve Thee, We, Thy blessed, chosen race.

Savior, shine in all Thy glory On the nations near and far;
From the highways and the byways Call them, O Thou Morning Star.
Guide them whom Thy grace hath chosen Out of Satan's dreadful thrall
To the mansions of Thy Father-There is room for sinners all.

PRESENTATION

In this lesson, again you will find more than one familiar Bible story. This lesson will take you from Caesarea to Rome.

A map showing the path Paul took will be of considerable help. The student can then trace the routes and places Paul visited.

Keep in mind the overall reason for Paul's trip to Rome. Paul was sent there to have his case brought before the Roman Emperor. He had done nothing wrong, nothing worthy of death, as the Jews claimed. The Lord wanted Paul in Rome so that the Gospel could ring out. Refer to passages such as Acts 9:15-16 and 23:11.

APPLICATION

In his epistles, Paul describes himself as a servant, slave, even prisoner of Jesus Christ. (Rom. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Titus 1:1) After his conversion, he devoted his entire life to his Savior, spreading the Gospel of the Kingdom. Wherever he went, no matter what the circumstances, the Lord used Paul to advance His Kingdom. "All things worked together for good." The fact that Paul was in bonds and that he was a prisoner did not hinder the Gospel. If anything, the Lord used the situation to advance it. The Gospel of the Kingdom reached people and places it may never have reached otherwise.

Today, too, the Lord works in a variety of ways to 'let His Kingdom come.'

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Matt. 18:11 - The Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.

Mark 16:15 - Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.

Middle

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Acts 16:31 - Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.

Upper

Acts 4:12 - Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among man by which we must be saved.

Romans 10:4 - For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

I Cor. 1:18 - For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

HYMN CHOICES

Look From Thy Sphere of Endless Day - TLH #499

Savior, Sprinkle Many Nations - TLH #510

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun - TLH #511

O Christ, Our True and Only Light - TLH #512