

God's Plan for Paul

Lesson 29a — Paul's Conversion

Lesson 29b — Paul and Silas in Prison

Lesson 29c — Paul's Testimony to Agrippa

Lesson 29d — God's Care of Paul / Shipwreck

Lesson 29e — Paul's Final Encouragement to Timothy

OVERVIEW

During the month of January, we will do a five-lesson unit on the life of Paul, the great Apostle to the Gentiles. Most of the texts will be taken from the Acts of the Apostles, which is the main Biblical source of information on the life of Paul. Our final lesson is taken from Paul's Epistle to Timothy, Paul's spiritual son and later fellow-traveler and official representative.

Our first lesson describes the miraculous way in which God reached the heart of Saul and led him to conversion. When the light from Heaven reached him on the Damascus Road, he surrendered instantly and completely. [Note: Saul was the Hebrew version of his name. Paul was his name as a citizen of Rome, and after he was sent forth among the Gentiles, he was referred to by this name.] Our second lesson shows him actively involved in furthering the Gospel he had once

resisted. He and his co-worker Silas were thrown into prison, but God intervened and delivered. This is a story sure to capture the imagination of your primary-age children.

The third lesson gives an overview of Paul's Christian life as testified to before King Agrippa. The students will see again Paul's burning desire to tell others about Christ. In lesson four, we see God's protecting hand over Paul as he is saved from a shipwreck. The concluding lesson summarizes Paul's final encouragement to his young helper, Timothy.

The theme woven through these five lessons will be that the secret of Paul's unique career was his fervent nature as possessed and empowered by the Living Christ.

GAMES FOR REVIEW

Using masking tape, mark a boat shape, on your floor, large enough to hold all your students. Tape five long pieces of butcher paper (one for each memory verse of the unit) leading into the boat. Mark off each strip of paper with "boards" representing the number of words in one of the verses. Invite each child to get into the boat by reciting one of the verses, word by word, while stepping on each board of the "gangplank." If the child recites the verse correctly, he may step into the boat. If not, he must go to the end of the line and try again.

Adapt the "Running the Race With Paul" contest idea (see **CONTEST IDEAS**) for a review activity for several players. Cut out and mount on a craft stick one runner for each player. Draw a set of hurdles on a large sheet of butcher paper. Make up a list of questions from the unit. As students answer each question, they may move their runner ahead over one hurdle. (If you have

too many students to make this workable with just one set of hurdles, make individual sheets for each player with a number of hurdles and allow them to advance their runner on their own sheet each time they correctly answer a question.)

CONTEST IDEAS

Review the memory verses for the unit through a contest. Divide your group into teams. Select parts of a memory verse visualized, single hand signs, or one or two words from a verse written on a large piece of paper as a "memory jogger." Hold up the clue, allowing one team to have first chance. If anyone on that team can quote the entire verse from the clue given, his team is given three points. If a mistake is made, the next team gets a chance for the points. If no team is able to quote it correctly for three points, an additional clue from the same verse is given, with the possibility of earning two points. When the verse has been said correctly, start with another team and a new set of memory joggers.

Cut the names of your students out of construction paper or posterboard, using large, connected, bubble letters so the whole name is one piece. (See Patterns for sample names.) Hang these in your classroom or post them on a bulletin board. Explain to your students that this month you will be having a sticker contest. They can earn stickers in a variety of ways: being in class, reciting the memory verse, answering questions, bringing a friend, doing special jobs, etc. Let them know that you will also be giving some stickers for unexpected reasons each Sunday, so they will want to be there so that they won't miss out. Each Sunday give out stickers for the expected reasons and at least one unexpected one, such as having a dog, eating breakfast, living in a white house, or others you can think of. Each sticker they earn should be put on their name. At the end of the month, there should be prizes for those who accumulate the most stickers.

Have a "Running the Race With Paul" contest this month, to coordinate with your study of the life of this Apostle. At the beginning of the month let each child cut out a copy of the running figure (see Patterns) and write his name on the shirt. Draw a set of hurdles on a long sheet of butcher paper. Each Sunday let the students advance their runner past hurdles for attendance, knowing memory verse, bringing Bible, etc. At the end of the month, award prizes for those who have passed the most hurdles.

Make this a missionary month. Have each class choose a country, branch church, etc. (Or this could be done as a departmental project.) The students can earn money for their choice by bringing their Bibles, learning verses, etc. At the end of the month this would be sent to the country (church, etc.) along with a letter from the class or department.

BULLETIN BOARDS

Use one or two world maps which you have cut into large circles. With a black marker pen draw lines across the maps so they look like a pie. Title your board **WE CAN BE WORKERS FOR JESUS** (see Patterns). Assign one piece of the map to each child (write their names around the edge) and help them locate any Apostolic Faith churches we have in those areas. Tell the children that one way they can be workers for Jesus is to pray daily for their area of the world.

Make a bulletin board that will remind the students that any time is the right time to work for Jesus. Title the board **TIME TO WORK FOR JESUS** (see Patterns). On the board put a calendar, paper-plate clock, old watch, etc., to indicate the days, hours, and minutes that all can work for Jesus.

Arrange a board that will show what is included in God's plan for our lives. Title your board, **WHAT DOES**

JESUS WANT US TO DO? (see Patterns). Attach two large sheets of paper to the board. Draw a face in the top left-hand corner of each sheet (a smiley face on one and a sad face on the other). Ask the children to cut pictures from magazines, draw pictures, or write about things and then attach them to each sheet. The smiley face sheet is for good deeds and the sad face for inappropriate deeds.

UNIT SONGS

"If You're Saved and You Know It"
 "Isn't It Grand to Be a Christian?"
 "Victory in Jesus"
 "Stop, and Let Me Tell You"

CHART IDEAS

Make a **GOD'S HELPER BOOKMARK** for each child to complete (see Patterns). Each Sunday let them write in where their memory verse for that lesson is found in the Bible. When it is completed they may use it in their Bibles to remind them that God also has a plan for them.

Help the children to make juice-cap wind chimes. Wash and dry five frozen-juice caps for each child. For each wind chime glue two popsicle sticks together to form an X. Tie a piece of yarn at the center of the X and make a loop on top for hanging. Glue a length of yarn to each cap. Tie each piece of yarn to the end of a stick and one in the center, making sure that each cap can touch another cap as it swings in the breeze. On each of the five caps let the children put a sticker seal of the symbols of Paul's life (see Patterns). Copy one set of stickers for each child. (To prepare the sticker seals mix equal amounts of Elmer's or Lepage's mucilage and water in a paper cup. Apply the glue mixture to the back of each page of stickers with a paint brush. Let the page dry completely, glue side up, then cut out all the stickers — 5 per child. Supply a damp sponge for the children to use in moistening the backs of their stickers when they are ready to use them.)

SUPPORT MATERIAL

Puppet Shows That Teach, Vol. 3 — by Joyce Reynolds
 Life of Paul — Pict-o-graph, Standard Publishing
 God's World of Children No. 1896 — Standard Publishing (Redi-stix seals)
 Children of the World No. 1748 — Standard Publishing (seals)
 Children of the World No. 7-4486y — Scripture Press (seals)
 Musical Notes No. 1938 — Standard Publishing (seals)
 Paul — Bible Hero Stories, by Joe Maniscalco — Standard Publishing