



4

# Paul's Journey to Rome

## Key Theme

- God's plans are perfect.

## Key Passages

- Acts 21:13, 21:30–31, 23:11, 27:18–20, 27:42–44, 28:1, 28:30–31

## 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 complete the 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: Overboard!

Students will earn points for their team by answering review questions without falling "overboard."

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO



### COME ON IN

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

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

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



### PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME CLASS NOTES

- Print the 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.
- Print the three Lesson Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Three Lesson Illustrations
- Tape or poster putty
- Student Take Home Sheets



### OVERBOARD!

- Print one Overboard! Teacher Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Bring in the optional items listed to the right.

- Overboard! Teacher Guide
- Optional: one appliance box or other appropriate item to serve as the "sinking ship" for each team to sit in
- Optional: Life Savers® gummy candies for a snack



### MEMORY VERSE REVIEW GAME (OPTIONAL)

- This is an optional activity to use in some or all of the lessons to review the memory verse if time allows.
- Print onto cardstock and cut out the Memory Verse Flashcards from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Keep the cards for use in other lessons.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Flashcards
- Tape or poster putty



## 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.*

- The class notes are designed and written simply. Please encourage and help your students to read them as the class progresses. They are an excellent means to review important lesson principles.

We will write in the answers on our class notes as we study the Bible verses. Do not work ahead. We'll fill them in together.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we go through our lesson today, we will see that Paul trusted God's perfect plan even through some really difficult times!



## Studying God's 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. We learned that on Paul's first journey God gave him special power! And in the city of Iconium, he healed a man who had never walked! Some of those people did not want Paul there, so he left for Lystra. More trouble followed him, and in the city of Lystra he was stoned by the angry Jews and left for dead outside the city.*

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

- If needed, print the Map Pronunciation Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM, Lesson 1, for help pronouncing the place names.

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. There he met Lydia and the jailer. Both of them heard Paul preach about Jesus. 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 returned 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.

Later in Paul's journey he met with the leaders of the church in Ephesus and warned them to be careful of false teachers! These false teachers would be like wolves going after sheep—telling lies about God, twisting the truth of the gospel, and trying to convince believers to turn away from God's truth.

Before we get started, I want to pass out these three pictures. As we go through the lesson today, I'll ask you to bring your picture up and put it **on the board!** Pass out the Lesson Illustrations to the students. Have tape or poster putty ready to attach the pictures.

- ? And we already need picture #1. Who has that? Will you show it to the class? What does it say? Allow student to put Lesson Illustration #1 on the board as you discuss what is on it. No cars! No planes! Paul walked and sailed many miles.

Wow! Three long journeys. And there were no cars, or trains, or planes. Paul went thousands of miles and walked a lot of them. I bet his feet hurt. I would think he would have been worn out by now! But God was NOT finished with Paul yet. There was still more work to be done. He had another long journey to go on!

Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. Today, we're going to read about his most exciting journey of all! Look at the map with me. On this journey God made a way for Paul to go from Jerusalem, down here, over 1,000 miles, all the way to Rome, up here. Point out, or have students follow, the Journey to Rome on Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. Point out the distance and that it was mostly by sea.

- ? Look at all this water here. How do you think Paul traveled on this trip? Allow discussion. Refer to Lesson Illustration #1.

This trip was almost completely traveled by ships. But, as we will read in a few minutes, it was NOT smooth sailing!

Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. Let's just take a quick look at Paul's trip to Rome. The Bible says Paul left Caesarea by ship. He and the other

passengers landed at *Sidon* but went on to the city of *Myra*. They switched ships again, stopping in a place called *Fair Havens* on the island of *Crete*. Then when they left *Fair Havens*, they ran into some huge troubles on the sea. We'll talk about that in a minute. They finally landed on the island of *Malta*. And from *Malta* they sailed to several more cities before they FINALLY made it to *Rome*!



## READ THE WORD

OK. So let's back up just a bit to the end of Paul's third journey. He was headed back to Jerusalem. But Paul was warned that he would be in danger if he went to Jerusalem. The people in Jerusalem were out to get him, and Paul's friends did not want him to go back. They begged Paul not to go to Jerusalem. But listen to what Paul said to them in Acts 21:13. *Read Acts 21:13 emphasizing "ready to be bound" and "to die."*

### Acts 21:13

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we have written these lessons for you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, please encourage your students to bring Bibles to class. And if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? What was Paul ready to do in Jerusalem? *He was ready to die in Jerusalem.*
- ? That's right! After all this traveling, now Paul was ready to die! What was Paul willing to die for? *Re-read Acts 21:13. For the name of the Lord Jesus.*
- ? Did Paul love the Lord Jesus? *Yes!*

Oh, yes! Paul loved Jesus so much that he was willing to do anything for the Lord—even if it meant dying for Him.

So, Paul and his friends headed back to Jerusalem! When they got there, things really *were* bad, just as they had been told.

Listen to what the Bible tells us about this. I am going to read Acts 21:30. This happened in Jerusalem. *Read Acts 21:30 enthusiastically.*

### Acts 21:30

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

The people were really angry at Paul. Listen and tell me what they were going to do! *Read Acts 21:31.*

### Acts 21:31

- ? What were they planning to do? *They were seeking to kill him.*
- ? But someone heard about all this trouble—that Jerusalem was in an uproar. Who was it? *Re-read Acts 21:31 if necessary. 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 uproar in the city because of Paul, he took some soldiers, saved Paul from the people who were going to kill him, and put Paul in jail.

## Acts 23:11

? So, let's go to the class notes. Will someone read #1 for us? How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Kill. Have students complete #1.*

They didn't kill him, but he was in jail! God did not forget him! Listen to what happened while Paul was in jail in Jerusalem! I am going to read Acts 23:11. *Read Acts 23:11.*

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

Paul had preached about Jesus in Jerusalem. And the Lord said Paul would tell others about Jesus—in a different city.

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

? That's right. Will someone read #2 on the class notes for us? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Rome. Have students complete #2.*

## 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! Paul finally ended up in jail.



## READ THE WORD

The Lord told Paul that he would one day go to Rome and tell the people there about Jesus. 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!

Refer to *Paul's Missionary Journeys Map*. When the day finally came, they got on a ship and sailed to a place called *Fair Havens* on the island of *Crete*. When the time came to leave Fair Havens, Paul warned them that they shouldn't leave yet because the weather was terrible. But Paul was a prisoner—and no one listened to him, so they left anyway. Well, Paul was right! And it wasn't long before they were in the middle of a terrible storm at sea!

The Bible tells us what they had to do during this horrible storm! Listen carefully! They were trying to save their lives! *Read Acts 27:18–20 enthusiastically.*

## Acts 27:18–20

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

? The ship was being tossed to and fro! What did they do first? Listen again to Acts 27:18. *Read Acts 27:18 again. They lightened the ship!*

Yes! The Bible says they lightened the ship. They probably threw all the things they didn't absolutely need overboard! This would help the ship to sail better in the rough seas.

But I don't think that worked! And they had to do something else! Listen again to Acts 27:19. *Re-read the verse.*

- ?
- What was it they did next? *Acts 27:19. They threw the tackle overboard.*

More stuff went overboard. They were tossing everything into the sea! But it didn't help! Listen again to Acts 27:20. *Re-read the verse.*

- ?
- The sea was very, very dark in the storm. What had not come out for several days? *Acts 27:20. The sun and stars.*
- ?
- They had not seen the sun or stars for several days. The storm was raging around them. How did the people on the ship feel? *Acts 27:20. They gave up hope of being saved.*
- ?
- Who has picture #2? Let's put that on the board now. *Allow student to attach Lesson Illustration #2 to the board.*

The men on the ship thought they would never be saved. They thought they were going to die! They were throwing everything into the sea!

What would happen? Would God protect Paul and all the men on the ship? What would the men on the ship do? They thought they were all going to drown at sea! Let's find out. Listen carefully as I read. *Read Acts 27:42–44 enthusiastically emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

Acts 27:42–44

- ?
- 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. The centurion on the ship wanted to save Paul!

- ?
- What did the centurion tell everyone—even the prisoners—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.*
- ?
- Who has picture #3? Will you show the class and put it on the board? *What does it say? Jump overboard and get to land! Have student put Lesson Illustration #3 on the board.*

So, they were swimming and floating to shore. But where would they land? Listen to this! The Bible tells us. *Read Acts 28:1.*

Acts 28:1

- ?
- Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map. They landed on an island. Which island was it? *Acts 28:1. The Island of Malta.*
- ?
- What an adventure! Let's go back to the class notes. Who will read #3 for us? How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. Storm. Have students complete #3 on the class notes.*

- ? And #4? What did they think would happen? Will someone read that, please? Assign a reader. Die. Have students complete #4 on the class notes.
- ? What about #5? They did not die! Where did they end up? Assign a reader. Malta. Have students complete #5 on the class notes.

## Discover the Truth

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. 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 a horrible storm, a shipwreck, and having to jump overboard to safety, God had led them to the island of Malta. They stayed on Malta for three months. Then it was time to board another ship, and they continued traveling until they finally reached Rome! Refer to Paul's Missionary Journeys Map.



## Acts 28:30–31

## READ THE WORD

God had kept His promise. But Paul had been taken to Rome as a prisoner! Did he go to prison? Listen carefully to what I am about to read. Where did the prisoner Paul live and what did he do after he got to Rome? Read Acts 28:30–31 with enthusiasm.

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? Where did Paul dwell, or live? Acts 28:30. In his own, rented house. Right! God allowed Paul to stay in his own, rented house instead of going to prison. He had one guard that stayed with him to keep him from escaping. But I don't think Paul would have tried to escape. Paul trusted God's perfect plans.
- ? How long did Paul stay there in his house in Rome? Re-read Acts 28:30. Two years.
- ? And what was Paul allowed to do while he was there? Re-read Acts 28:31. Preach and teach about Jesus and the kingdom of God.

## Discover the Truth

God told Paul he would reach Rome! And Paul did! Even though Paul was under arrest with a Roman guard chained to his side, God still used him to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many people came to hear Paul teach. He told them about Jesus, the Savior, who was the promised Messiah! Many

believed in Jesus and were saved! But many would not listen to him and did not believe!

- ? Let's finish up our class notes now. Did Paul go to prison when he got to Rome? Who will read #6 for us? Assign a reader. House. Have students complete #6 on the class notes.
- ? What about #7? What did Paul do while he was in Rome? Someone read that. Assign a reader. Gospel. Have students complete #7 on the class notes.



► If time allows, do a quick review of each point on the class notes.



## Overboard!

### MATERIALS

- Overboard! Teacher Guide
- Optional: one appliance box for each team to sit in
- Optional: Life Savers® gummy candies for a snack

### INSTRUCTIONS

Have two or more teams sit on their chairs together in groups—these will be their “ships.” (Or bring in appliance boxes for teams to sit in as their ships.) Take turns asking one player on each team a question from the lesson. Each correct answer is worth two points. If a team member cannot answer correctly, he must “fall overboard” and sit on the floor. The team does not get any points unless team members can “rescue” him by helping him answer the question correctly (encourage them to work together). They get one chance to help him give the correct answer to earn points. But if the answer is still incorrect, the whole team “falls overboard” and does not gain any points. Team members must wait until their next turn and answer their next question correctly (as a team) before getting back on the “ship.” Then play resumes with each team member answering one at a time. If time allows, repeat questions or ask different questions.

Pass out the “lifesaver” candies for a snack afterward.

OK. Now we are going to get into teams and play a new game called, “Overboard!”

Put your chairs in a group (or sit in these boxes). These are your “ships.” I’m going to call on one person at a time to answer a question; only that person may answer. If the answer is correct, your team gets two points. If the answer is not correct, that person will “fall overboard” and sit on the floor by your ship. Your team can “rescue” you by helping you figure out the right answer. Then, if you can give me the right answer, you can get back on the ship. But if your team cannot answer the question, everyone on the ship falls overboard until your team can answer a question correctly. Are you ready? Let’s play!

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Paul’s journey to Rome was a dangerous trip! But Paul knew God had a plan for him to speak the gospel in Rome. Paul could trust God and continue on through all the horrible things that happened. He believed God’s plans are perfect and that God would keep His promises.





# Memory Verse Review Game (Optional)

**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.

If you find you have extra time, please consider reviewing the memory verse with your class by playing this game.

## MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Flashcards printed on cardstock
- Tape or poster putty

## INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut out one copy of the Memory Verse Flashcards, preferably onto cardstock. Tape the cards in order on the wall or board as you recite the verse together. Review the verse as you point to each card. Choose a student to remove one card of his choice. Recite the verse again. Continue to choose students to remove cards one at a time, reciting the whole verse between each one.

Let's say the memory verse first. Point to each flashcard as you say each word and have the students repeat. Good job! But wait! I'm going to ask one of you to come up and take one of our cards down. Then we'll have to say the verse without that card! Are you ready? Call on a student to take down one card then recite the verse together. Continue until the cards are gone and the whole verse is recited from memory.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Put the flashcards on the board as you explain. Paul believed in God's power. He knew that God had promised salvation to those who believe in Jesus Christ and His death on the Cross as the only way for sinners to be forgiven.



# Applying God's Word

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

God called Paul to travel once again—this time to Rome. But the way God took Paul to Rome was really difficult. Paul was almost killed in Jerusalem and was taken prisoner by the Romans. Then Paul was forced with the other prisoners to get on a ship and set sail even when he knew the

weather was bad and it would be dangerous. A horrible storm came and raged for days and days. The waves crashed, the darkness was all around them, and everyone on the ship feared for their lives. But God protected Paul and the others, and they reached Malta safely.

From Malta Paul finally made it to Rome. He was still a prisoner, but he lived in a house and only had one man to guard him. And he was allowed to preach the gospel to anyone who came to listen. God promised Paul would go all the way to Rome. And he did. Paul trusted God. He knew God's plans are perfect.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Paul could have lost hope! But he didn't! He trusted 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 have that same trust in God! Even when things don't look right or don't make any sense, remember 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 the children 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

- Pray that God will open hearts to His truth.
- Pray that we will learn to trust Him even when it's hard to do.
- Praise God because His plans are perfect, even when they are hard to understand.

# Notes