



# Paul's Journey to Rome

## Key Theme

- God's plans are perfect.

## Key Passages

- Acts 21:12–13, 21:30–33, 23:11, 27:13–20, 27:42–44, 28:1, 28:16, 28:23–24

## Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Explain how God protected Paul on his journey to Rome.
- Explain how the gospel spread while Paul was under arrest in Rome.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by working on the Memory Verse Review Sheet and reciting the verse to a friend.



### Activity 1: Paul's Journey to Rome Class Notes

Students will fill out Paul's Journey to Rome Class Notes as you study the lesson.



### Studying God's Word

After a stormy and treacherous journey, Paul, now a prisoner, arrived in Rome, just as God had promised he would. Once there, Paul had the opportunity to do what he did best—proclaim the message of Jesus Christ. He did this while under house arrest and preached to everyone who would come and listen.



### Activity 2: Pick a Point Review Game

Divide students into teams. Teams will take turns answering questions. They will earn points for correct answers by picking numbers from the cup.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### COME ON IN

- Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



### PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME CLASS NOTES

- Print one Paul's Journey to Rome Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Paul's Journey to Rome Class Notes for each student
- Paul's Journey to Rome Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



### STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



### PICK A POINT REVIEW GAME

- Print and cut apart the Pick a Point Game point cards from the Resource DVD-ROM. Put them into a cup, bag, or basket.
- Print one Pick a Point Questions Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Pick a Point Questions Sheet
- Pick a Point Game Points
- Cup, bag, or basket to hold the cards



## Memory Verse

**1 Corinthians 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.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

Paul completed three long, arduous missionary journeys. He knew well that the message of the Cross was foolishness to those who were perishing, but to those who were being saved it was the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18). He was steadfast in his commitment to the Lord and the gospel throughout his three journeys. In spite of being run out of town, persecuted, imprisoned, stoned, left for dead, and beaten, he persevered. Nothing mattered to him but that he would finish his race with joy and continue in the ministry of the Lord Jesus to testify to the gospel (Acts 20:24).

The third missionary journey ended in Caesarea where Paul and his companions stayed with Philip, the evangelist (Acts 21:8). While with Philip a prophet named Agabus came from Judea to speak with Paul (Acts 21:10). Agabus took Paul's belt to tie up his own hands and feet. He then warned Paul that he would soon be tied up and bound in the same way by the Jews in Jerusalem (Acts 21:11). It was clear that Paul was headed for more trouble as he returned to Jerusalem. His friends pleaded that he not go. But Paul was ready to be bound and to die for the name of Jesus (Acts 21:12–13).

Paul and his companions continued to Jerusalem. The entire city was disturbed by him. The people seized him, began beating him, and were seeking to kill him (Acts 21:30–31). At that point, Paul was rescued by the Roman soldiers who were concerned with keeping peace in the city of Jerusalem. The Roman commander took him and commanded him to be bound with two chains (Acts 21:31–33). The Jews continued to demand his life (Acts 22:22). But upon hearing that Paul was a Roman citizen, the Roman commander backed off, knowing it was illegal to treat any Roman citizen with such brutal methods (Acts 22:27–29).

Paul had desired to go to Rome for a long time (Acts 19:21). And by the amazing providence of God, he would soon be on his way. In fact, it was the Lord Himself who assured him that just as Paul had testified for Jesus in Jerusalem, he would also bear witness at Rome (Acts 23:11). So, in spite of further danger that included another plot to murder him in Jerusalem (Acts 23:12), Paul was taken by protective custody and escorted out of Jerusalem and back to Caesarea (Acts 23:31–33).

However, it would still be over two years before Paul made his way to Rome (Acts 24:27) during which time God allowed Paul to have liberty to see his friends and all who would come to visit him (Acts 24:23). Of course, Paul continued to boldly preach the gospel of Jesus Christ of which he was not ashamed! Even to the point that King Agrippa commented that Paul nearly persuaded him to become a Christian (Acts 26:28).

Finally, in God's perfect timing and according to His perfect plan, Paul set off by ship to Rome, Italy (Acts 27:1). The voyage to Rome did not go smoothly. And because of slow passage at the beginning, they found themselves in a situation where sailing further would be dangerous. But in spite of Paul's warnings to the contrary, the centurion was persuaded by the helmsman to proceed (Acts 27:10–11). It wasn't long before they found themselves in a tempestuous, violent storm (Acts 27:14). They looked for protection, secured the lifeboat, undergirded the ship, and dropped the sail. They then lightened the ship by tossing supplies and tackle overboard. In spite of all of this, danger and death looked imminent and all hope was lost (Acts 27:15–20).

But God had promised that Paul would reach Rome (Acts 23:11). And God keeps His promises! Paul and all the crew at last found safety on the island of Malta after a dramatic shipwreck that included all hands on deck jumping overboard (Acts 27:39–44).

God continued to protect his missionary and servant, Paul. The natives on Malta showed unusual kindness to the shipwrecked crew (Acts 28:2). And when Paul was not affected by a viper's bite while on the island, the natives were convinced he was some kind of god (Acts 28:6). Furthermore, God allowed Paul to do more signs and wonders in the name of Jesus Christ, and he healed many who were sick on the island (Acts 28:8–9).

After three months on Malta, Paul sailed again and finally arrived in Rome (Acts 28:11)! In Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself with a soldier guarding him (Acts 28:16). God allowed Paul to continue in his ministry, boldly testifying to the kingdom of God concerning Jesus Christ. And just as in all the other cities of Paul's travels, some were persuaded to believe and some would not believe (Acts 28:23–24).

Paul stayed for two full years in Rome in his rented home where God continued to use him as he gladly received and taught all who came to him about the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 28:30–31).

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

The Apostle Paul, without any doubt, is the most influential person in the history of the church. He was responsible for establishing and strengthening churches all around the Roman world of the first century. He wrote 13 letters of the New Testament. God mightily used Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, to expand the church.

Writing to the Corinthian church, Paul summed up his own contribution to the faith perhaps better than anyone else could: “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me” (1 Corinthians 15:9–10). Wherever Paul carried the gospel, despite the intense opposition he faced, the church put down deep roots.

Paul was ideally equipped for the role God gave Him. As a Roman citizen, Paul understood and had entry to the entire Roman world. Steeped in Greek culture, he could relate and communicate to these people throughout the area. And as a strict Pharisee, he was an expert in Mosaic law and, no doubt, had important contacts in the synagogues of the empire.

Paul began his career as a persecutor of the church. After meeting Christ in a dramatic vision on the road to Damascus, where he was traveling to arrest Christians, his life was transformed. He spent the remaining years of his life as a bold witness for the resurrected Christ. He worked tirelessly, enduring shame and persecution for the name of his Lord.

Paul’s fourth journey brought him to Rome as a prisoner at the beginning of AD 61. And since his confinement in Rome continued only two years (Acts 28:30), he must have been freed in the early part of AD 63. Nero had not yet instigated his memorable persecution of the Church; the burning of Rome took place in the summer of AD 64. Before that date, it does not appear that Christians had been singled out as the special objects of his brutality.

While we don’t know for sure what happened after his release from prison, it is probable that Paul accomplished his wish of visiting Spain (Romans 15:28). In all likelihood he again headed toward Jerusalem by way of Corinth, Philippi, and Troas, where he left his

cloak with Carpus (2 Timothy 4:13). Passing from there to Colosse, he may have visited Antioch in Pisidia and other cities of Asia Minor, where he had ministered previously. After some time in Jerusalem, Paul must have returned to Rome by sea, leaving Trophimus sick at Miletus in Crete (2 Timothy 4:20). Upon his return to Italy around the year AD 66, Paul seems to have been immediately imprisoned again.

Paul’s condition was now very different from what it had been during his first imprisonment. This time he was deserted by his friends and treated as a criminal. When he wrote his last epistle to Timothy, Paul had already been brought before the judgment seat, and had narrowly escaped martyrdom. “At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion” (2 Timothy 4:16–17).

Despite this reprieve, Paul had no hope of ultimate escape. In anticipation of his condemnation, he wrote these words—words full of faith, hope, and heroism: “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:6–8).

According to church tradition, Paul was beheaded with a sword in Rome sometime between AD 65 and 68. We don’t know the exact date of his death, but we do know that this great apostle gave his life for the faith he had once persecuted.



### BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord Jesus, you promise to guide and protect your children. Help me and my class to demonstrate the same level of confidence in your ways that Paul showed as he suffered many trials in your name. Help us to know we can trust you in all circumstances—especially the difficult ones. Use this lesson to show my students how big and capable and personal you are as you work your good purpose in every detail.



## COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

*This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.*



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



## REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



# Paul's Journey to Rome Class Notes

## MATERIALS

- Paul's Journey to Rome Class Notes for each student
- Paul's Journey to Rome Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.*

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. We'll complete them together.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will read about many of the dangers Paul faced on his way to Rome and what happened once he got there.



# Studying God's Word

## READ THE WORD

*Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map and Lesson 1 Lesson Theme Poster.* Paul traveled far and wide to share the gospel with both Jews and Gentiles. On Paul's first missionary journey we learned that God gave him the ability to do signs and wonders so the people would know his message was from God! Many people heard what Paul said and believed. However, not everyone believed him, and in the city of Lystra he was stoned by the angry Jews and left outside the city for dead.

➤ Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map to follow Paul's travels as you teach the lesson.

*Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map and Lesson 2 Lesson Theme Poster.* But Paul would not be stopped! And it wasn't long after he returned from the first journey that he set off again—on missionary journey 2! Paul spent time in the city of Philippi during this journey. And we learned how God was working through Paul's ministry as we read about Lydia and the jailer. Both were Gentiles who heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord opened their hearts to the truth; they believed in the Lord Jesus; they were baptized, and saved for all eternity by the grace of God!

*Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map and Lesson 3 Lesson Theme Poster.* Then God sent Paul off again—on missionary journey number 3! On this journey, Paul would return to many of the cities he had already visited. He helped the churches that were already there and encouraged the new Christians to be strong in their faith for Jesus. He spent most of his time on this journey in the city of Ephesus. In fact, the Bible tells us that he was in Ephesus for nearly three years.

At the end of his third missionary journey, Paul called the elders of Ephesus together to meet with him. This was a sad meeting between these men. They knew that they would not see Paul again. Paul used this last meeting to warn the leaders of the church at Ephesus—and ALL church leaders. He told them to be careful of false teachers! These false teachers would tell lies about God, twist the truth of the gospel, and try to convince believers to turn away from God's truth.

*Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map.* Paul should have been all worn out by now from all that traveling! He didn't have a car. No, they didn't even have trains or bicycles back then. Paul did all his traveling by foot or by sea! That doesn't sound very comfortable. God was NOT finished with him yet. His plans for Paul included more traveling. In fact, Paul was in for perhaps his most exciting journey as God made a way for him to get from Jerusalem all the way to Rome in Italy. This trip was almost completely traveled by ship. And as we will read in a few minutes, it was NOT smooth sailing!

Paul's third missionary journey was finished, and he was headed back to Jerusalem. However, he found out before he got there that he would not be welcomed home! In fact, he and his friends were warned that Paul would be in danger when he returned to Jerusalem. People in Jerusalem wanted to hurt him!

Let's read Acts 21:12–13 to find out what happened after Paul and his friends heard he was headed into serious danger if he returned to Jerusalem. *Acts 21:12–13. Choose students to read the verses.*

Acts 21:12–13

## EXAMINE THE WORD

Did you hear that? Let's talk about what we just read.

## Observe the Text

? What did Paul's friends plead (or ask) him to do? *Acts 21:12. Not to return to Jerusalem.*

They didn't want Paul to go back! They knew that he was headed for danger and he might be hurt or even killed when he returned!

? But Paul told them that he was ready to return. What was Paul ready for? Look in Acts 21:13. *He was ready to be bound and to die in Jerusalem.*

? Paul was ready to die! What was it Paul was willing to die for? *The name of the Lord Jesus.*

So, they headed back to Jerusalem! When they got there, things *were* bad, just as they had been warned. Paul was teaching in the Temple. And some Jews came in and grabbed him. They accused Paul of false teaching! They were telling lies about Paul.

? We will read what happened as the people in the city heard these lies about Paul. Skip ahead a few verses to read Acts 21:30–33. *Acts 21:30–33. Choose students to read.*

Acts 21:30–33

? The people in the city were so upset they did something. What did they do to Paul? *Acts 21:30. They seized him and dragged him out of the Temple.*

? What were they planning to do? Look at Acts 21:31. *Acts 21:31. They were seeking to kill him.*

? Yes. Then who heard about all this trouble—that Jerusalem was in an uproar? *Acts 21:31. The commander of the garrison.*

The commander of the garrison was a Roman soldier. He was in charge of keeping order in the city! And when he heard of all this trouble and the ruckus in the city because of Paul, he took some soldiers and went to them.

? What happened when the people saw the soldiers and the commander? Look in Acts 21:32. *They stopped beating Paul.*

? And what did the commander do with Paul when he got there? Look in the very next verse, Acts 21:33. *He took him, bound him with chains, and asked who he was and what he had done.*

Paul was in trouble! Once again, the crowds wanted to kill him! But guess what? God was not finished with His apostle, Paul. God had a plan for Paul, and God's plan did not include Paul being killed in Jerusalem. Let's find out what God's plan was! Turn ahead to Acts chapter 23. Let's read Acts 23:11. *Acts 23:11. Choose a student to read.*

Acts 23:11

? Who came to Paul during the night? *The Lord.*

The Lord knew that Paul had testified about Jesus Christ in Jerusalem. And the Lord said Paul would also go somewhere else to witness for the gospel.

? Where did the Lord tell Paul he would go? *To Rome.*

## Discover the Truth

Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. Wow! Paul was here in Jerusalem where trouble was all around him. The Jews had seized him, thrown him out of the Temple, and were beating him. They wanted to kill him and were planning ways to do it! The Romans had taken Paul, bound him, and arrested him. Yet, the Lord told Paul to "be of good cheer!" And He said there would be a day that Paul would share the gospel in faraway Rome—just like he had done in Jerusalem.

- ? Let's go to the class notes. Will someone read #1 on your class notes? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Killed.*
- ? And what about #2? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Prison.*
- ? Paul went to prison in Jerusalem, but God had promised he would one day end up a long way from Jerusalem. Where was that? Will someone read #3? *Assign a reader. Rome.*



## READ THE WORD

God had promised Paul would get to Rome! And Paul believed he would. However, that day would not come quickly. In fact it was two more years before Paul finally was put on a ship with other prisoners and headed for Rome! And from the very beginning of this trip, danger was lurking for Paul and those on the ship!

► You can point out each city on the map as you discuss Paul's journey to Rome.

Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. After they began their sea journey to Rome, they had a slow time because the weather was getting worse. They found themselves in a place called Fair Havens on the island of Crete. They had already traveled quite a long way. Paul warned them that they should wait before leaving Fair Havens—it was not a good time to leave! But Paul was a prisoner—and no one listened to him. And so the ship sailed from Fair Havens.

Acts 27:13–20

Now turn back a little in your Bibles to Acts 27:13–20. Let's read what happened as they left Fair Havens on the island of Crete. *Acts 27:13–20. Choose students to read the verses.*

## EXAMINE THE WORD

Let's answer some questions about this dangerous journey. Use your Bible to find the answers.

### Observe the Text

- ? The ship left Fair Havens on the island of Crete. What happened not long after they sailed from Fair Havens? *Acts 27:14. A tempestuous head wind arose.*
- ? What is tempestuous? What does that mean? *Allow discussion.*

Well, it means a great and violent wind blew. The ship was caught in the wind. The sailors on the ship had lost control—the wind was now in control of the ship!

? They briefly found calm seas. What did they do when they were in the calm? Look at Acts 27:16. *Acts 27:16. They secured the skiff with difficulty.*

? Do you know what a skiff is? *Allow discussion.*

The skiff would be a smaller boat that the larger ship would pull behind it. They had to work hard but they got the skiff on board the ship so they wouldn't lose it, and it wouldn't cause more trouble for them.

? They did a couple more things to try and make themselves safe. Look in Acts 27:17. What did they do next? *Acts 27:17. They used cables to undergird the ship.*

The ship was being tossed and beaten by the waves and the wind. The cables would help to hold the ship together. The Bible tells us that they then struck the sail. That means they took the sail down, and they probably lowered the anchor at the same time. This would help to keep the ship a little more steady in the storm.

But none of this helped much. They were still being tossed wildly by the wind. They had to do something else.

? Someone read Acts 27:18–19 again. *Assign a reader.*

? What did they do next? *Acts 27:18–19. They had to lighten the ship, so they threw the tackle overboard.*

They knew any extra weight would not be good for the ship. So they started throwing the tackle—the equipment and gear—overboard!

? The storm still raged around them. How were they feeling after they had done all these things? Look at Acts 27:20. *Acts 27:20. They lost hope that they would ever be saved!*

They lost all hope that they would ever be saved. This was a terrible storm. They thought they were about to die!

? Before we continue, let's go to the class notes and review this tempestuous storm. Will someone read 4a on the class notes? How will you finish that? *Assign a reader. Wind.*

? And what about 4b? *Assign a reader. Skiff.*

? And 4c? *Assign a reader. Tied.*

? After they tried to tie the boat with cables, what did they do? Someone read 4d. *Assign a reader. Sail.*

? They lowered the sail. The wind was still horrible! What did they do next? Look at 4e. *Assign a reader. Threw.*

## Acts 27:42-44

- ? None of these things seemed to be helping. The men on the ship were scared! Who will read 4f for us? *Assign a reader. Hope.*

OK! Let's continue. Daylight finally came! The storm was still blowing, but things looked a little better. The sailors saw some land in the distance. They hoped they could get there by running the ship ashore! But it didn't work! Instead they ran aground in the middle of the sea! The ship was stuck fast and they couldn't move it! Not only that, the ship was beginning to break apart because of the violent waves.

What would happen? Would God protect Paul and all the men on the ship? What would the men on the ship do? Let's find out. Go to Acts 27:42-44 next. *Acts 27:42-44. Choose students to read the verses.*

- ? What were the soldiers on the ship planning to do? *Acts 27:42. Kill all the prisoners so they wouldn't escape.*

Paul was a prisoner! The soldiers wanted to kill Paul. But God had another plan.

- ? Who did God use to save Paul and the other prisoners? *Acts 27:43. The centurion.*

- ? What did the centurion tell everyone on the ship to do? *Acts 27:43. All who could swim should jump overboard and get to land!*

- ? Yes. And what about those who could not swim? What did they do? *Acts 27:44. They grabbed boards and parts of the ship and floated to land on those.*

## Acts 28:1

- ? Where did Paul and all the other people from the ship end up? Will someone read Acts 28:1 for us? *Acts 28:1. Choose a student to read.*

- ? Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. They landed on an island. Which island was it? *Acts 28:1. The Island of Malta.*

### Discover the Truth.

God protected Paul and everyone on the ship. God had promised that Paul would one day get to Rome! And he was one step closer. After the horrible trip, the shipwreck, and having to jump overboard to safety, God had led them to the island of Malta. And even here on Malta, God protected Paul and his companions. The natives treated them with kindness, fed them, welcomed them, and made them feel at home. They stayed on Malta for three more months before sailing on another ship and finally reaching Rome!

- ? Take a look at #5 on your class notes. How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Protected.*



### READ THE WORD

God had kept His promise. Paul was in Rome. And he had been taken to Rome as a prisoner!

- ? Let's read Acts 28:16 to see what happened when Paul got to Rome. *Acts 28:16. Choose a student to read.*

Acts 28:16

## EXAMINE THE WORD

OK. That's interesting. Let's answer some questions about that.

### Observe the Text

- ? Who did the centurion deliver the prisoners to? *The captain of the guard.*
- ? But did Paul go to prison? *No.*
- ? Paul did not go to prison when he got to Rome. What was God's plan for him in Rome? *He was permitted to live by himself with one soldier guarding him.*

Yes! Paul was allowed to live in an apartment. He had one guard assigned to him to keep him from escaping. But I don't think Paul would have tried to escape. In fact, God used him to share the gospel even while he was under house arrest in Rome!

Let's learn more about that. Jump to Acts 28:23–24. Let's read those verses. *Acts 28:23–24. Assign a reader.*

Acts 28:23–24

- ? This says many came to him in his lodging—or his home. What did Paul explain to those who came to see him? *Acts 28:23. He explained the kingdom of God.*
- ? Who was Paul teaching about when the people came to see him in his home? *Acts 28:23. Jesus.*
- ? How long did Paul teach these people each day? Look at the end of Acts 28:23. *From morning till evening.*
- ? And what did the people think of Paul's teaching about the kingdom of God and about Jesus Christ? Look in Acts 28:24. *Some were persuaded to believe in Jesus, but some did not believe.*
- ? Will someone read #6 on the class notes? How will you complete that? *Assign a reader. Some.*

### Discover the Truth

God told Paul he would reach Rome! And Paul did! In fact, while Paul was in Rome, though he was under arrest with a Roman guard by his side, he taught the gospel of Jesus Christ. God used him to teach many people who came to hear him speak. He taught from morning till evening. He told them about Jesus, the Savior, who was the promised Messiah! And just like in every city Paul taught in before, some did believe in Jesus and were saved! But many would not listen to him and did not believe!



- If time allows, assign students to re-read the points on the class notes as a review and briefly discuss them.



## Pick a Point Review Game

### MATERIALS

- Pick a Point Questions Sheet
- Pick a Point Game Point Cards in cup, bag or basket

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Divide the students into teams of 4–5 students each. Have each team take turns answering a question. After each correct answer, let a member of the team draw a number card from the basket. If no one can answer the question, you may want to allow teams to look the answers up in their Bibles. Allow the first team to get the answer to draw a point!*

*The number of points on the cards will vary, so the score will have nothing to do with how skilled one team might be. The effort to earn points will keep the students tuned into the game. Keep a list of the teams' points to determine the "winner" for the day. If time allows, repeat the questions!*

OK. Now you are going to get into teams. We are going to play "Pick a Point." Each team will take turns answering questions from the lesson. If you get the answer right, you will draw a point card for your team. I'll keep score here on the board.

Get together with your team, and let's get started. *Play the game.*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

After a stormy journey, God brought Paul to Rome, just like He had promised. Once there, Paul had the opportunity to do what he did best—proclaim the message of Jesus Christ—even while he was under house arrest.



## Applying God's Word

### WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*Refer to the Lesson 4 Lesson Theme Poster.* When God has a plan, He brings it to pass in His own way. And God's plan was for Paul to be a witness for Him in Rome. So even though Paul was a prisoner, God arranged for his transportation to Rome and protected him as he went.

God kept on helping Paul. When he got to Rome he didn't go to prison! Instead he stayed in his own apartment with one guard. And he was allowed to preach the gospel to whomever came to visit him. The Bible

tells us many came to hear Paul preach and believed what they heard. God protected Paul and then used him to teach the people in Rome the truth about Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

What we read about today in the life of Paul really happened. It would make a good movie because the main character (Paul) encountered many dangerous situations and then everything seemed to work out in the end. But it's not a movie or a fable. It's true. This true event shows us something about God.

God had a plan for Paul. That plan was for him to go to Rome. And that's what happened. And God's plans are perfect. So many terrible things happened on the way, Paul could have lost hope. Instead, Paul trusted God. He trusted God's promise that he would eventually reach Rome.

We can know the same things about God. If you are a child of God—a Christian who has repented of your sins, believed in Jesus, and received His gift of salvation—you can know that God has a plan for your life, too! And even when things don't look right or make any sense, remember that God knows all the details, and He is working all those good and bad things together for His good purpose. When things are bad, He's there.

And when things are good, He's with you. He will never leave you. You can trust Him, just like Paul trusted Him, and you can know that God's plans are perfect.



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.



### MEMORY VERSE

**1 Corinthians 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.



### GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God for showing us His faithfulness in Paul's life through His Word.
- Ask God to help us trust Him when the events in our lives don't make any sense.
- Thank God that He promises never to leave us or forsake us.

